



Advancing Competition Law and Policy in the Arab Region

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Shared Prosperity Dignified Life





First Arab Competition Forum

Objectives:

- Regional coordination, national capacity development,
- and research encouragement



Diverse Discussion Topics:

- Competition & Economic Development,
- Effective Competition Frameworks,
- Intersection of Competition, Employment & Gender,
- Competition, Anti-Corruption & Good Governance,
- Competition and Public Procurement

Second Arab Competition Forum

Objectives:

- Sustaining momentum from the first Forum, Establishing a regional multi-stakeholder platform
- Session Highlights:
 - Partner organizations' updates post-Forum 1
 - Global best practices for competition during COVID-19
 - Updates from Arab competition authorities on national developments

Best practices from Albania, the USA, South Africa, Turkey, Mexico, Brazil, Canada

Outcome: New insights, best practices, strategic recommendations, and visions for future forums

Third Arab Competition Forum

Objectives:

- Economic growth
- Cooperation
- Informed policymaking

Key Topics:

- Competition policies
- National developments
- New projects

Special Event: Student challenge on digital market competition

Fourth Arab Competition Forum

Objective:

- Economic growth,
- Collaboration
- Policy guidance
- Future recommendations

Focus:

- Mergers, acquisitions, competition authority effectiveness, digital market dominance, market studies
- **Student Challenge: Impact of Mergers and Acquisitions on Competition**

Arab Business Legislative Frameworks Report

A regulatory assessment for the Arab Region

This study constitutes an assessment system of the region's current regulatory climate for business as it considers legislation related to competition, anti-corruption, foreign direct investment, consumer protection, and corporate law.



Progress of Competition Regimes in the Arab Region: A Comparative Study (2020 - 2022)



Progress in Competition Law Reforms across Arab Countries

Country	Competition Legislation
Egypt	Amended Competition Law 175/2022
Kuwait	Competition Law 72/2020; Implementing Regulations 14/2021; Resolution 25/2022
Lebanon	Competition Law 281/2022
Oman	Ministerial Decision 18/2021
Sudan	Ministerial Decree 513/2020 Executive Regulation for Prevention of Monopoly and Unfair Commercial Practices (unavailable)
Saudi Arabia	Implementing Regulation for Competition Law (2020); Mergers and Collusion Guidelines (2021-2022); Arabic Dictionary of Competition (2022).
Jordan	Introduced amendments the competition law in 2023
Libya	Decision No. 632/2021 established the Competition Council. Decision No. 539/2021, the Ministry of Economy and Trade adopted the internal regulations of the Competition Council.
Mauritania	New Competition law in 2023

Competition Authorities in the Arab Region

Country	Competition Authority
Algeria	Competition Council
Bahrain	Competition Directorate within Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism
Djibouti	Competition Directorate within the Ministry of Commerce
Egypt	Egyptian Competition Authority
Jordan	Competition Directorate - Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Kuwait	Competition Protection Agency
Libya	Competition Council
Morocco	Competition Council
Oman	Centre for Competition Protection and Monopoly Prevention
Qatar	Committee for the Protection of Competition and Prevention of Monopolistic Practices – Ministry of Economy and Commerce
Saudi Arabia	General Authority for Competition
Tunisia	Competition Council
United Arab Emirates	Competition Department - Ministry of Economy
Yemen	Public Administration to Promote Competition and Prevent Monopoly and Commercial Fraud – Ministry of Industry and Trade

Recommendations

- Harmonization of competition laws and regulations across member states.
- Provision of assistance and technical support to least-developed countries
- Establishment of cooperation agreements between member states.
- Development of programs to educate the youth on competition law and policy.
- Apply regulatory reforms such as strengthening sanction regimes and further monitoring and enforcing mechanisms in legislations.
- Reinforcing competitive neutrality including elimination of monopolies accorded to SOEs in some specific sectors.

ESCWA's Role in Enhancing Competition in the Arab Region



- Introduction of youth competition challenges during the 3rd and 4th Arab Competition Forums.
- Advocacy through academia collaboration and networking.
- Networks and Platforms for Knowledge Exchange and Peer learning to promote cooperation and mutual support
 - Launch of WhatsApp and LinkedIn groups for networking among competition experts.



- Capacity Building and training to competition authorities, policymakers, and relevant stakeholders.
 - Agreement with OECD and GVH competition authority on [short competition videos in Arabic language](#)
 - Online self paced course on [Fighting bid rigging in Public Procurement](#)

ESCWA's upcoming Initiatives to Boost Competition Policy in the Arab Region

- Regulatory Assessment and Research on competition-related topics.
 - [Arab Business Legislative Framework report](#): To highlight weaknesses in Arab competition legislation.
 - [Arab Legislative portal](#): A repository of 500+ laws related to the business environment in the Arab countries.
 - Paper and reports: [Competition in Lebanon](#), [Trade and competition in the Arab region](#)
- Regional and National Workshops: Promoting a culture of competition and building capacities of Arab competition authorities.
- Fifth Arab Competition Forum: To be held in Tunisia in 2024.

Thank You



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