

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### TWENTIETH ANNUAL COMPETITION LAW, ECONOMICS & POLICY CONFERENCE

**DATE:** 3-4 SEPTEMBER 2026 | **VENUE:** TBC | **MC:**

**THEME:** COMPETITION POLICY FOR STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION: BUILDING  
INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT AND COMPETITIVE AFRICAN MARKETS

| 3 September 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| 08:00 – 09:00    | REGISTRATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 09:00 – 09:30    | CONFERENCE OPENING ADDRESS & WELCOME:<br>Mondo Mazwai (Chairperson, Competition Tribunal)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 09:30 – 10:00    | KEYNOTE SPEECH:<br>Honourable Minister Parks Tau (Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:00 - 11:00    | PLENARY SESSION 1: COMPETITION LAW AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Background       | Across many jurisdictions, governments are increasingly concerned with building domestic productive capacity, supporting strategic sectors and promoting firms that can compete regionally or globally. This has revived the “national champions” debate and the extent to which competition policy should accommodate industrial policy goals. At the same time evidence and thinking in industrial policy has shifted towards a more pro-competitive policy design to ensure productivity growth. This session explores the tensions and complementarities between competition law and industrial policy, including whether support for large domestic firms can promote development, when it may risk entrenching market power, and how authorities should assess claims that concentration or protection is needed to build competitive national or regional firms. The discussion is particularly relevant in the context of the little-used public interest provisions in merger control that allow for assessment of the impact of mergers on a sector and international competitiveness. Similar developmental provisions exist in many other African countries. |
| Speakers         | <b>Moderator:</b> Pamela Mondliwa (Head Research, Industrial Development Corporation)<br><b>Panellists:</b> Zuko Godlimpi (Deputy Minister, DTIC), Frédéric Jenny (Emeritus Professor of Economics, ESSEC Business School), Khadija Ngasongwa (DG, Fair Competition Commission)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

### 3 September 2026

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|                   | Tanzania), Dr Saul Levin (Director, TIPS), Prof. Mor Bakhoun (Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute and Technical Secretary of Senegal)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 11:00 – 11:30     | TEA BREAK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 11:30 – 12:30     | <b>PLENARY SESSION 2: PRO-COMPETITIVE REGULATORY REFORM AND THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Background</b> | Barriers to entry do not arise only from firm conduct or market concentration, but also from regulatory frameworks that make it difficult for new firms to enter, expand and compete. Licensing requirements, delays in approvals, fragmented local rules, infrastructure access constraints and compliance burdens can all raise the cost of doing business, particularly for smaller firms and new entrants. It is for this reason that the Commission launched its regulatory review. This session would examine how pro-competitive regulatory reform can support structural transformation by lowering unnecessary entry barriers, improving market contestability and creating a more enabling environment for investment, innovation and inclusive participation. It would also consider how competition authorities can work with government departments and sector regulators to identify regulatory restrictions that limit competition and to support reforms that make markets more open and dynamic. |
| <b>Speakers</b>   | <b>Moderator:</b> Yongama Njisane (Principal Economist, Commission)<br><br><b>Panellists:</b> Rudi Dicks (Head of the Project Management Office at Presidency), Busisiwe Mavuso (CEO, Business Leadership SA), John Davies (Member, UK Regulatory Policy Committee, UK Competition Appeal Tribunal), Smita Kuriakose (Lead Economist: Finance, Competitiveness & Innovation, World Bank, Pretoria), Cllr Bheke Stofile (President SALGA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 12:30 – 13:30     | CONFERENCE LUNCH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13:30 – 14:30     | <b>PLENARY SESSION 3: THE ROLE OF COMPETITION POLICY IN ENSURING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND AFFORDABILITY OF FOOD AND ENERGY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Background</b> | Continual global economic shocks and climate catastrophes in recent years have left countries exposed to rising commodity prices and supply chain disruptions, causing rising food and energy prices. These shocks are often exacerbated by market features such as ‘rocket and feather’ pricing strategies, price gouging, market concentration and vertical integration resulting in a general cost-of-living crisis. This has led to calls for policies that build more resilient economies to reduce the impact of such shocks on the domestic economy, but also enforcement tools to address what are often transitory abuses. This plenary will discuss how economic resilience should be considered within competition law and the competition law toolkits that can be leveraged to address opportunistic and anti-competitive practices that raise the cost of living.                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Speakers</b>   | <b>Moderator:</b> Prof. Imraan Valodia (Tribunal & Director of the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies)<br><br><b>Panellists:</b> Adv. Sandra Makoasha (SAHRC, Chair of Inquiry into Food Systems of SA), Angela Kafunda (Chair, CCPC Zambia), Ellen Ruparanganda (Director, Competition and Tariff Commission, Zimbabwe), Susan Mangole (DDG, Competition and Transformation dtic), Wandile Sihlobo (AgriSA & Presidential Envoy on Agriculture), Dr Natalie Harsdorf (DG Austrian Federal Competition Authority)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 14h30 – 15h30     | <b>PLENARY SESSION 4: IMPROVING COMPETITION AGENCY EFFECTIVENESS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

### 3 September 2026

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| <b>Background</b> | Debates surrounding the effectiveness of competition agencies currently focus on balancing swift enforcement with rigorous analysis and ensuring independence from political influence. Key discussions include the time taken for merger approvals, the appropriate standards of proof for anti-competitive behaviour, and the use of economic evidence to demonstrate consumer harm. In the African context, the debates extend to the effectiveness of enforcement in driving public interest including national development objectives and ownership requirements. This plenary will discuss measures to improve competition agency effectiveness. The discussion will include institutional design, litigation delays, agency independence and new tools to enhance agency effectiveness on public interest.                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Speakers</b>   | <b>Moderator:</b> Bukhosibakhe Majenge (Chief Legal Counsel, Competition Commission)<br><b>Panellists:</b> Lerato Zikalala (Advocate, Group 621 Chambers), Eugénia Pereira (Chair, Autoridade Reguladora da Concorrência Angola), Jean Meijer (Managing partner, HSF), Vipin Naugah (Director, Competition Commission of Mauritius), Prof. Bill Kovacic (Director Competition Law Center, George Washington University)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 15:30 – 16:00     | TEA BREAK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 16:00 – 17:00     | <b>PLENARY SESSION 5: NAVIGATING CROSS BORDER MERGER REVIEW IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD: COORDINATION, REMEDIES, AND CONFLICTING OUTCOMES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Background</b> | Cross-border mergers are reviewed in parallel by multiple competition authorities with different timelines and legal tests, but increasingly also with divergent policy objectives as countries seek to build resilience and promote their own national champions as strategic objectives. This may result in growing divergence between countries on their competition assessment and perspectives on prohibition and remedial actions both in merger control and abuse of dominance. This session examines how agencies coordinate (and where coordination breaks down), why remedy expectations can vary across jurisdictions, and how parties can manage the risk of inconsistent or conflicting outcomes (including “fix-it-first” proposals, remedy sequencing, and carve out or hold separate structures). It will also explore practical strategies for designing cross-border remedies that are implementable, enforceable, and monitorable across agencies. |
| <b>Speakers</b>   | <b>Moderator:</b> Hardin Ratshisusu (Deputy Commissioner, Commission)<br><br><b>Panellists:</b> Malick Diallo (Head of Competition, AfCFTA Secretariat), Vitalis Ndalikokule (CEO, Namibian Competition Commission), Ms Siboniselizulu Maseko (CEO, eSwatini Competition Commission), Lebogang Mabidikane (Director, Competition law CDH), Andrea Marvan (Chair COFECE & ICN)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 18:00 – 22:00     | COMMISSION GALA DINNER FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES AND PARTICIPANTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

### 4 September 2026

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| 8:30 – 9.00         | <b>Keynote Speech: Norman Manoim (Judge President, CAC)</b> |
| 9:00 - 10:30        | <b>ACADEMIC BREAKOUT SESSION I</b>                          |
| <b>Breakout I.A</b> |                                                             |

## 4 September 2026

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| <b>Breakout I.B</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>10:30 – 11:00</b> | <b>TEA BREAK</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>11:00 – 12:30</b> | <b>ACADEMIC BREAKOUT SESSION II</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Breakout II.A</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Breakout II.B</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>12:30 – 13:30</b> | <b>CONFERENCE LUNCH</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>13:30 – 14:30</b> | <b>ACADEMIC PLENARY SESSION 1: AI, DATA AND ANALYTICAL TOOLS TO ENHANCE COMPETITION ENFORCEMENT (Hybrid session)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Background</b>    | The growing use of artificial intelligence, algorithms and data-driven business models is reshaping how market operate and are presenting new challenges to competition law, from algorithmic collusion to personalised pricing. However, the widespread availability of granular data in the information age and the capabilities of big data analytics and AI tools also provide an opportunity for competition authorities to improve the efficiency and quality of market screening, competition assessments, advocacy and compliance monitoring. This academic plenary will examine how academics are making use of these tools for research and how competition authorities can use such tools to enhance their own research and enforcement activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Speakers</b>      | <b>Moderator:</b> James Hodge (Chief Economist, Acting Deputy Commissioner)<br><b>Panellists:</b> Thibault Schrepel (Associate Professor of Law, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Faculty Affiliate, Stanford CodeX Center), Karen Croxson (Chief Data, Technology & Insight Officer, CMA); David Imhoff (Economist, Secretariat of the Swiss Competition Commission; researcher on AI and machine-learning tools for cartel detection), Prof. Vukosi Marivate (Chair of Data Science, UP), Rowan Abdallah (Senior Economic Researcher, Egyptian Competition Authority)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>14:30 – 15:30</b> | <b>ACADEMIC PLENARY SESSION 2: MEASURING MARKET OUTCOMES AND COMPETITION LAW IMPACT: EVIDENCE, TOOLS AND POLICY LESSONS (Hybrid session)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Background</b>    | Competition authorities are under increasing pressure to demonstrate the impact of enforcement on a variety of economic variables, from consumer savings to investment and growth. This stems from battles for fiscal resources, the shift to performance-based assessment in government but also debates on whether competition policy supports or hinders industrial policy ambitions. The challenge for competition authorities is the difficulty in measuring both the direct and indirect effects of enforcement work, including the data required to do so, and doing so timeously and cost-effectively. The Commission released a working paper on how it intends to measure its impact based on current best practice globally, along with its own measures around public interest. This academic plenary will explore the methods, data and analytical tools used to understand the impact of competition enforcement and how to improve the impact assessment of the institutions going forward. |
| <b>Speakers</b>      | <b>Moderator:</b> Prof. Thando Vilakazi (UJ and Tribunal)<br><b>Panellists:</b> Reena das Nair (Executive Director, CCRED, UJ), Thomas Deisenhofer (Principal Adviser for Ex-post Economic Evaluation, Directorate-General for Competition, EC), Willard Mwemba (CEO, COMESA Competition & Consumer Commission), Juan Luis Crucelegui                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

4 September 2026

(Chief of Capacity-Building & Technical Assistance, Competition & Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD), Ori Schwartz (Head of Competition Division, OECD)

15h30-15h45

**CONFERENCE CLOSING ADDRESS**

Doris Tshepe (Commissioner, Competition Commission)