

**Promoting Competition: Challenges and Ambition**  
**13-14 December 2022**  
**Movenpick hotel and resort, Al Bida'a Kuwait**

***Background***

Competition offers significant benefits to the national economy. It contributes to building effective markets, driving innovation and productivity, and achieving sustainable development. It also serves to achieve consumer welfare by protecting him from the abuse of market power and unfair business practices by producers and suppliers. Markets therefore need effective competition and consumer protection laws and policies, and strong institutions to improve the business environment, attract investment, and enhance economic performance. The Kuwaiti Competition Protection Agency (CPA) has therefore witnessed a new start to its work in protecting, consolidating, and promoting competition, following the promulgation of the new Law No. 72 of 2020 and the promulgation of the implementing regulation of the Competition Protection Law in 2021. Today, the Agency carries out three main tasks: law enforcement, merger control, acquisition, and advocacy.

Advocacy is a fundamental element in competition law enforcement and is the main channel for promoting a competition culture. Therefore, the Agency carries out many activities in the context of the performance of the advocacy role, notably competition assessment studies, communication with government agencies, awareness-raising activities, educating about the importance of the agency and its mission, the law, and the benefits of competition.

Outreach activities are another component of the advocacy mission, not only by educating the society through the media, but also by holding seminars and conferences with different elements of the business community and all those who have a presence in economic activities in Kuwait. The Agency held several workshops aiming to raise awareness about the importance of the Agency and its mission, the latest of which was a workshop on the protection of competition in Kuwait on May 21, 2021.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) works on promoting market dynamics and developing member States' competition laws and legislation. The Commission also supports advocacy programs and facilitates cooperation between State bodies and institutions involved in competition. It also works to build capacity and support harmonized national competition reform processes, in line with international standards, considering economic trends and challenges with a view to achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development. Within this framework, and in view of the great importance that the CPA attaches to outreach activities, the Kuwait's National Competition Conference is essential to educate all members of society about the benefits of competition and the Agency's role in general, as well as to begin addressing anti-competitive restrictions that may be put in place by other parties.

***General framework***

ESCWA, in cooperation with the Kuwait Competition Protection Agency, intends to organize a Conference in Kuwait “**Promoting Competition: Challenges and Ambition**”, on 13-14 December 2022, at Movenpick al Bidaa hotel and resort, Kuwait City. This conference comes within the framework of the activities of the project: "[Improving Competition, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection in the Arab Region](#)". The conference will include a large selection of experts to discuss competition-related

topics selected in coordination with the agency, and international competition authorities will be selected to participate in the conference to share their experience and expertise. The conference will be held over two days in Kuwait. The first day will focus on the agency's role and overall strategy, and how other government actors can contribute to the protection and application of competition law. The second day will include discussions on more detailed topics such as competition and MSMEs, and the protection of competition in the digital economy.

***Objectives of the Conference:***

- Increased awareness of CPA's key role in promoting competition and addressing the most pressing economic challenges facing Kuwait today.
- Enhanced knowledge of the provisions of the Competition Act and the benefits of its application to all parts of society from consumers to all parties involved in economic activities
- Highlight the importance of other government agencies' role in protecting and enforcing competition law.

***Target audience***

The target audience includes stakeholders from relevant ministries, business community, civil society, academics, private sector, MSMEs, digital companies, and the media in Kuwait.

***Speaking language at the workshop***

Arabic is the conference's main speaking language, with interpretation from Arabic to English and vice versa.

For more information, visit the Conference's website:

[Click here to the website](#)

**Promoting Competition: Challenges and Ambition**  
**Agenda**  
**13-14 December 2022**

Day 1. 13 December 2022	
9:00 – 9:20 a.m.	<b>Registration and opening session</b>
9:20 – 9:50 a.m.  <i>Format: Open session</i>	<p><b>Opening remarks and introductory comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HE Mazen Saad Ali Al Nahed, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait</b></li> <li>• <b>Dr Rola Dashti</b>, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Lebanon</li> <li>• <b>HE Dr. Abdullah Saleh Al-Owaisi</b>, Executive Director of CPA Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Certificates Ceremony</b></li> </ul>
9:50 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Coffee Break &amp; Group Photo</b>
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  <i>Format: held physically and virtually</i>  <b><u>Session Moderator:</u></b> <b><u>Rakan Al Ajami, Chief HR, CPA Kuwait</u></b>	<p><b>Session I. The legislative framework for competition provisions in Kuwait and the role of the Kuwaiti CPA.</b></p> <p><b>First Section: Panel Discussion: Legislative Framework for Competition Provisions</b></p> <p>During this session, a comparison will be made between the new competition Law No. 72 of 2020 and the previous law, in addition to an overview of the most prominent new amendments. The session will also discuss Kuwait’s Country Profile in the Arab Business Legislative Framework (ABLF). The most important international experiences in the field of competition law will be presented in this session.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mahmoud Momtaz</b>, President of the competition Protection Authority, Arab Republic of Egypt, President of the Arab Competition Network</li> </ul>

<p>11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>Format: held physically and virtually</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Abdelghani Asnaina</b>, Vice President of the Competition Council, Kingdom of Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Nathalie Khaled</b>, Coordinator of the Competition and Consumer Protection Programme and Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA, Beirut</li> <li>• <b>Shoryan Al Shoryan</b>, President of the Kuwaiti Bar Association</li> <li>• <b>Muhammad Rabah Al-Mutairi</b>, Assistant Professor of Commercial Law at the Faculty of Law - Kuwait University</li> <li>• <b>Faisal Aba Al-Khail</b>, Secretary of the Disciplinary Council and Secretary of the Board of Directors, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Rahaf Almodarra</b>, legal expert, General Authority for Competition in KSA(Virtually)</li> </ul> <p><b>Second Section: Role of the CPA and its Vision or Policies</b></p> <p>The session will start by introducing the Kuwaiti Competition Authority and will highlight its role in implementing effective competition and consumer protection laws and policies. The session will also include a presentation on the CPA’s future vision.</p> <p>Panelists: Representatives of the CPA, Kuwait</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Al Anoud Al Fahad</b>, Director of the Monopolistic and Competitive Investigations Department, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Ali Al Arbash</b>, Economic Affairs Officer, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Kholoud Al-Khazal</b>, Senior legal specialist in the legal department, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Mohammad Al-Marri</b>, Legal researcher in the legal department, Kuwait</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:00 – 13:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p>13:00 – 14:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> <i>held physically and virtually</i></p> <p><b><u>Session Moderator: Fahd Al-Otaibi, Director of the Financial Affairs Department, CPA Kuwait</u></b></p>	<p><b>Session II: Panel Discussion: Importance of protecting and advocating competition and competition-related subjects and matters</b></p> <p>This session will examine the means for educating the public about the Kuwaiti competition law and raising its awareness on the role that the CPA plays. It will highlight the important function that the Kuwaiti government agencies perform to advocate competition protection policies and promote a culture of competition on a broad national scale. The session will also include a discussion on the most prominent cooperation frameworks for promoting competition policy.</p>

	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mahmoud Momtaz</b>, President of the competition Protection Authority, Arab Republic of Egypt, President of the Arab Competition Network</li> <li>• <b>Willard Mwemba</b>, Director and CEO of the Competition Committee, COMESA</li> <li>• <b>Hiba Al Saab</b>, acting director of Competition Advocacy department, CPA, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Joaquín López Vallés</b>, Director for Advocacy Department, Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) (Virtually)</li> <li>• <b>Teresa Moreira</b>, Head of Competition and Consumer policy branch, UNCTAD (Virtually)</li> </ul>
<p>14:00 – 15: 00 p.m.</p> <p><i>Format: held physically and virtually</i></p> <p><b><u>Session Moderator:</u></b> <b><u>Khaled al-Khalidi, Senior Accountant, Mergers and Acquisitions Oversight Committee</u></b></p>	<p><b>Session III: Panel Discussion: Coherence of competition policy with other economic and social policies</b></p> <p>During this session, a discussion will take place between policy makers and experts on competition policy and its interrelationship with other governmental economic and social policies. The most important competition-related matters that need to be considered when examining other policies, will be highlighted during the session.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tarek Al Sheikh</b>, Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Coordinator in Kuwait - United Nations.</li> <li>• <b>Riyad Al Faras</b>, Assistant Professor of Economics, Kuwait University</li> <li>• <b>Frederic Jenny</b>, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee, France</li> <li>• <b>Noura Al-Sedirawi</b>, Head of Antitrust Monopoly Department, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Tebelelo Pule</b>, CEO of the Competition Authority, Botswana (Virtually)</li> <li>• <b>Esteban Greco</b>, Director of Games Economics, Former President of the Competition Authority in Argentina (Virtually)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Day 2. 14 December 2022</b></p>	
<p><b>9:00 – 9:30 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Registration and Welcome</b></p>
<p>9:30 – 10:45 a.m.</p> <p><i>Format: held physically and virtually</i></p> <p><b><u>Session Moderator:</u></b> <b><u>Nabela Aldashti, Economic Analyst,</u></b></p>	<p><b>Session IV: Panel Discussion: National Competition Policy – Competitive Neutrality</b></p> <p>This session will discuss the extent to which national competition policies affect competitive neutrality and the key tools available to help ensure a level playing field that enables competition to function properly and deliver benefits to consumers and to the economy at large. The experts will also discuss how to enhance competitive neutrality and equal opportunities for companies, in addition to preventing and eliminating policies and practices</p>

<p><u><b>Economic Affairs, CPA, Kuwait</b></u></p>	<p>that distort competition. An Arab or international authority will be invited to present best practices related to this topic.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mahmoud Momtaz</b>, President of the competition Protection Authority, Arab Republic of Egypt, President of the Arab Competition Network</li> <li>• <b>Frederic Jenny</b>, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee, France</li> <li>• <b>Willard Mwemba</b>, Director and CEO of the Competition Committee, COMESA</li> <li>• <b>Mustafa Al Mudhaf</b>, Director of the National Policy Project, Office of Strategic Planning, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Nasser Al-Shami</b>, Acting Director for Economic Affairs Department, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Marcelo Guimaraes</b>, Competition Expert, OECD (Virtually)</li> </ul>
<p>10:45 – 11:45 a.m.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> <i>held physically and virtually</i></p> <p><u><b>Session Moderator: Saoud al-Anzi, Legal Researcher, Department of Legal Affairs, CPA, Kuwait</b></u></p>	<p><b>Session V: Panel Discussion: Digital Economy and Competition</b></p> <p>This session follows up on the developments of the digital economy and the enforcement of competition law. It aims to provide indications for digital companies about acceptable and unacceptable behaviors under competition law, especially on the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of customer data. The experts will also discuss best practices and lessons learned to build sound competition policies considering the various competition challenges arising from electronic markets. An Arab or international authority will be invited to present best practices in this area.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ali Al Arbash</b>, Economic Affairs Officer, CPA, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Sultan Al Majroub</b>, Economics consultant, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Abdullah Al-Bakr</b>, President of the Kuwaiti Association for Public Funds, and lawyer specialized in digital competition law</li> <li>• <b>Kayvan Hazemi-Jebelli</b>, Competition and Regulatory Counsel, CCIA Europe (Virtually)</li> <li>• <b>Antonio Capobianco</b>, Deputy Head of the OECD Competition Division, OECD (Virtually)</li> <li>• <b>Elizabeth Gachuiri</b>, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD (Virtually)</li> </ul>
<p>11:45 – 12:45 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p>12:45 – 14:00p.m.</p> <p><i>Format:</i></p>	<p><b>Session VI: Panel Discussion: Competition Policy and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</b></p>

<p><i>held physically and virtually</i></p> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b> <b><u>Alla Al Refaei, translator, Competition Advocacy Department, CPA, Kuwait</u></b></p>	<p>This session will address the importance of competition policy in achieving equal opportunities which reflect on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and promote competitiveness and consumer welfare. The session will also include an intervention by an expert to introduce best practices and specific guidance in promoting SME competitiveness. An Arab or international authority will be invited to provide specific case studies on this subject.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mahmoud Momtaz</b>, President of the competition Protection Authority, Arab Republic of Egypt, President of the Arab Competition Network</li> <li>• <b>Frederic Jenny</b>, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee, France</li> <li>• <b>Fares Dharian Al Anzi</b>, Deputy General Manager for Entrepreneurship service sector, National Fund for SMEs</li> <li>• <b>Al Anoud Al Fahad</b>, Director of the Monopolistic and Competitive Investigations Department, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Tebelelo <sup>تشي</sup>eliz</b>, CEO of the Competition Authority, Botswana (Virtually)</li> <li>• <b>Hassan Abu Abdul Majeed</b>, Vice President of the Competition Council, Kingdom of Morocco (Virtually)</li> <li>• <b>Akarapon Houbcharaun</b>, Director of foreign affairs division, Trade Competition Commission of Thailand (Virtually)</li> <li>• <b>Teresa Moreira</b>, Head of Competition and Consumer policy branch, UNCTAD (Virtually)</li> </ul>
<p>14:00 – 15:00p.m.</p> <p><b>ESCWA and Kuwait</b></p> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b> <b>Abdulaziz Al Dhafeeri, Media Researcher, CPA</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Session and Recommendation</b></p> <p>The closing session includes ways to move forward in support of the role played by the Kuwaiti Competition Authority in addressing the economic challenges facing Kuwait today. Hence, the participants will agree on the main areas of intervention and future activities needed to enhance competition in Kuwait. The session will also conclude with a reference to the support provided by ESCWA and its partners in competition and enforcement policy.</p>