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ARAB COMPETITION FORUM

RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA 23-24 May 2023



Shared Prosperity Digitized Life



UNCTAD



Day 1: 23 May 2023

8.30–9 a.m.	Registration
9–9.45 a.m. <i>Format: Open session /Broadcasted live</i>	<p>Opening remarks and introductory comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahmed bin Abdul Kareem Al-Kholifey, Chairman of The Board of Directors, The General Authority for Competition, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia • Rola Dashti, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) • Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) • Carmine Di Noia, Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
9.45–10.15 a.m. <i>Format: Open session /Broadcasted live</i>	<p>Special session. Arab Youth in Competition (Local Universities)</p> <p>Participating universities in Saudi Arabia have been invited to prepare an original case study on a subject related to mergers and acquisitions. During this special ceremonial session, awards will be granted to the winners of the competition challenge.</p>
10.15–10.30 a.m.	Coffee break and group photo
10.30 a.m.– 12 p.m. <i>Format: Open session/Hybrid</i>	<p>Session I. Enhancing the effectiveness of competition authorities in developing and least developed countries.</p> <p>Every competition agency must overcome obstacles to enforce its competition law. But for jurisdictions within developing countries these obstacles are often more acute, numerous and reinforced by challenges specific to these jurisdictions.</p>

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	<p>A lack of a competition culture, or even a hostile environment can hinder the work of a competition agency with few resources. Relations with regulators as well as other parts of government can take on a particular complexity when competition authorities are young and lacking in resources and influence.</p> <p>The session will also discuss the challenges of young authorities, particularly those in developing countries and suggest mechanisms to address these challenges.</p> <p>The panellists will bring international, regional, and national perspectives and examples to the discussion.</p> <p>Session coordinator: ESCWA</p> <p>Moderator: Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Zoom, Chief Executive Officer of The General Authority for Competition, KSA</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederic Jenny, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee, Emeritus Professor at ESSEC Paris Business School, France • Nathalie Khaled, Coordinator of the competition and consumer protection project, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA • Willard Mwemba, Director, and Chief Executive Officer of the COMESA Competition Commission • Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman of the Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA), and the President of the Arab Competition Network (ACN) • BabaTunde Irukera, Executive Vice Chairman, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Nigeria <p>Open Discussion</p>
<p>12–1.30 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1.30–3 p.m.</p> <p><i>Format: Open session/Hybrid</i></p>	<p>Session II. Abuse of dominance in digital markets</p> <p>Many digital markets exhibit characteristics such as low variable costs, high fixed costs, and strong network effects. These characteristics often result in high market shares for a small</p>

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number of firms. In some cases, these lead to “competition for the market” dynamics, in which a single firm captures most sales.

This session will discuss the main types of abuse of dominance concerns that can emerge in digital markets, what makes these markets unique, and how have competition authorities around the world tackled the challenges described above.

Session coordinator: UNCTAD

Moderator: Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

Speakers:

- William Kovacic, Professor George Washington University
- Natalie Harsdorf-Borsch, Acting Director General, Austria Competition Authority
- Uğur Bilgehan Burhan, competition expert in the Supervision and Enforcement Department, Turkish Competition Authority
- Saurabh, Joint Director (Economics), Competition Commission of India
- Cristina Caffarra, Expert Economist, Keystone Europe, and Visiting Professor UCL London.

Open Discussion