**Name of Speaker: Ms Kondwani Kaonga, Manager Economic Research, Policy and Advocacy**

**Focus Areas for the Webinar:**

* The CCC’s advocacy to the Members of Parliament for Uganda and its contribution towards to the enactment of the Competition Act of 2024 in Uganda.
* The CCC’s work with Governments of Member States that have led to the establishment of competition authorities in other Member States such as Burundi and Comoros.

**Background to COMESA Competition Commission**

COMESA Competition Commission is a regional competition authority with jurisdiction to enforce competition and consumer protection laws in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) which comprises of 21 Member States.

The Member States of COMESA are all at different levels in the enforcement of competition law, with some more advanced than others. It is also the case that some of the Member States do not yet have competition policies or laws in place while others have laws but no enforcement institutions.

**Brief on Issues to discuss**

The CCC undertakes advocacy initiatives targeting the three arms of Government, the Executive, Parliament and Judiciary aimed at:

* Sensitising on the importance of having competition laws and enforcement institutions
* Providing guidance on the competition legal framework
* Providing guidance on the institutional set up

Several Initiatives have been undertaken over the years. among them the collaboration

***The CCC’s advocacy to the Members of Parliament for Uganda and its contribution towards to the enactment of the Competition Act of 2024 in Uganda.***

Advocacy Strategy

1. **Engagement and Awareness Building**

* CCC began by engaging Ugandan policymakers through bilateral meetings to understand the status of implementation of competition policy and laws
* Support required to assist in the development process and eventually having the law in place
* Competition and consumer protection policy was approved as of 2015
* Cabinet resolution was already in place designating the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives as the implementing agency of the competition law in Uganda
* Clearance needed to be obtained on the financial implications of having competition law in place
* Different stakeholders engaged in seminars, and technical meetings to raise awareness about the importance of competition law and its benefits for market efficiency, consumer welfare, and regional integration.

1. **Technical Support and Policy Dialogue**

* CCC provided technical support to Uganda’s Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), including legal drafting advice.

1. **Engagement of the Parliamentarians**

* Meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industry when the Bill was tabled before them to discuss among others the best practices in drafting competition laws.
* Discussions held on the issues the members of parliament had observed and clarified.
* The CCC also used the information it had on the number of regional mergers and anti-competitive conduct cases that it had handled that had an in-effect in Uganda and the importance of having a national competition law and institution to address issues that the fell outside the jurisdiction of the CCC.

1. **Legislative Milestone – Enactment of the Competition Act**
2. Uganda enacted the Competition Act in February 2024, marking a major milestone in the domestication of COMESA’s regional competition framework.
3. **Framework Agreement for Implementation**

* In June 2025, Uganda signed a Framework Agreement with CCC to fast-track the implementation of the Competition Act.

***The CCC’s work with Governments of Member States that have led to the establishment of competition authorities in other Member States such as Burundi and Comoros.***

1. **Engagement and Awareness Building**

* CCC engaged the Government Ministries, with the Ministries of Trade as the entry points to sensitise them on the importance of having institutions to enforce the existing competition laws as both Burundi and Comoros had laws in place.

1. **Training and Capacity building**

* Capacity building for representatives from the respective countries on the best practices of operating competition authorities.
* Capacity building is continuous on different aspects of running a competition authority both technical and administrative

1. **Milestone-Institution setup of national competition authorities in Burundi and Comoros**

* Comoros established its National Competition Authority
* The National Competition Authority in Burundi started in 2024. In 2025 a joint meeting was held to launch the activities of the Authority on the sidelines of a sensitisation workshop to stakeholders on the activities of the national competition authority
* The CCC has continued providing support Comoros and Burundi in form of technical assistance and capacity building