



## Recommendations of the Workshop on “Competition Policy in Supporting Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery”

Virtual - 16-17 January 2023

With the main aim of discussing the ways and means of addressing the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on OIC economies, and highlighting the role of competition law and policy in supporting economic recovery in the post-pandemic era, experts and executives from Competition Authorities as well as Relevant Ministries and national institutions in 26 OIC Member Countries participated in the virtual Workshop on “Competition Policy in Supporting Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery” on 16-17 January 2023. The Workshop, which was jointly organised by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Turkish Competition Authority (TCA) within the framework of the SESRIC Competition Authorities Capacity Building Programme (CA-CaB), provided a platform for exchanging experiences and knowledge as well as sharing insights from the relevant national, international and OIC Institutions. Based on the fruitful discussions held during the relevant technical sessions of the Workshop, the participants put forward and agreed upon the following recommendations:

1. **Exchanging** technical assistance among Competition Authorities in the OIC Member Countries towards increasing the human and institutional capacities on the issues of common interest to support development efforts in the domain of competition;
2. **Exerting** efforts towards digitalisation and promoting online platforms towards contributing to the development of new business models in OIC economies. Hence, these new models allow online platforms to operate in multiple markets and play a significant role in the value chain as well as the competitive process, which has a huge impact on the economy in general;
3. **Exchanging** views, experiences and learnings in the field of competition law and policy, which may help competition enforcers in their investigations in terms of building theories of harm and designing remedies;
4. **Enhancing** a better understanding related to anti-competitive practices and their negative effects on consumer welfare in digital economy;
5. **Emphasising** the need to adopt a more structural mechanism in supporting the domain of competition through the establishment of an intra-OIC Network among the Competition



Authorities and relevant national institutions in the OIC Member Countries in charge of competition. The Network would facilitate knowledge transfer and sharing of expertise and experience in a more systematic manner;

6. **Conducting** regular revisions on competition law and policy in line with the recent developments in the field and to better cater for the characteristics of digital markets. Regular legislative reviews help ensure that competition law and policy are up-to-date with regard to enforcing competition provisions in the ever-evolving markets;
7. **Implementing** fair competition rules during the crisis times like Covid-19 Pandemic is crucial to combat with the crisis effects. With this regard, Competition Authorities can help to eliminate negative crisis effects like unemployment and inflationary situations by ensuring and maintaining effective competitive environment and processes;
8. **Advocacy** activities can be augmented during the extra-ordinary hard times to maintain and prevail fair competition rules in the markets, in order to develop proper economic policies by government officials in times of crisis;
9. **Increasing** production in developing countries that leads to decreasing poverty, raising productivity and innovation levels towards economic growth. This eventually could contribute to achieving sustainable increase in competition in various sectors and economy in general;
10. **Joining** efforts towards raising awareness among consumers to better understand anti-competitive business practices in the market to avoid its adverse negative impacts and promoting the culture of competition compliance. This could be achieved through structural support mechanisms, working groups and capacity building activities;
11. **Equipping** Competition Authorities with the necessary knowledge and tools in the face of any future crisis or shock through the transfer of best practices in the OIC Member Countries and in collaboration with the relevant OIC and International Institutions;
12. **Urging** OIC Member Countries that do not have competition law yet to take immediate action towards setting up a comprehensive competition law and policy and take necessary steps for establishing Competition Authority in their Esteemed Countries to ensure competition enforcement;
13. **Encouraging** OIC Member Countries that have competition law in place but do not have a functioning specialised authority to accelerate efforts towards the establishment of Competition Authority at the earliest;
14. **Identifying** technical assistance requirements and modalities for competition agencies;



15. **Solving** the competition issues may be helpful to resolve the consumerism issues in the particular market. Competition and consumerism have to work simultaneously to achieve the great welfare and well-beings of the people who had great implications on economic recession in the post-pandemic, mainly dealing with the cost of living issue;
16. **Holding** regular meetings and multilateral discussions among OIC Member Countries through a structural Network to discuss on the development of competition laws and policies in their particular jurisdiction. The platform also could be a mean to scrutinise issues in relation to the cross-border case, if any;
17. **Expressing** their thanks and appreciation to the TCA and SESRIC for virtually organising this Workshop on 16-17 January 2023 and **requesting** them to continue organising such activities for the benefit of the Competition Authorities, Relevant Ministries and national institutions in the OIC Member Countries;
18. **Requesting** SESRIC to further follow up on the above-stated recommendations formed based on the discussions at the Workshop on “Competition Policy in Supporting Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery” and submit them to the relevant OIC Fora to ensure their proper implementation.

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