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**DIRECTORATE FOR FINANCIAL AND ENTERPRISE AFFAIRS
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Global Forum on Competition

**INTERACTIONS BETWEEN COMPETITION AUTHORITIES AND SECTOR REGULATORS –
Contribution from Uzbekistan**

- Session III -

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This contribution is submitted by Uzbekistan under Session III of the Global Forum on Competition to be held on 1-2 December 2022.

More documentation related to this discussion can be found at: oe.cd/icar.

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Interactions between Competition Authorities and Sector Regulators

- Contribution from Uzbekistan¹ -

1. On behalf of the Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I once again would like to express my gratitude to the representatives of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for organizing 21st meeting of our Global Forum on Competition.

2. Thank you for having me to discuss Interactions between competition authorities and sector regulators. In my speech, I would like to focus on cooperation between Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Independent Economic Regulators in our country.

3. Large-scale reforms are being implemented in all spheres of the economy of Uzbekistan to create a favorable investment environment, to move to market mechanisms in some sectors and large enterprises, and to develop competition. In particular, in order to develop a competitive environment and attract investments in fuel and energy networks operating in natural monopoly sectors, the sector has been reformed, new enterprises providing services to entrepreneurs and consumers have been established and are operating effectively, and it is defined that competition is developing in these sectors.

4. In the course of these active reforms, in order to introduce transparent mechanisms to regulate the industry, develop a healthy competitive environment, and provide equal opportunities to all participants, the Antimonopoly Committee, the Ministry of Energy, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) after studying the experience of developed and developing countries with advanced foreign competition and consumer protection mechanisms, are working on the implementation of the Institute of Independent Economic Regulators in the field of energy, where the network infrastructure exists.

5. Currently, the Antimonopoly Committee has established the draft resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the introduction of the Institute of Independent Market Regulators and additional measures to improve the regulation of natural monopoly entities" and it is being agreed with relevant ministries and agencies.

6. Furthermore, according to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 145 dated May 31st 2022 "On Additional Measures to Ensure Price Stability in Consumer Markets and Increase the Effectiveness of Antimonopoly Measures", the Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan is enhancing cooperation capacity with 25 government bodies and organizations through establishing the web-service to advance the cooperation level between relevant authorities and to simplify the information exchange between them. Following steps are just an example of use of innovative cooperation methods of the Committee with government bodies and organizations:

- establishment of electronic cooperation between the "Hududgazta'minoti" JSC and the Antimonopoly Committee to advance mutual electronic information exchange between the authorities through the web-service;

¹ Submitted by the Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan whose Chairman is Mr. Shakhrukh SHARAKHMETOV.

- establishment of electronic cooperation between the State Tax Committee and the Antimonopoly Committee with the same objective;
- agreement between the State Statistics Committee and the Antimonopoly Committee on the integration of information on the prices of certain goods where all the related data is processed through the web service established for mutual information exchange between the authorities.

7. Transformation process has begun in the variety of large industrial and infrastructure sectors of our country's economy, including the fuel and energy, air and railway sectors operating under conditions of natural monopoly. Their main goal is to increase the efficiency and transparency of the sectors to create a fully competitive environment including technical regulation of access to markets and attracting direct investment at the expense of improvement. These reforms require the introduction of new effective mechanisms in these areas based on the experience of developed countries. **The Institute of Independent Economic Regulators** was introduced for all the aforementioned categories, and today more than 70 independent economic regulators of about 40 countries of the world have joined the **Network of Economic Regulators** of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which serves as the reference point for Uzbekistan in establishing the Institute of Economic Regulators.

8. **In conclusion**, I would like to note that the Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan is actively working in the field of international cooperation. Within the framework of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts, the International Competition Network, technical assistance projects are being implemented in cooperation with the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank, USAID, and the OECD.

9. Thus, in 2022, the OECD conducted an assessment of the Law on Competition of the Republic of Uzbekistan and published a report with practical recommendations.

10. The Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan also actively cooperates with the European Economic Community (EEC) in the “5 + 1” format, as the Committee participates in meetings of the Commission, including thematic discussions, as well as public receptions.