



**Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy**  
16<sup>th</sup> Session, 5 to 7 July 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

**Round Table on:  
Challenges in the design of a merger control regime for young and small  
competition authorities**

**Thursday, 6 July 2017 (15:00 - 18:00)**  
**Palais des Nations, Room XVII (First Floor)**

Merger control is one of the main pillars of a competition system along with antitrust rules. Its aim is to preserve the competitive structure in markets despite takeover operations or mergers. In fact, the external growth of companies must be subject to control when this type of operations affects the efficient functioning of markets.

The design of a merger control regime should be adapted to the circumstances and needs of each jurisdiction. In the case of young and small competition authorities, it is also important to take into account financial and human resources constraints, lack of sufficient experience and lack of a competition culture.

Although most competition regimes around the world include merger control provisions, the content and enforcement of these provisions vary across different jurisdictions. Merger control laws must provide for an objective, transparent and efficient merger control regime, which includes clear rules and procedures, and ensures legal certainty. Merger control should not constitute an unjustified brake on economic expansion and companies' growth.

The objective of this round table is to explore the main elements that should be taken into account by legislators when designing a merger control system, both from a formal and substantive perspective, especially taking into account the constraints faced by small and young competition authorities.

## **Round Table on Challenges in the Design of a Merger Control Regime for Young and Small Competition Authorities**

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### **WORK PROGRAMME**

15:00 - 15:10     **Presentation by UNCTAD secretariat on challenges in the design of a merger control regime for young and small competition authorities**

15:10 - 15:40     **Key Note Speaker**

- Mr. Robert Saint Esteben, Partner, Bredin Prat Paris, France

15:40 - 17:00     **Panel discussion**

Panelists

Mr. Carlos Filartiga, President, Competition Authority of Paraguay

Ms. Juliana Latifi, Chairwoman, Albanian Competition Authority

Ms. Tebelelo Pula, Chief Executive Officer, Botswana Competition Authority

Ms. Mona El Garf, Chairwoman, Egyptian Competition Authority

Prof. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Chairman, Philippine Competition Commission

Mr. Francis Kariuki, Director General, Competition Authority of Kenya

Mr. Adama Diomande, Director General on Competition, West African Economic and Monetary Union Commission

17:00 - 18:00     **Interactive debate**

**Interventions by:**

A representative from Austria

A representative from Algeria

A representative from United States

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Mr. Juan Luis Crucelegui ([juanluis.crucelegui@unctad.org](mailto:juanluis.crucelegui@unctad.org)) or Mr. Yves Kenfack ([yves.kenfack@unctad.org](mailto:yves.kenfack@unctad.org)).