

UNCTAD's work with the Arab countries

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Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch

UNCTAD's mandate – Trade and Development



- ✓ UN body responsible for dealing with economic and sustainable development issues with a focus on trade, finance, investment and technology - *Prosperity for All*;
- ✓ 195 members;
- ✓ *Think, Debate, Deliver* - to assist developing countries in better participating in the global economy;

6 UNCTAD facts and figures

Promoting development



58

years

Membership



195

members States

Staff members



461+

Regular budget for 2021



73+

million

Extrabudgetary expenditure



51

million

Projects



217

in 76 countries

UNCTAD'S 3 PILLARS OF WORK

Consensus Building

- UN Review Conference - every 5 years since 1985
- Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) meetings on Competition (since 1998) and Consumer Protection (since 2016) Law and Policy - annually

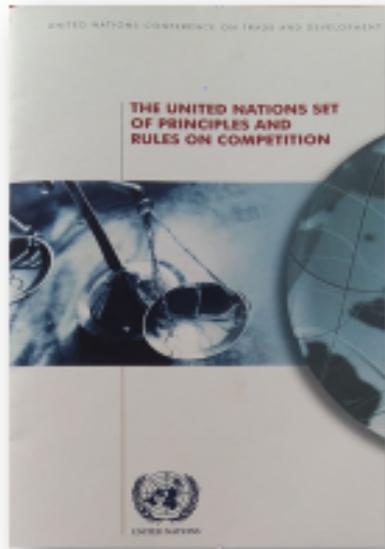
Research and Analysis

- Publication of papers and studies on competition and consumer protection
- Legal assessment
- Research Partnership Platform (since 2010)

Technical Assistance

- Demand-driven assistance at national (since the late 90s) and regional (since 2003) levels
- UNCTAD Voluntary Peer Review on Competition/Consumer Protection Law and Policy

UNCTAD's mandate on Competition law and policy



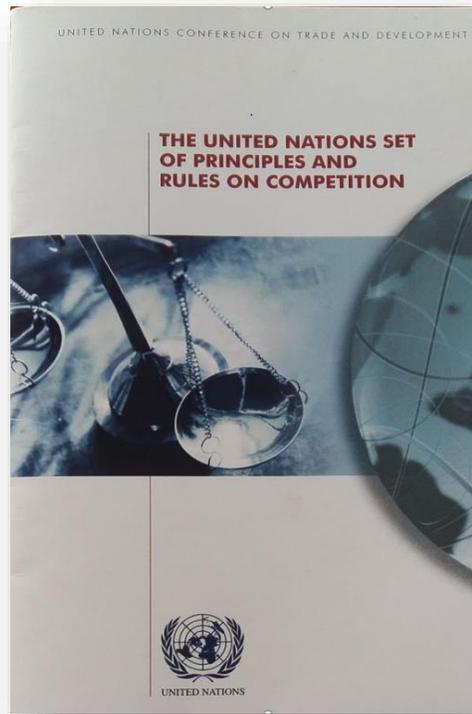
- *Guiding Policies & Procedures (2020)*: recommended steps to facilitate international cooperation to developing countries; enhanced role of UNCTAD as a facilitator.

- ✓ **Focal point for Competition and Consumer Policies within the UN system**

The custodian of the UN Set of Principles and Rules on Competition (1980), the only internationally agreed instrument in the field of Competition

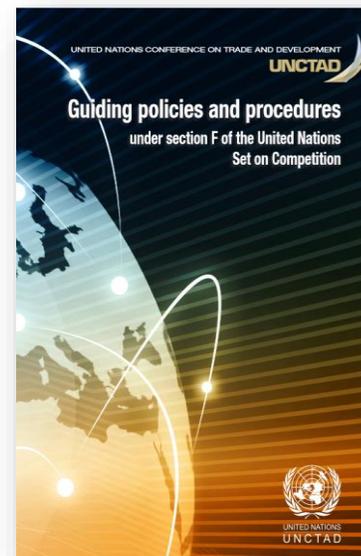
- UN General Assembly Resolution 35/63, 5 December 1980 -

- **Recognition of the positive contribution of Competition law and policy to promote economic growth and inclusive sustainable development (greater efficiency and encouragement of innovation).**
- **“Development dimension”**: reference to the Preferential or Differential Treatment for developing countries - according to their special circumstances.
- **Framework for international cooperation and exchange of best practices.**



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Under the UN Set Section F (International)

Guiding Policies & Procedures (2020): recommended steps to facilitate international cooperation to developing countries

Enhanced role of UNCTAD as a facilitator

Agreed by consensus and approved by the Eighth United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection, October 2020

Recent technical cooperation work with Arab countries





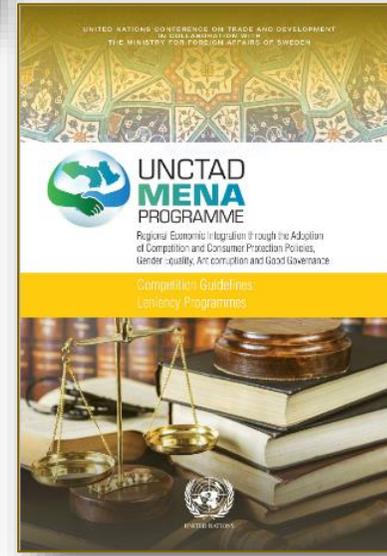
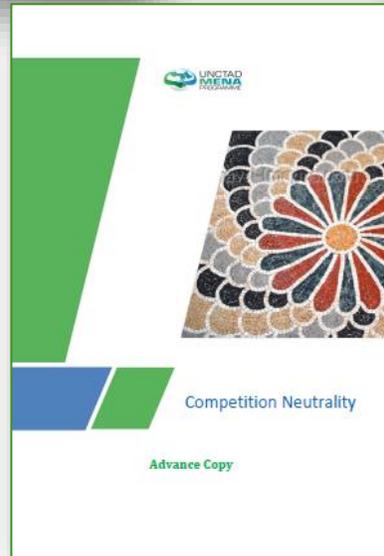
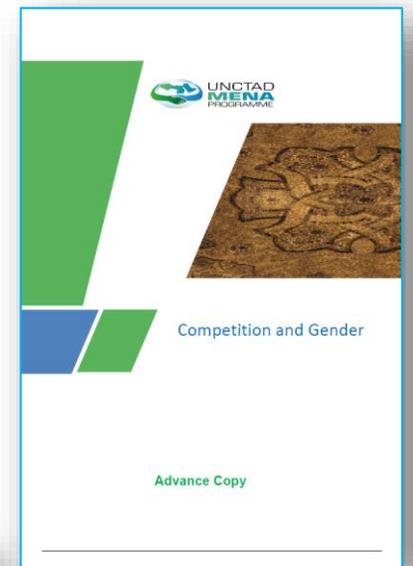
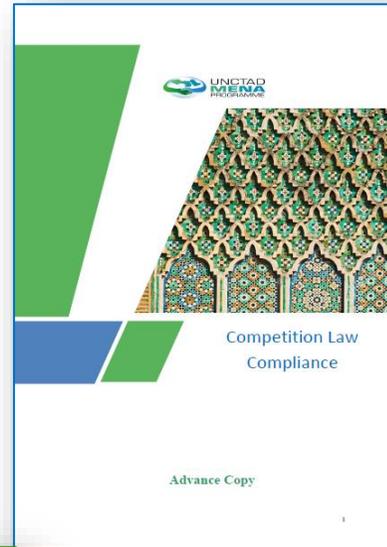
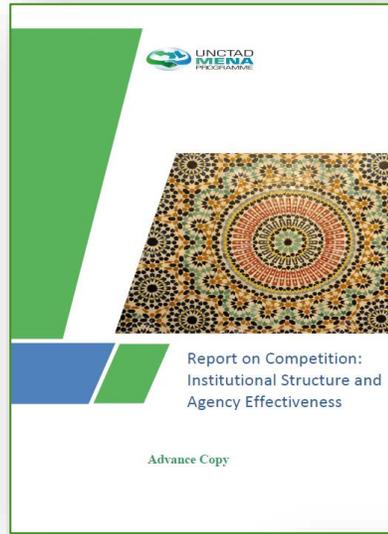
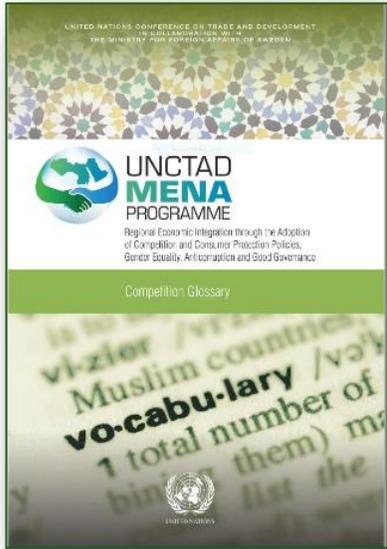
Regional integration through improved Competition and Consumer Policies – 2015-2018

- **7 Middle-East and North African countries**
- **Funded by Sweden**
- **Objectives:**
 - **Effective Competition policy and law enforcement through legal frameworks and the strengthening of capacities;**
 - **Competitive Neutrality;**
 - **Private sector engagement – Leniency and Competition Compliance;**
 - **Gender dimension**
 - **Regional cooperation, namely through bilateral MoUs and joint training activities**



Reports:

- **Competition Glossary;**
- **Good Governance - Independence and Transparency;**
- **Competition Agency Structure and Effectiveness;**
- **Competitive Neutrality;**
- **Competition Business Compliance;**
- **Leniency programmes;**
- **Competition and Gender.**





Regional Training Centers for Competition:

- **Tunis, Tunisia (2016) - French and Arabic: with the Ministry for Trade**

- **Cairo, Egypt (2018) – English: hosted by the Egyptian Competition Authority and expanded to African countries**



UNCTAD work with Arab countries



Competition policy and MSMEs resurgence

- **UN Development Account Global Initiative Towards Post-Covid-19 Resurgence of the MSME Sector**

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/da/global-initiative-towards-post-covid-19-resurgence-of-the-msme-sector/>

- In collaboration with UN Regional Economic Commissions
- Delivered recommendations and country studies on Thailand, South Africa, Brazil
- Launched online course on Competition policy and SMEs



- Drafted Recommended Best Practices for Digital Platforms
<https://msme-resurgence.unctad.org/cluster/access-markets>



UNCTAD recent activities with specific Arab countries

- **MOROCCO:** in cooperation with the Moroccan Competition Council and the World Bank
 - Organization of 1 one-day training on Competition for the media (March 2022) and intervention in a Competition workshop for the media held in February 2023.
 - Organized and delivered a 3-day training workshop for Moroccan judges (October 2022) on basic aspects of the enforcement and review of Competition law both in the anticompetitive practices and merger fields.
- **KUWAIT:** UNCTAD intervened in the Kuwait Competition Conference on Promoting Competition Between Challenge and Ambition on the topics of the “Importance of protecting and advocating competition and competition-related subjects and matters” and “Competition Policy and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises” (December 2022).
- **EGYPT:**
 - UNCTAD Regional Training Centre for Competition for the MENA and African countries, hosted and managed by the Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA), UNCTAD has been following up its planned activities in coordination with the ECA.
 - UNCTAD intervened as a discussant in the World Bank event on “Enabling Markets: The Role of Competition Authorities beyond Antitrust”, featuring “The Egyptian Competition Authority’s Experience: Strategy and Achievements” (March 2023).

UNCTAD recent requests from the Arab region

- **STATE OF PALESTINE:** trainings on key Competition issues
- **ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OCI):**
 - Training activities
 - Academic courses
 - South-South cooperation between Arab and African countries
 - Organization of a Forum

UNCTAD upcoming meetings and recent research



**Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy,
twenty-first session, 5 to 7 July 2023: Provisional programme**

	<i>Wednesday, 5 July 2023</i>	<i>Thursday, 6 July 2023</i>	<i>Friday, 7 July 2023</i>
<i>Palais des Nations, Building E, Room XIX and remotely through Zoom</i>			
10:00 - 12:00 CET, Geneva time		Interaction between competition and industrial policies (2h)	Competition law and policy and sustainability (2h)
12:00 - 12:30		Competition and regional economic organisations (0.5h)	Review of capacity- building in and technical assistance on competition law and policy (1h)
12:30 - 13:00		Report on the Review of Maritime Transport 2022 (0.25h)	
15:00 - 16:00	Opening Plenary (1h) Election of officers Adoption of the agenda and organization of work General statements: latest developments in competition law and policy	Voluntary peer review on competition law and policy: Paraguay (2h)	Closing Plenary (2h) Provisional agenda of the twenty-second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy Adoption of the report of the twenty-first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
16:00 - 17:00 17:00 - 18:00	Competition law enforcement issues raised by monopsonies (2h)	Report on the implementation of the guiding policies and procedures under section F of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices Report of the working group on cross-border cartels (0.5h)	



14th meeting of the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform



Fourteenth Meeting of the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform

Wednesday, 5 July 2023

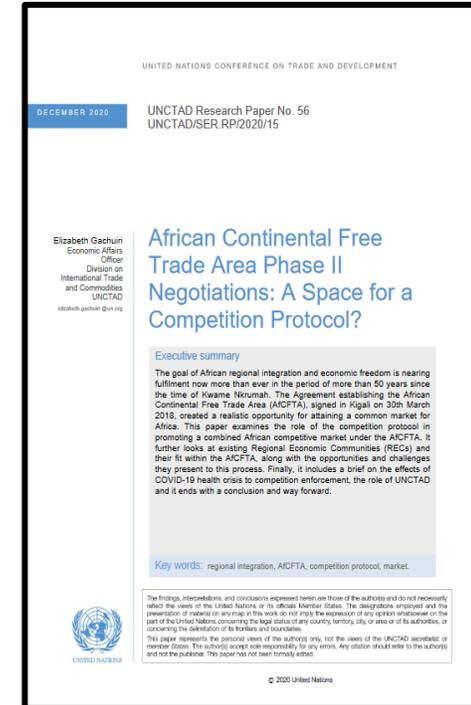
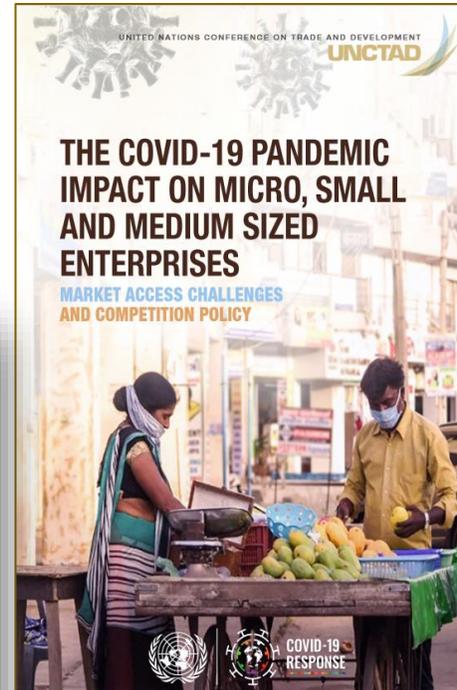
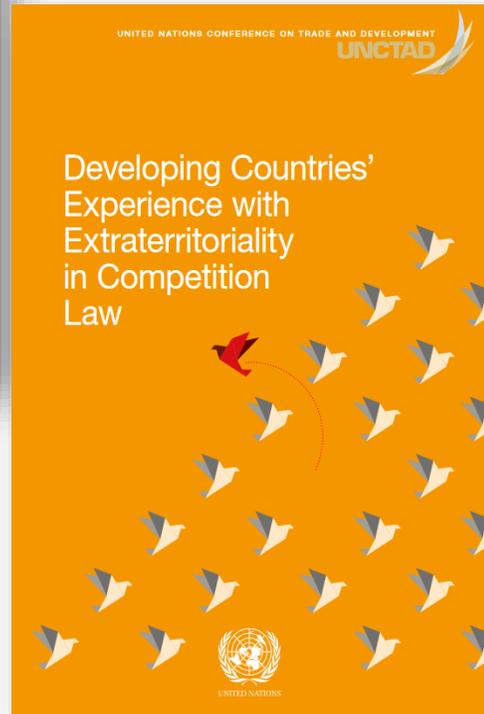
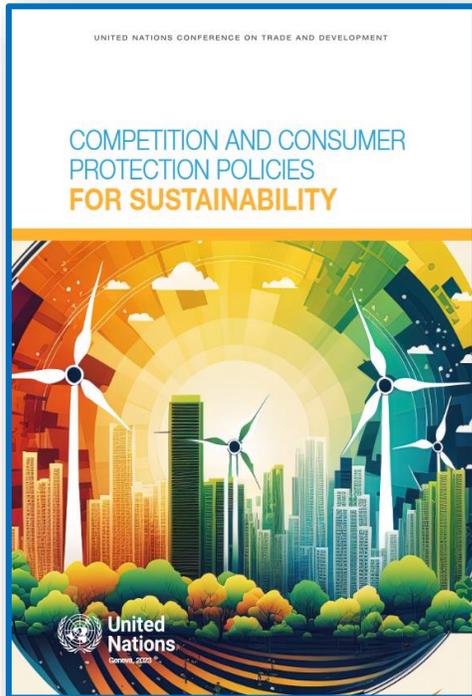
10:00 - 13:00 CEST

Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third floor) and online

Agenda

- 10:00 - 10:10** Opening remarks by Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch (CCPB), UNCTAD
- 10:10 - 11:00** Enforcement of consumer protection laws
Moderator: Mr. Arnau Izaguerri, Economic Affairs Officer, CCPB, UNCTAD
- Prof. Christine Riefa, School of Law, University of Reading, United Kingdom
 - Dr. Carmen Ligia Valderrama, Law Faculty, Externado University, Colombia
- 11:00 - 11:20** Coffee break
- 11:20 - 12:20** Recent challenges in competition policymaking
Moderator: Mr. Yves Kenfack, Economic Affairs Officer, CCPB, UNCTAD
- Prof. Spencer Weber Waller, John Paul Stevens Chair in Competition Law, Director of the Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies, and Professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, USA
 - Prof. Peter Whelan, School of Law, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
 - Prof. Tania Zuñiga, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Peru
 - Dr. Mor Bakhoum, Affiliated Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition
- 12:20 - 13:00** Presentation of research projects by partners
Moderator: Ms. Zilu Zhou, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, CCPB, UNCTAD
- **Incorporating sustainability into consumer policy**
Dr. Laura Best, Executive Managerial Support to Vice-Chancellor, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa
 - **Competition Compliance in Latin America**
Prof. Patrick Krauskopf, Head, Centre for Competition Law and Compliance, ZHAW School of Management and Law, Switzerland
 - **Priority setting for competition authorities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition**
Dr. Kati Cseres, Associate Professor of Law, Amsterdam Centre for European Law & Governance and Program Director of the EU Law Masters, University of Amsterdam

Some of the UNCTAD recent research on relevant topics



Thank you!

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<https://unctad.org/Topic/Competition-and-Consumer-Protection>

