



## Competition policy towards the COVID-19 crisis and the reactivation Wednesday August 5, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a profound impact on the economy and society in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ECLAC estimates that before the end of 2020, 2.7 million companies could close, equivalent to 19% of all formal firms in the region. The crisis affects all companies, particularly MSMEs, which, due to their weight in the business structure of the region, becomes more relevant. This can translate into the closure of numerous companies and the loss of a large number of jobs.

One expected effect is an increase in the concentration of the economy, which will require concerted action between authorities in charge of ensuring free competition and those in charge of implementing measures aimed at sustaining the productive structure and avoiding the destruction of MSMEs capacities. Dialogue and concerted action by both entities will be crucial in the period of economic recovery.

ECLAC in conjunction with UNCTAD proposes a dialogue to analyze economic scenarios that affect companies and sectors in Latin America, identify possible actions and competition policies and look how it could contribute to the business sector recovery, particularly the MSME sector.

### PROGRAMME

#### **Schedule      Topic - Panel**

#### **10:00-10:05    Opening remarks**

Ms. Isabelle Durand, UNCTAD Deputy Secretary General and Mario Cimoli, ECLAC Deputy Executive Secretary

#### **10:05-10:30    Presentations by UNCTAD and ECLAC (15 minutes each)**

1. Presentation by Mr. Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC on "The digitization of MSMEs in Latin America during and after the health crisis and its consequences".
2. Presentation by Ms. Teresa Moreira, Chief of the UNCTAD Competition and Consumer Policy Branch on the "Role of competition policies dealing with the movement towards digitization of MSMEs and how competition policy can be relevant after the crisis. "



10:30-12:00 **Panel 1. The impact of the pandemic on the design of a recovery strategy for MSMEs and the role of competition policy.**

Moderators: Georgina Núñez (ECLAC) and Pierre Horna (UNCTAD)

1. Victoria Hernandez Mora, Minister of Economy, Industry and Commerce, Costa Rica
2. Alexandre Barreto, President of CADE, Brazil

**Panel 2. Open dialogue between competition agencies and public organizations promoting MSMEs in the region.**

1. Jesús Espinoza, Technical Secretary, Free Competition Commission, INDECOPI, Peru
2. David Lamb de Valdes, Head of the Planning, Liaison and International Affairs Unit COFECE, Mexico
3. Bruno Quick, Technical Director SEBRAE, Brasil
4. José Daniel, Director National Commission for Regulatory Improvement, Mexico
5. Ma Elina Cruz Tauhnuz, Free Competition Advisor to the Ministry of Economy of Chile
6. Marcos Ávalos, National Content Unit in the Energy Sector, Ministry of Economy of Mexico.
7. Mauro Oddo, IPEA Brasil

12:30 **Final comments and closure.**