



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



First Joint ESCWA-UNCTAD-OECD COMPETITION FORUM FOR THE ARAB REGION

23 and 24 January 2020

at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Beirut, Lebanon

Thursday, 23 January 2020	
Arrival and Registration	
08:30 to 09:30	<p>The meeting will be held at the United Nations House in the MZ Conference Room (MZ level).</p> <p>Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub to the meeting.</p>
Welcome & Opening Remarks	
09:30 to 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)• Alia Abbas, General Director of Economy and Trade at the Ministry of Economy, Lebanon• Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD (via video recording)• Antonio Capobianco, Acting Head of Division Competition, OECD• Denise Sumpf, Acting Chief, Economic Governance and Planning Section, ESCWA• Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA
10:30 to 11:00	Group picture & coffee break

For all materials already available, please access: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/1st-joint-escwa-unctad-oecd-competition-forum-arab-region>

For registration and practical information, please visit: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/30419/>

Meeting contact: Ms. Denise Sumpf, Acting Chief, Economic Governance and Planning Section, Economic Development and Integration Division, UNITED NATIONS – Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Tel: +961 1 978 423, E-Mail: sumpf@un.org

Thursday, 23 January 2020 (cont'd)	
Session 1	
11:00 to 13:00	<p>COMPETITION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Effective competition bolsters economic growth and productivity by promoting dynamic markets. A competition framework coherent with international standards contributes to the international competitiveness of a jurisdiction's business sector generating confidence amongst potential investors. Competition drives innovation leading to new products and new production technologies. While encouraging firm efficiency, competition provides wider choice for consumers, lower prices and better quality. Effective enforcement of competition law can also reduce inequality and poverty, making markets work for the people and supporting governments' efforts to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>The session will explore both the benefits and limitations of competition to national economies.</p> <p><i>Speaker and Session Chair:</i></p> <p>Prof. Frédéric Jenny, (Chairman, OECD Competition Committee)</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> Egypt, Syria, Morocco, and Yemen</p> <p>Additional material provided by Kuwait</p>
13 to 14:30 hrs	Lunch
Session 2	
14:30 to 17:00	<p>EFFECTIVE COMPETITION FRAMEWORKS</p> <p>Institutional design is a critical component of competition law and policy. Good competition laws on the books are meaningless without well-designed institutions to enforce them. At the same time, many different models for institutional design exist, making the process of choosing the optimal structure complex. Many authorities have found success with very different designs, and what works well in one jurisdiction may not always work well in another. This session will explore options available, and the key characteristics of effective competition institutions, highlighting successful experiences. The session also introduces the "Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F of the UN Set on Competition" agreed at the 18th Session of the IGE on Competition Law and Policy.</p> <p><i>Session Chair:</i></p> <p>Denise Sumpf, Acting Chief, Economic Governance and Planning Section, ESCWA</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>William Kovacic, Global Competition Professor of Law and Policy and Director of Competition Law Center at George Washington University</p> <p>Akari Yamamoto, Japan Fair Trade Commission (via remote access)</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> Oman, Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine</p> <p>Additional material provided by Lorenzo Ciari, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</p>
18:30 to 20:00	Reception at the Radisson Hotel Verdun (courtesy of the OECD)

Friday, 24 January 2020			
09:00 to 09:30	Arrival		
Opening Session			
09:30 to 10:30	<p>A PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY</p> <p>The session discusses the rationale and objective of the LoU between ESCWA, UNCTAD and OECD to better serve the Arab countries and explains the envisaged modalities of the annual MENA Competition Forum (e.g. rotation, ownership, engagement). It also seeks ideas from the countries on specific projects related to competition to be addressed jointly.</p> <p><i>Speakers: Denise Sumpf (ESCWA), Lynn Robertson (OECD), Teresa Moreira (UNCTAD, via remote access), and Juan Luis Crucelegui (UNCTAD)</i></p>		
10:30 to 11:00	Coffee break and move to the break-out rooms		
Session 3			
11:00 to 13:00 with calls for contributions <i>Includes a Coffee Break from 10:00 to 10:15</i>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>A. Competition, Employment, & Gender</p> <p>The session merges two topics:</p> <p>It addresses the impact of competition on fostering innovation and supporting entrepreneurial activity, especially to create jobs for the youth.</p> <p>It also discusses the impact of competition on improvement of women's access to economic activities and active participation in markets.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Juan Luis Crucelegui, UNCTAD</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Chris Pike, OECD (via remote access)</p> <p><i>Country presentation:</i> Jordan Additional material provided by Theodor Thanner (Austria)</p> <p>Room: MZ Level Meeting Room</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>B. Competition and Corruption/ Good Governance</p> <p>The session addresses the relationship between competition and the fight against corruption.</p> <p><i>Speaker/Moderator:</i> Mona Chammas, Attorney & Integrity Director at Govern & Law</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> Sudan and Tunisia Additional material provided by Libya</p> <p>Room: B-1 Level Committee Room II</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>A. Competition, Employment, & Gender</p> <p>The session merges two topics:</p> <p>It addresses the impact of competition on fostering innovation and supporting entrepreneurial activity, especially to create jobs for the youth.</p> <p>It also discusses the impact of competition on improvement of women's access to economic activities and active participation in markets.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Juan Luis Crucelegui, UNCTAD</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Chris Pike, OECD (via remote access)</p> <p><i>Country presentation:</i> Jordan Additional material provided by Theodor Thanner (Austria)</p> <p>Room: MZ Level Meeting Room</p>	<p>B. Competition and Corruption/ Good Governance</p> <p>The session addresses the relationship between competition and the fight against corruption.</p> <p><i>Speaker/Moderator:</i> Mona Chammas, Attorney & Integrity Director at Govern & Law</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> Sudan and Tunisia Additional material provided by Libya</p> <p>Room: B-1 Level Committee Room II</p>
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13:00 to 14:30	<p>Lunch</p> <p>(For participants sponsored by ESCWA only: Please meet Ms. Layal Issa at 1400hrs in the cafeteria to settle administrative matters)</p>		

Session 4	
<p>14:30 to 16:30</p> <p><i>Includes a Coffee Break from 15:30 to 15:45</i></p>	<p>COMPETITION AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT</p> <p>Public procurement accounts for a substantial portion of the taxpayers' money, and governments are expected to carry it out efficiently and with high standards of conduct to ensure high quality of service delivery and safeguard the public interest. For example, bid rigging happens when groups of firms conspire to raise prices or lower the quality of goods, works or services offered in public tenders. It is illegal, anti-competitive and costs governments and taxpayers billions of dollars every year. The elimination of bid rigging could help reduce procurement prices by 20% or more.</p> <p>This session focuses on how competition policy contributes to improvements in public procurement endeavors and what role competition authorities must play in this context.</p> <p><i>Session Chair and Speaker:</i></p> <p>Antonio Capobianco (OECD)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Recep Gunduz, Head of Department, Turkish Competition Authority</p> <p>Bogdan Chirițoiu, President of the Competition Council of Romania (via remote access)</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i></p> <p>Tunisia</p>
<p>16:30 to 17:00</p>	<p>EVALUATION AND FUTURE WORK</p> <p>Moderation: Denise Sumpf (ESCWA) supported by UNCTAD and OECD</p> <p>General discussion, gathering support for next annual meetings and the establishment of an annual Forum, proposals for topics for MENA Competition Forum 2021 and closing remarks.</p>
