



## 2nd Joint ESCWA-UNCTAD-OECD Competition Forum for the Arab Region

23 -24 March 2021

**Background:** In 2019, ESCWA, UNCTAD, and the OECD signed a letter of understanding to combine their expertise in order to better support key actors across the Arab region in the development of effective competition frameworks.

In January 2020, the inaugural Competition Forum for the Arab Region took place at the UN House in Beirut, Lebanon. It was a first milestone in the three organizations' joint undertaking as it established a central platform for knowledge exchange to be hosted annually by ESCWA's member countries on a rotating basis. The 1st Forum brought together a variety of stakeholders to discuss competition law and policy in the Arab region, showcase practical applications, exchange experiences, identify best practices, and develop recommendations for future projects to guide decision makers and enforcers.

The goal of the 2nd Competition Forum is to build on the momentum of the 1st Forum and to develop a regional multi-stakeholder platform that facilitates the coordination and implementation of competition-related initiatives both at the national and regional level.

The 2nd Competition Forum is hosted by Egypt. As part of the Forum, Arab countries will discuss their latest competition developments, reforms, and measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic. Competition authorities from different parts of the world will present best practices regarding institutional design, competition law and policy, and effective enforcement. Furthermore, regional and international organizations will present their latest work and introduce their projects that are targeted towards Arab countries. In the final session, all participants will work together to identify best practices and agree on an action plan for the near future.

The two-day event will be followed by the Arab Competition Dialogues, a new format that consists of at least three webinars on distinct competition topics.

With the 2nd Competition Forum and the Arab Competition Dialogues we aspire to make a substantive contribution towards improving economic growth and governance in the Arab region, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

**Target audience:** The target audience of the Competition Forum are Arab competition authorities and policymakers.

The webinar will solely be open to invited delegates.

**Logistics:** Given the current development of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 Competition Forum will be conducted online on a multilingual web conferencing platform (either KUDO or Interprefy).

Translation services in English and Arabic will be available.

**Time:** Find out your local time of the event by using this time-zone converter:  
<https://greenwichmeantime.com/time/to/eet-local/>

**Meeting contact:** Ms. Nathalie Khaled, Economic Affairs Officer  
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## Agenda

Tuesday, 23 March 2021	
Welcome & Opening Session	
10:00 – 10:30 EET Session Chair: Egypt	<b>Opening Remarks and Introductory Comments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minister from Egypt (tbd)</li><li>• Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)</li><li>• Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD</li><li>• Antonio Capobianco, Acting Head of Competition Division, OECD</li></ul>
Session I	
10:30 – 12:00 EET Session Chair: tbd	<b>Panel Discussion: International Best Practices</b> <p>Peer learning is a fundamental learning technique that allows competition authorities to learn from best practices and past experiences of other nations.</p> <p>In this session competition authorities from different parts of the world discuss best practices and lessons learnt regarding institutional design, competition law and policy,</p>

	and effective enforcement. This session also discusses measures taken by competition authorities during the COVID-19 pandemic and lessons learnt.
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker from the Turkish Competition Authority (tbd)</li> <li>• Speaker from the Bulgarian Competition Commission (tbd)</li> <li>• Speaker from the EU (tbd)</li> <li>• Other CAs to be approached as potential participants: Developing countries: Mexico, Columbia, Kenya, Peru, Philippines, Malaysia Developed countries: Japan, EU (Italy, Spain)</li> <li>• Colombia, Brazil, Peru, India,</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 12:30 EET</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>Session II</b>	
12:30 – 13:00 EET Session Chair: tbd	<p><b>Regional &amp; International Organizations</b></p> <p>In this session ESCWA, UNCTAD, and the OECD present their newest work on competition.</p> <p>Each of the three organizations gives a 10-minute presentation on their work since the 1st Competition Forum in January 2020 and their plans for future projects on competition that are targeted towards Arab countries.</p>
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nathalie Khaled, Economic Affairs Officer, Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA Juan Luis Crucelegui, Chief of Capacity Building and Technical Assistance, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch</li> <li>• Speaker from the OECD (tbd)</li> </ul>

## Wednesday, 24 March 2021

### Welcome Back & Opening Session

11:00 – 11:30 EET Session Chair: tbd	<p><b>Latest Insights from Expert Studies on Arab Countries</b></p> <p>In this session, ESCWA presents its latest work on competition developments in Arab countries and the results of their work on the current regulatory business climate in the Arab region with a focus on competition legislative business frameworks..</p> <p>Moreover, the OECD presents the results of their competition assessment of the Tunisian economy.</p> <p>UNCTAD study (TBD)</p>
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker from ESCWA (tbd)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker from the OECD (tbd)</li> <li>• Speaker from Tunisian CA</li> </ul>
<b>Session III</b>	
11:30 – 13:00 EET Session Chair: tbd	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Competition Developments</b></p> <p>In this session competition authorities present their national competition developments since the 1st Competition Forum in January 2020. Additionally, they discuss their latest reforms of competition frameworks and their measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>At least two countries from each of the four sub-regions should be represented in the panel discussion.</p>
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries that did reforms recently: KSA, Oman, Kuwait, Algeria, Morocco</li> <li>• Further countries tbd</li> </ul>
<b>13:00 – 14:00 EET</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>Session IV</b>	
14:00 – 15:30 EET Session Chair: Egypt	<p><b>Discussion &amp; Closing Session</b></p> <p>In this session participants get the chance to discuss their thoughts on their new learnings; identify best practices; develop recommendations for projects, strategies, and actions plans; share their visions for the upcoming year; form cross-border initiatives; and agree on some milestones for the near future.</p>