



Economic Development and Integration Division  
Economic Governance and Planning Section



**First Joint ESCWA-UNCTAD-OECD COMPETITION FORUM  
FOR THE ARAB REGION**

**23 and 24 January 2020  
at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
Beirut, Lebanon**

<b>Thursday, 23 January 2020</b>	
<b>Arrival and Registration</b>	
08:30 to 09:30	The meeting will be held at the United Nations House in the <b>MZ Conference Room (MZ level)</b> .  Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub to the meeting.
<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b>	
09:30 to 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Lebanon</li><li>• <b>Representative of Government of Lebanon (tbd)</b></li><li>• Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD (via video recording)</li><li>• Antonio Capobianco, Acting Head of Division Competition, OECD</li></ul>
<b>10:30 to 11:00</b>	<b>Group picture &amp; coffee break</b>

For all materials already available, please access: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/1st-joint-escwa-unctad-oecd-competition-forum-arab-region>

For registration and practical information, please visit: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/30419/>

Meeting contact: Ms. Denise Sumpf, Chief (a.i.), Economic Governance and Planning Section, Economic Development and Integration Division, UNITED NATIONS – Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Tel: +961 1 978 423, E-Mail: [sumpf@un.org](mailto:sumpf@un.org)

## Thursday, 23 January 2020 (cont'd)

### Session 1

11:00

to

13:00

#### COMPETITION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Effective competition bolsters economic growth and productivity by promoting dynamic markets. A competition framework coherent with international standards contributes to the international competitiveness of a jurisdiction's business sector generating confidence amongst potential investors. Competition drives innovation leading to new products and new production technologies. While encouraging firm efficiency, competition provides wider choice for consumers, lower prices and better quality. Effective enforcement of competition law can also reduce inequality and poverty, making markets work for the people and supporting governments' efforts to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The session will explore both the benefits and limitations of competition to national economies.

*Speaker and Session Chair:*

Prof. Frédéric Jenny, (Chairman, OECD Competition Committee)

**Country presentations:**

Egypt, Kuwait and others

13 to 14:30 hrs

Lunch

### Session 2

14:30

to

17:00

#### EFFECTIVE COMPETITION FRAMEWORKS

Institutional design is a critical component of competition law and policy. Good competition laws on the books are meaningless without well-designed institutions to enforce them. At the same time, many different models for institutional design exist, making the process of choosing the optimal structure complex. Many authorities have found success with very different designs, and what works well in one jurisdiction may not always work well in another. This session will explore options available, and the key characteristics of effective competition institutions, highlighting successful experiences. The session also introduces the "Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F of the UN Set on Competition" agreed at the 18th Session of the IGE on Competition Law and Policy.

*Session Chair:*

Denise Sumpf, Chief (a.i.), Economic Governance and Planning Section, UNESCWA

*Speakers:*

**Prof. Dr. Iur. Patrick L. Krauskopf, AGON Partners/Zurich University ZHAW**

**Akari Yamamoto, Expert from Japan Fair Trade Commission (seconded to UNCTAD)**

**Lorenzo Ciari, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development**

*Country presentations:*

Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon

17:00 to 18:00

Informal Meetings (tbd)

19:00 to 20:00

Reception at Sursock Museum Restaurant

## Friday, 24 January 2020

08:30 to 09:00	Arrival			
Opening Session				
09:00 to 10:00	<p><b>A PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY</b></p> <p>The session discusses the rationale and objective of the LoU between ESCWA, UNCTAD and OECD to better serve the Arab countries and explains the envisaged modalities of the annual MENA Competition Forum (e.g. rotation, ownership, engagement). It also seeks ideas from the countries on specific projects related to competition to be addressed jointly.</p> <p><i>Speakers: Denise Sumpf (ESCWA), Lynn Robertson (OECD) and Juan Luis Crucelegui (UNCTAD)</i></p>			
Session 3				
<p>10:00 to 12:30</p> <p>with calls for contributions</p> <p><i>Includes a Coffee Break from 10:00 to 10:15</i></p>	<p><b>COMPETITION POLICY AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>The session focuses on public interest and public policy considerations and offers three dedicated fora (please choose and attend in the respective rooms)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>A. Competition and employment</b></p> <p>The session addresses the impact of competition on fostering innovation and supporting entrepreneurial activity, especially to create jobs for the youth.</p> <p><i>Speakers/Moderators:</i> Juan Luis Crucelegui, UNCTAD</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> Jordan</p> <p>Room: Library (F201, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>B. Competition and gender</b></p> <p>The session addresses the impact of competition on improvement of women's access to economic activities and active participation in markets.</p> <p><i>Speakers/Moderators:</i> Dr. Theodor Tanner, Director-General of the Austrian Federal Competition Authority</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> tbd</p> <p>Room: Training (CR 2, B-1)</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>C. Competition and corruption/good governance</b></p> <p>The session addresses the relationship between competition and the fight against corruption.</p> <p><i>Speakers/Moderators:</i> Mona Chammas, Attorney &amp; Integrity Director at Govern &amp; Law</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> Tunisia</p> <p>Room: MZ</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>A. Competition and employment</b></p> <p>The session addresses the impact of competition on fostering innovation and supporting entrepreneurial activity, especially to create jobs for the youth.</p> <p><i>Speakers/Moderators:</i> Juan Luis Crucelegui, UNCTAD</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> Jordan</p> <p>Room: Library (F201, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</p>	<p><b>B. Competition and gender</b></p> <p>The session addresses the impact of competition on improvement of women's access to economic activities and active participation in markets.</p> <p><i>Speakers/Moderators:</i> Dr. Theodor Tanner, Director-General of the Austrian Federal Competition Authority</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> tbd</p> <p>Room: Training (CR 2, B-1)</p>	<p><b>C. Competition and corruption/good governance</b></p> <p>The session addresses the relationship between competition and the fight against corruption.</p> <p><i>Speakers/Moderators:</i> Mona Chammas, Attorney &amp; Integrity Director at Govern &amp; Law</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i> Tunisia</p> <p>Room: MZ</p>
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12:30 to 14:00	Lunch			

Session 4	
<p>14:00 to 16:30</p> <p><i>Includes a Coffee Break from 15:30 to 15:45</i></p>	<p><b>COMPETITION AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT</b></p> <p>Public procurement accounts for a substantial portion of the taxpayers’ money, and governments are expected to carry it out efficiently and with high standards of conduct to ensure high quality of service delivery and safeguard the public interest. For example, bid rigging happens when groups of firms conspire to raise prices or lower the quality of goods, works or services offered in public tenders. It is illegal, anti-competitive and costs governments and taxpayers billions of dollars every year. The elimination of bid rigging could help reduce procurement prices by 20% or more.</p> <p>This session focuses on how competition policy contributes to improvements in public procurement endeavors and what role competition authorities must play in this context.</p> <p><i>Session Chair and Speaker:</i></p> <p>Antonio Capobianco (OECD)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Recep Gunduz, Head of Department, Turkish Competition Authority</p> <p>Bogdan Chirițoiu, President of the Competition Council of Romania</p> <p><i>Country presentations:</i></p> <p>Tunisia, and others</p>
<p>16:30 to 17:30</p>	<p><b>EVALUATION AND FUTURE WORK</b></p> <p>Moderation: Frédéric Jenny (Chairman, OECD Competition Committee) supported by UNCTAD and ESCWA</p> <p>General discussion, gathering support for next annual meetings and the establishment of an annual Forum, proposals for topics for MENA Competition Forum 2020 and closing remarks.</p>

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NB: Draft programme is subject to change.