



The Competition Commission and Competition Tribunal proudly present the 15th Annual Competition Law, Economics and Policy Conference on the topic:
“ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION – THE ROLE OF COMPETITION POLICY”.

20 - 22 October 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Competition Commission (“Commission”) and Competition Tribunal (“Tribunal”) are proud to present the 15th Annual Conference on Competition Law, Economics and Policy (“Annual Competition Conference”). The theme for this year’s Annual Competition Conference is **“Economic Recovery and Reconstruction – The role of competition policy”**.

Following the devastation that the pandemic has wreaked on economies, the current economic policy imperative for governments and their agencies is to support economic recovery. Late last year, the President announced the Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for South Africa which sets out a coordinated approach to a more inclusive growth path, including structural reforms alongside more immediate support for job creation.

The role of competition and the reduction in barriers to entry in promoting more inclusive growth is expressly recognised in the Economic Recovery Plan. Specifically, the Recovery Plan cites the importance of lowering entry barriers to make it easier for businesses to start, grow and compete as well as creating greater levels of economic inclusion through addressing high economic concentration and the increase in participation by SMEs and firms owned by historically disadvantaged persons. Overall, a key area of debate is how various economies have approached economic recovery. More interestingly, is what role if any, did competition policy and regulation play in the recovery process.

The Annual Competition Conference will be held across the 20 and 22 of October 2021. In advance of the conference, this call for papers is being issued. The broad themes of the Annual Competition Conference is the discussion around the nature of competition, the challenges that various economies

encountered, their tools for enforcement, the tools for economic recovery, opportunities created by the pandemic and the role of competition policy and regulation in responding to and recovering from the pandemic.

CONFERENCE THEMES

While any contribution that is relevant to the broad theme outlined above may be made, the Annual Competition Conference is also inviting contributions that focus on the following specific areas:

- **Competition enforcement in sectors that are critical for economic recovery (including the digital economy)**
- **The regulation of highly concentrated markets**
- **The role and limits to cooperation for localisation and other recovery initiatives**
- **Lessons from pandemic enforcement for economic recovery enforcement**
- **The role of public interest in recovery, including SMEs, transformation and other social goals (e.g. environmental, resilience, gender)**

CALL FOR PAPERS – OPEN

The objective of the Annual Competition Conference is to bring together renowned specialists in competition law and economics as well as key figures in business and government more broadly to debate and develop the understanding of key issues. The Annual Competition Conference is targeted at academics with an interest in competition enforcement and policy, policy makers and practitioners in the competition law and regulation space as well as competition and industrial policy makers more broadly.

Academics, private practitioners and competition officials, both with a legal and an economic background, are encouraged to submit their research for inclusion in the conference program. We welcome all original research.

Submissions for inclusion in the program (full papers) may be sent together with the author's address information to:

khalirendwer@compcom.co.za

The deadline for submission of full papers is 03 September 2021.

Decisions on provisional acceptance to the program will be communicated by 24 September 2021.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please visit the Competition Commission website:
www.compcom.co.za

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a growing, deconcentrated and inclusive economy