

Day 2- 14 December 2022

Session VI. Competition Policy and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are vital for sustainable development, contributing to economic growth by creating decent jobs and helping to alleviate poverty and inequality. However, MSMEs face continuous challenges, which have only multiplied during the pandemic and the resulting economic slowdown. SMEs are often unaware of, nor endorsed by, competition provisions, which makes them vulnerable players in the market. Alongside the structural issues faced by MSMEs (e.g., limited access to finance), the unfair competition practices by big corporations can lead to MSMEs exiting the market given their inability to compete. Against the backdrop of these challenges, it is more important than ever to create a level playing field by actively promoting competition in markets where MSMEs operate.

This session will therefore address the importance of competition policy in achieving equal opportunities, focusing on promoting competition for MSMEs. The session will also include best practices and specific guidance for achieving this goal while addressing the gap between the abilities and needs for providing support to MSMEs.

Note: the duration of this session will be 75 minutes, with each panelist speaking for 8 minutes, followed by 11-minute Q&A.

Topics of discussion:

- Share Egypt's experience of creating a competitive framework for SMEs.
- Describe how competition lowers barriers to entry for MSMEs, encouraging innovative SMEs into the market to create employment and growth.
- Outline the role that MSMEs play in Kuwait's economy, and measures taken by the government to support them.
- Highlight the approach taken by the CPA to create opportunities and ensure a level playing field across the economy.
- Provide insights and lessons learnt from Botswana, including the collaborative measures between government and the competition authority.
- Share case studies and best practices from the competition authority of Morocco, highlighting how MSMEs have been supported through effective policymaking.
- Use Thailand as an example to emphasize the importance of MSMEs in creating a competitive trade environment.
- UNCTAD will describe its work on promoting best practices on the digital economy, including its support for SMEs and competition policy.

Speakers:



Moderator

Alla Al Refaei, Competition Advocacy department
CPA, Kuwait



Mahmoud Momtaz

Chairman of the Competition Protection Authority, Arab Republic of Egypt



Frederic Jenny

Professor and Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee
France



Fares Dharian Al Anzi

Deputy General Manager for Entrepreneurship service Sector, National Fund for SMEs



Al Anoud Al Fahad

Director for Monopolistic and Competitive Investigations Department, CPA, Kuwait



Tebelelo Pule

CEO of the Competition Authority, Botswana



Hassan Abu Abdul Majeed

Vice President of the Competition Council, Kingdom of Morocco



Akarapon Houbcharaun

Director of Foreign Affairs Division, Trade Competition Commission of Thailand (TCCT)



Teresa Moreira

Head of Competition and Consumer policy branch
UNCTAD