



## 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 the 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 Developments Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

**Target** Arab competition authorities and policymakers.

**audience:** 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 ([Zoom](#)).

Translation services in English and Arabic will be available.

[Meeting Registration Form](#)

[The opening session will be live streamed on ESCWA Youtube](#)

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

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## Agenda

Tuesday, 23 March 2021	
<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Session</b>	
<p>10:00 – 10:30 EET</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr. Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman</p> <p>Egyptian Competition Authority</p>	<p><b>Opening Remarks and Introductory Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E Ms. Nevin Jameh, Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt</li> <li>• Dr. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)</li> <li>• Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head of Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Professor Frédéric Jenny, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee</li> </ul>
<b>Session I</b>	
<p>10:30 – 11:00 EET</p> <p>Session Chair:</p> <p>Mr. Tarik Alami, Governance and Conflict Prevention Cluster Leader at ESCWA</p>	<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 will give a presentation on their work since the 1<sup>st</sup> Competition Forum in January 2020 and their plans for future projects on competition that are targeted towards Arab countries.</p>
<p>Speakers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nathalie Khaled, Economic Affairs Officer, Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA</li> <li>• Ms. Ebru Gokce Dessemond, Legal Officer, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Ms. Lynn Robertson, Manager GFC, LACCF, Competition Expert, Competition Division, OECD</li> </ul>
<b>Session II</b>	
<p>11:00 – 13:00 EET</p> <p>Session Chair:</p> <p>Professor Frédéric Jenny, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee</p>	<p><b>Panel Discussion: International Best Practices</b></p> <p>Peer learning is an efficient mechanism for competition authorities to learn from their counterparts. This newly acquired knowledge can then be adapted and applied to their own jurisdictions.</p> <p>In this session competition authorities from different parts of the world discuss challenges and enforcement initiatives taken during the COVID-19 pandemic to safeguard competition in markets. Topics to be addressed include advocacy measures, co-operation between competitors, exploitative pricing, public procurement. The session will also consider the role that competition authorities can and should play in the recovery process.</p>

Speakers	<p><b><u>Part 1: Best practices</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Juliana Latifi, Chairwoman of the Albanian Competition Authority (Key Achievements of Sofia Competition Forum)</li> <li>• Mr. Hardin Ratshisusu, Deputy Commissioner of the South African Competition Commission (excessive pricing, especially dominance in the aftermarket)</li> <li>• Mr. Rodrigo Rios Executive Director of Regulatory Analysis and Collaboration with the Public Sector, from the General Directorate for Advocacy-COFECE, Mexico (advocacy guidelines)</li> <li>• Mr. Majid Charania, Director of Compliance, Canadian Competition Bureau (public procurement, especially bid rigging)</li> <li>• Mr. Daniel Haar, Chief of the Appellate Section, Antitrust Division United States Department of Justice (procedural fairness)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Part 2: Role of the agency in recovery</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Alexandre Barreto de Souza, President of the Brazilian Competition Authority (CADE)</li> <li>• Ms. Esin AYGÜN, Acting Head of Supervision and Enforcement Department V, Turkish Competition Authority</li> </ul>
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Wednesday, 24 March 2021	
Session III	
<p>10:00 – 13:30 EET</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr. Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Zoom, Governor of the Saudi General Authority for Competition</p>	<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>Different countries from each of the four Arab sub-regions will be given the chance to speak in the panel discussion.</p>
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Mohamed Tayab Medjahed, Permanent Member Algerian Competition Council (restoring competition in Algeria: horizon and prospects)</li> <li>• Mr. Hassan Abouabdelmajid, Vice President Conseil de la Concurrence du Maroc (some of the problems arising from the absence of a definition of the concept of competition in the Moroccan legislation)</li> <li>• Ms. Marlene Nehmeh, Head of Legal Studies Department Ministry of Economy in Lebanon (latest competition developments, "progress with the Law")</li> <li>• Dr. Mahmoud Mumtaz, Chairman of the Egyptian Competition Authority (The Culture of Competition and Efforts of the Egyptian Authority)</li> <li>• Ms. Marwa Rashid Khamis Al Alawi Legal researcher, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investments Promotion, the Sultanate of Oman (Competition Law - challenges and future vision)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Tahseen Mahmoud Muthana, Head of market and private sector section, Ministry of Planning, Iraq (latest competition developments)</li> <li>• Mr. Ridha Ben Mahmoud, President of Tunisian Competition Council (Tunisia Competition Assessment)</li> <li>• Mr. Hammoud Al-Osaimi, Director of the Legal Department at the General Authority for Competition in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Cases against competition violations initiated by the authority in the Kingdom during the Covid-19 pandemic)</li> <li>• Other countries that had new competition reforms and developments recently: UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, and others</li> </ul>
<b>Session IV</b>	
<p>13:30 – 14:00 EET</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr. Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman Egyptian Competition Authority</p>	<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>