

Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSME sector:  
MSME surge project



Presentation of UNCTAD's Report : "How COVID-19  
Affects MSME Access To Markets and Competition: A  
Review of Key Issues and Recommendations For Future  
Action"



**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

Coordinating agency: UNCTAD

Jointly implemented by: UNCTAD, UDESA, UNECA, UNECE,  
UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNESCWA



## The Report

- Aim: snapshot of the current competition and market access challenges being faced by MSMEs around the world as they seek to deal with the impact of COVID-19 on their operations.
- Focus: competition-related challenges caused by the pandemic, ability to access existing and new markets, regulator responses to the situation that especially affect MSMEs, and related observable trends in the small firm sector.
- Conclusion: 10 recommendations for future action ( MSME agencies and competition authorities)



## Content of the Report (1)

- **Understanding The Nature of MSMEs**
  - ✓ Definitions and Size
  - ✓ Key Characteristics
  - ✓ Market Access
  - ✓ Regulatory Knowledge and Compliance
  - ✓ Interaction With Public Agencies and Business Associations
  - ✓ Informal Sector MSMEs
  - ✓ Sustainable Development Goals



## Content of the Report (2)

- **Competition Law and Market Access for MSMEs Prior To COVID-19:**
  - ✓ Competition Law and Market Access in Developing Economies
  - ✓ Competition Law: Application to MSMEs
  - ✓ Competition law: Challenges for MSMEs
  - ✓ Competition Authorities: Dealing with MSMEs
  - ✓ The Effect of Informal MSMEs On Competition



## Content of the Report (3)

- **Impact of COVID-19 on Market Access & Competition Law for MSMEs**
  - ✓ Overall Global and Regional Impacts of COVID-19 on MSMEs
  - ✓ Impacts on Market Access Through Global Supply Chains
  - ✓ Market Access Via Digital Markets
  - ✓ Gender and Market Access
  - ✓ Policy Responses To Support MSME Market Access
  - ✓ Competition Issues Arising During COVID-19
  - ✓ Competition Policy Responses



# Content of the Report (4)

## TRENDS

1. Support For Incumbent Firms
2. Approval of Co-ordinated Economic Activity
3. Lockdowns Continue To Constrain Market Access
4. MSMEs Are Going Online
5. Competition Authorities and Policymakers Working With MSME Agencies & Associations
6. The Importance of Informal Sector MSMEs



# Content of the Report (5)

## Recommendations to competition authorities

- Consider whether competition policy objectives and laws should allow for broader economic objectives
- Gradually lifting COVID19 exceptions to competition law enforcement
- Providing minimum thresholds/safe harbour guidelines/exemptions
- Allow MSMEs to engage in collective bargaining
- Issue clear MSME guidance notes from competition authorities



## Content of the Report (6)

### Recommendations to MSME agencies and related government agencies

- Re-assessing financial support schemes to MSMEs
- Increased engagement with informal sector MSMEs
- Understanding digital market structures that impact MSMEs





## Content of the Report (7)

### Recommendations to MSME agencies and competition authorities

- Facilitating regional dialogues and capacity building forums between MSME associations and policy/regulatory agencies
- MSME training for competition and MSME officials



Thank **You** For **your** Attention

