Relevance of Competition and Regulatory Reforms in the post-2015 Development Agenda in Developing Countries

Nairobi, 12-13 December 2015

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Day One: 12th December 2015

0900 to 1030hrs: Opening Session (1.5 hours)¹

- Pradeep S Mehta, SG, CUTS International
- Indian High Commissioner to Kenya
- Fred Jenny, Chair, Competition Policy Committee, OECD
- Hon’ble Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Kenya
- Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General, UNCTAD

1030 to 1045hrs: Tea/Coffee Break

1045 to 1245hrs: Knowledge Session One

Role of Government in promoting sustainable economic growth through competition reforms (exploring how competition can help promote healthy markets, create employment, promote innovation and industrialisation)

For competition reforms to receive adequate attention, it is crucial that key organs of the government are convinced (and taken into confidence) about the role of competition and regulatory reforms in contributing towards sustainable economic growth through better functioning markets, industrialisation and innovation – thereby creating jobs in DCs. Industrial policy is often designed to promote and protect certain domestic sectors in DCs. This presents considerable challenge for promoting competition and regulatory reforms. New thinking and direction about how this has been done in some countries (sector/country specific case studies) would provide crucial lessons.

1245 to 1400hrs: LUNCH BREAK

¹ Speakers to be confirmed
1400 to 1600hrs: Knowledge Session Two

How can competition reforms in developing and least developed countries be designed to better contribute to inclusive economic growth, especially by creating greater scope for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) in the economy?

To promote a culture of competition in an economy, it is critical to communicate effectively to business, how competition reforms can help promote business welfare. In view of the fact that majority of businesses in developing countries are small and medium, it is critical to make MSMEs a partner in the process of competition reforms. Creating opportunities for MSMEs remains a key hallmark of inclusive economic growth in developing and least developed countries – and this session aims to explore to what extent competition reforms can contribute towards this end.

Day Two: 13th December 2015

0900 to 1100hrs: Knowledge Session Three

Competition reforms as a component of sectoral/economic reforms to enable DC consumers and producers derive benefits from key sectors

Considerable evidence has now been gathered by various scholars, institutions, practitioners and advocates of competition reforms to explain how fair competition in sectors can help consumers and small producers, particularly in developing (and least developed) countries. In this session case studies covering key sectors are expected to help competition reforms to be better linked with goals of sustainable development and inclusive growth. Case studies from sectors like staple food, transportation, pharmaceuticals, telecom, water, energy, education, etc. would be encouraged.

1030 to 1045hrs: Tea/Coffee Break

1045 to 1200hrs: Roundtable Discussion

Shaping the agenda for promoting Competition and Regulatory Reforms in the post-2015 Regime (Sustainable Development Goals)?
6-8 experts, practitioners and senior government officials from developing and least developed countries, international organisations, development partners, business leaders would provide their views on how the agenda on Competition and Regulatory Reforms should be shaped in the post-2015 regime. The key question is: How can competition champions and advocates take up the challenge of using competition and regulatory reforms as a tool to achieve some of the 17 sustainable development goals?

1200 to 1330hrs: LUNCH BREAK

1330 to 1530hrs: Knowledge Session Four

Infusing competition and promoting regulatory reforms to make trade agreements and regional integration impactful in developing countries

It has been established now that benefits of trade liberalisation can be better derived by countries that possess effective market regulatory framework and instruments. Competition law is one such instrument that has become a feature of liberalising market economies. Apart from the multilateral process, the process of trade liberalisation has also been driven across many developing regions through regional trade integration processes. Development of national and regional competition reforms processes are often part of such processes, but seem to be effective only if they are well-aligned with domestic policies/processes and have stakeholder support. This session throws light on some such evidence especially from the developing world.

1530 to 1545hrs: Tea/Coffee Break

1545 to 1700hrs: Concluding Session

- Rapporteurs’ report
- Closing Remarks

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