

SESSION 2 | SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

Building coherent digital competition policy through regional cooperation

Day 1 • Wednesday, 28 October 2026 • 1.00–2.30 p.m.

Session coordinator: ESCWA



MODERATOR

Tarik Alami

Acting Deputy Executive Secretary for Program Support
Director, Governance and Conflict Prevention Division
Officer-in-Charge, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster

Tarik Alami serves as Acting Deputy Executive Secretary for Program Support at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), where he provides strategic oversight of program support functions, including finance, human resources, and organizational effectiveness.

He also serves as Director of the Governance and Conflict Prevention Division, leading ESCWA's work on governance, institutional reform, and resilience, with a focus on supporting Arab countries, particularly those in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, in strengthening public institutions and advancing sustainable development. In addition, he is Acting Director of the Statistics, Information Society and Technology Division, overseeing regional work on data systems, digital transformation, ICT policy, innovation, and statistical capacity development.

Prior to his current roles, Dr. Alami served at the International Monetary Fund and was a professor of economics at the American University of Beirut, where he taught international trade, finance, and advanced microeconomics. He has published widely on governance, conflict, and economic policy.

His academic work has been published in a number of specialized scientific journals such as the Journal of Policy Modeling, Journal of Macroeconomics, and the Arab Economic Journal. He holds a B.A. in Economics from Birzeit University, an M.A. from George Mason University, and a Ph.D. in Monetary Economics from the American University in Washington, D.C.



SPEAKER

Nathalie Khaled

Economic Affairs Officer, and Lead of the Economic Governance, Development Planning and Regulatory Modernization Workstream, ESCWA

Nathalie Khaled has more than 20 years of professional experience across the United Nations system and the private sector, spanning economic policy, governance, development, and institutional and regulatory reform. She currently leads regional and national initiatives and programmes at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in development planning, economic governance, and regulatory modernization, including competition policy, consumer protection, and the development of legislative and institutional frameworks.

She has extensive experience in providing technical advice to Arab governments, preparing economic and sectoral studies and market assessments, supporting legislative and regulatory reforms, and building institutional capacity. She also contributes to strengthening regional and international cooperation, developing digital tools, and applying data, innovation, and behavioural insights to support evidence-based policymaking.

She holds a Master of Business Administration from the Lebanese American University, a Diploma in Economics for Competition Law from King's College London, and a Certificate in Public Sector Leadership from Cornell University.



SPEAKER

Willard Mwemba

Director and Chief Executive Officer, Competition and Consumer Commission, COMESA

Dr Willard Mwemba is the Chief Executive Officer at the COMESA Competition Commission. He continues to play a key role in the development of competition and consumer protection laws, guidelines and operational manuals in different countries. He continues to advise governments on the significance of preserving competitive markets and the consequences of its absence. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Competition Training Centre for Middle East and Africa. Willard is also a member of a Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, looking at the state of competition laws in small and insular economies.

Willard has written extensively on the subject of competition law and has spoken at several high profile fora. He is usually invited as a guest lecturer on the subject at Universities and Colleges at global level. He has written and contributed to scholarly articles for the Institute of European & Comparative Law/Centre for Competition Law & Policy University of Oxford, International Bar Association, Concurrences, Global Competition Review and Afronomics among others.

He holds several qualifications among them, a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and an LLB from the University of Zambia. Willard also holds a Masters degree in European Union Competition Law from University of London; Kings College and a PhD in Competition Law from the University of Cape Town.



SPEAKER

Noura S. Nabawi

Officer in Charge of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) File, Arab Economic Integration Department, General Secretariat of the League of Arab States

Noura S. Nabawi currently manages key portfolios within the Arab Economic Integration Department of the Economic Affairs Sector at the League of Arab States (LAS). Her responsibilities include the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA), trade facilitation, trade in services, and coordination with international organizations.

Since joining the LAS in 2011 as an Economic Analyst, Ms. Nabawi has specialized in Arab trade policy cooperation and coordination. She has published extensively on trade facilitation among Arab countries and co-authored a UNDP study on scenarios for establishing the Arab Customs Union. She has also contributed to major regional publications, including the Arab Economic Report, prepared in collaboration with the Arab Monetary Fund.

Ms. Nabawi played an active role in concluding the Beirut Round of negotiations on the Agreement for the Liberalization of Trade in Services. She has taken part in numerous workshops and training programmes on trade in services, prepared analytical papers on the state of services trade in the Arab region and on member states' commitment schedules, and joined official delegations for negotiations and country assessments. She has also trained local government officials through LAS technical assistance programmes in trade policy. Her research interests include climate economics, international trade, competition policy and the prevention of monopolies, and consumer protection.

She holds a Master's degree in Economics (Diploma in International Economic and Political Development) and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, both from Ain Shams University.



SPEAKER • VIRTUAL

Teresa Moreira

Competition Expert, former Head of the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD

Teresa Moreira was the Head of the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch of United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from October 2016 to January 2026.

She previously served as Consumer Director-General of Portugal (January 2010 - September 2016) and as a Member of the Board of the Portuguese Competition Authority (March 2003 - March 2008) when it was first established. She also served as Portugal's Director-General and Deputy Director General for International Economic Relations in the Ministry of Economy and held senior positions at the former Directorate-General for Competition. She worked for 20 years as a part-time Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of Lisbon in the areas of International Economic Law and European Law as well as in European Competition Law and European Economic Law (graduate studies).

Teresa is currently an advisor at the Directorate-General for the Economy of the Ministry of Economy and Territorial Cohesion of Portugal, following the European Union and multilateral organizations' work on competitiveness and international trade.

Teresa Moreira holds a Law Degree and a master's degree in European law (European Competition Law) by the Faculty of Law, University of Lisbon, Portugal.