

**WORLD COMPETITION DAY 2018**

# Digital Economy, Innovation and Competition

Wednesday 5 December, 15:00 – 17:30

WTO, ROOM S2 | GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

## BACKGROUND

This year, CUTS invites the Geneva community to celebrate the World Competition Day on 5<sup>th</sup> December by exploring the interaction between the digital economy and competition policy. The digital economy is a major driver of economic growth in the 21st century and is fuelled by the rapid emergence of digital innovations.

The digital markets-powered digital economy may foster competition and innovation through more products and market players. Some of its characteristics can also enhance the risk of certain anticompetitive practices such as vertical restraints and unilateral conduct by dominant firms. They may for instance pose entry barriers, facilitate market concentration, and thereby undermine competition in the economy.

It hence becomes relevant to understand contemporary competition law and policy challenges faced in the digital economy and e-commerce, including in developing countries. Discussions at this event will help: (i) identify the role of competition policy and authorities in shaping the digital economy; (ii) ascertain the suitability of traditional competition law tools to deal with related challenges; and (iii) shape adequate regulations.

## WHAT'S WORLD COMPETITION DAY?

International Days are observed to draw the attention of the society at large on issues critical for human development. Competition Policy falls into this category, and this is why a global movement led by CUTS International has been celebrating and calling for the adoption of a World Competition Day on 5th December, date of the adoption of the first-ever Set on Competition Policy by the UNGA in 1980. Since 2010, over 24 countries have supported the Call and celebrated this Day.

More at: [incsoc.net/world\\_competition\\_day.htm](http://incsoc.net/world_competition_day.htm)

## SPEAKERS

### MODERATOR

#### Hannu Wager

Senior Counsellor, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, World Trade Organization (WTO)

### PRESENTATION

Highlights from a research study on “Competition Concerns in Cross-border E-Commerce: Implications for Developing Countries”

#### Philippe Brusick

Former Head of Competition Branch of UNCTAD, and Chairperson of the General Assembly, CUTS International, Geneva

### DISCUSSANTS

#### Ebru Gökçe Dessemond

Economist, UNCTAD

#### Nadezhda Sporysheva

Legal/Economic Analyst, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Policy Division, WTO

### GENERAL DISCUSSION

### CLOSING REMARKS

## ORGANISED BY

CUTS International, Geneva in cooperation with the WTO Secretariat, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division  
[www.cuts-geneva.org](http://www.cuts-geneva.org) and [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)