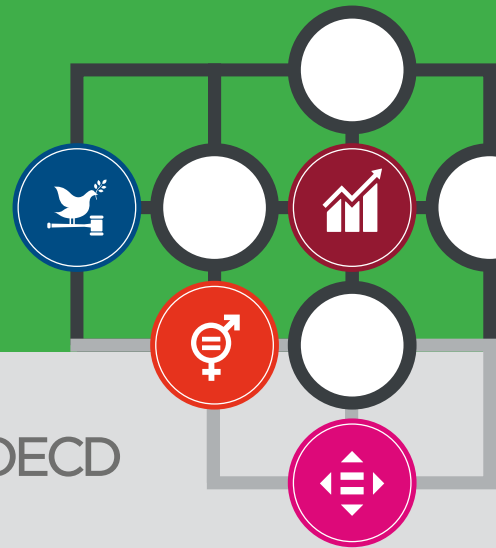


Fourth ARAB COMPETITION FORUM (ACF)

23-24 May 2023
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



الهيئة العامة للمنافسة
General Authority for Competition



E/ESCWA/ACF/2023/Flyer.5

Session I. Enhancing the effectiveness of competition authorities in developing and least developed countries

Having effective competition authorities is critical to ensure economic growth, increase consumer welfare and promote a level playing field for businesses. For competition authorities, enforcing competition law can be challenging in some jurisdictions, particularly in developing and least developed countries where obstacles are more acute and numerous. These challenges include a lack of competition culture, a hostile environment created by governments, businesses and societies, and institutional design issues. Moreover, young agencies with limited resources and influence face additional complexity in their relationships with regulators and other government entities. To address these challenges, improving legal frameworks, providing adequate resources, delivering training, and establishing effective coordination mechanisms with other government agencies are essential. Given the wide-reaching benefits of effective competition authorities, policymakers in developing and least developed countries should prioritize enhancing their effectiveness.

During session I, a distinguished panel of experts and policymakers will discuss the significance of enhancing the effectiveness of competition authorities and its effect on the socioeconomic development of developing and least developed countries. Experts will highlight the challenges faced in these countries and the necessary reforms to the competition legal framework. Additionally, experts will share best practices that can be implemented to boost the efficacy of competition authorities in developing and least developed countries.

Note: The duration of this session will be 90 minutes, with each panellist speaking for 12 minutes, followed by a 30-minute Q&A session.



Topics of discussion

- Highlight the main challenges faced by competition authorities in developing and least developed countries and the means to overcome them.
- Present the weaknesses/improvements/reforms of the competition legal framework adopted by Arab least developed countries policymakers.
- Showcase COMESA as a best practice in boosting the effectiveness of young competition authorities who lack the necessary resources and expertise.

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- Examine Egypt as a model for effective competition regulation and explore the initiatives led by the Arab Competition Network to strengthen the effectiveness of competition authorities across the Arab region.
- Address the role of local and international collaboration among competition regulators in promoting stronger competition regulations, as well as Nigeria's approach towards addressing emerging issues in the digital market and sharing key lessons learned.



Speakers



Moderator **Abdulaziz bin Abdullah** **Al-Zoom**

Chief Executive Officer of
The General Authority for
Competition (KSA)



Frederic Jenny

Professor and Chairman of the
OECD Competition Committee,
France



Nathalie Khaled

Coordinator of the
Competition and
Consumer Protection
Project, Economic Affairs
Officer, ESCWA, Beirut



Willard Mwemba

Director and CEO of the
COMESA Competition
Commission



Mahmoud Momtaz

Chairman of the Egyptian
Competition Authority (ECA),
and President of the Arab
Competition Network (ACN)



BabaTunde Irukera

Executive Vice Chairman,
Federal Competition and
Consumer Protection
Commission, Nigeria

