



## ***Africa Heads of Competition Dialogue***

Date: 18 February 2022

Johannesburg, South Africa

### **Joint Statement of the Heads of Competition Authorities Dialogue on Regulation of Digital Markets**

We, the Heads of Competition Authorities of the Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA); the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK); the Competition Commission of Mauritius (Competition Commission); The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) of Nigeria and the Competition Commission of South Africa (CCSA), during the Digital Markets Dialogue on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022, in Johannesburg, South Africa:

**Noting and acknowledging** that digital markets/services are rapidly transforming the global economy through disrupting traditional markets, opening new economic opportunities, and providing substantial benefits to consumers and businesses, thereby contributing to economic recovery and growth;

That these markets present considerable challenges for competition law enforcement and policy in terms of the unique competition issues that arise. Further noting that policy makers and competition authorities in the leading economies of the world are reviewing their approach to regulation and enforcement in digital markets to adequately address these competition issues;

Accordingly, as regulators on the continent, we are required to consider how digital markets impact on domestic participation in the local and global economy and the terms of that participation, beyond simply as a consumer of global tech firm services;

**Recognizing** the greater shared regulatory challenges that digital markets pose for Africa necessitates that African jurisdictions work more closely in order to share knowledge, develop capacity and mutual strategies and provide a stronger and collaborative approach with respect to the regulation of digital markets;

**Reaffirm** the commitment to strengthening the rules for open and fair markets in Africa, as well as intensifying enforcement of competition laws to ensure protection of consumers;

**Agree to collaborate by:**

1. Scoping the conduct in digital markets, that has been the subject of investigation in other jurisdictions, on African consumers, businesses and economies with the purpose of fair regulation and enforcement in Africa (where applicable);
2. Researching the barriers to the emergence and expansion of African digital platforms and firms that may contribute to enhanced competition and inclusion in these markets for the benefit of African consumers and economies;
3. Cooperating in the assessment of global, continental, and regional mergers and acquisitions in digital markets, including harmonizing the notification framework; without prejudice to confidentiality commitments;
4. To share information in accordance with existing laws and applicable protocols;
5. Sharing knowledge and build capacity to deal with digital markets.

**Confirm** that we are committed to expanding and deepening the dialogue on digital markets amongst competition authorities on the continent.

**Issued by:**

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission of Nigeria

The Competition Commission of South Africa

The Competition Commission of Mauritius

The Competition Authority of Kenya

The Egyptian Competition Authority