Panel: Competition Policy and Sustainable Development in South Asia

The ultimate objective of both competition policy and sustainable development is fundamentally the same - harmonizing economic growth and social welfare. But this relationship has its own dynamics. At some occasions, sustainable development goals can indirectly impose restrictions on competition by raising barriers to entry which reduces the incentives or opportunities for effective competition. Likewise, competitive rules can hinder sustainable goals. In this backdrop, the session will discuss and analyze linkages between competition policy and sustainable goals.

The panel will discuss the following questions:

- What is the role of competition in promoting sustainable development in the region? Will there be sharing of resources and collaboration towards economic growth and social welfare?
- How can competition policy support sustainable development in emerging economies?
- Does competition policy really favour or jeopardize the goals of sustainable development?
- Are there any conflicts between sustainability and goals of competition policy?
- How can the region come together to pave pathways towards peace and harmony through national and international competition policies to improve mutual trust and confidence in South Asia?

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