

Outline of the ‘Advocacy Roadmap for Competition Reforms in Ghana’ *7Up4 Project NRG Members, Ghana*

As a part of the advocacy activities under the 7Up4 project, key national stakeholders from the country (representing the National Reference Group, NRG) contributed to develop an outline of an ‘advocacy roadmap’ for competition reforms in Ghana.

CUTS institutional partners in Ghana, Institute for Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana collated the views of the NRG members and prepared this outline. Subsequently, it was discussed and refined over meetings of the NRG, held in Accra.

CUTS firmly believes that the operationalisation of this advocacy roadmap with the involvement of ISSER and other key national stakeholders, would not only lead to the evolution of a ‘need-based’ competition regime in the country – but also the enabling environment for the effective enforcement of the competition regime.

S.N	Specific action point	Required Inputs	Likely Impact/Outcome
1.	Enhance awareness of competition issues and law among MPs, MDA, Consumers and CSOs	<p>Long-term sensitisation programme for members of the National Assembly – especially Parliamentary Select Committee for Trade</p> <p>Continuous Dissemination of resource materials on competition policy and law issues from across region/other developing countries for key actors to imbibe lessons and enhance understanding</p> <p>Focussed group discussions with key CSO leaders (e.g., Consumer Association of Ghana, Trade Union) for empowering them to garner wider public voice and support for competition reforms (bottom-up force)</p> <p>Utilisation of popular media (radio and TV) for talk shows on the benefits from competition and consumer protection for national development in Ghana, to be organised in English and local language¹. ISSER is in the process of developing partnerships with private media organisations, for this purpose</p>	<p>More informed policy discourse on competition issues</p> <p>More effective advocacy for policy change</p>
2.	Facilitate process of adoption of the competition law	Identify influential members of the Parliament and maintain continuous interactions with them, formally and/or informally. Explore the possibility to organise a retreat for the Parliamentary	Passage of the Competition bill into the law

¹ Under the BUSAC Fund, such a programme is currently being aired on Private Sector Development (PSD) issues

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		Select Committee on Trade and the Committee on Legislation – to lobby them for the expeditious promulgation of the competition law of Ghana Maintain quarterly interaction with Minister of Trade	
3.	Strengthen the ability of sector regulators to administer competition in their sectors and to deal with anti-competitive practices	Tailor-made training of sector regulators (as a follow-up to the training organised by ISSER and CUTS for national stakeholders, wherein a few sector regulators participated) Facilitate strategic meetings between sector regulators and representatives of the line Ministry dealing with competition (and subsequently, the competition authority of Ghana) Arrange for targeted capacity-building programmes for staff of these agencies with the support of CUTS Make available to the agencies resource materials from CUTS and other international agencies – to get an orientation about ‘good practices’	More informed decision making by sector regulators Facilitate cooperation between sector regulators and competition agency (whenever that comes into being)
4.	Improve capacity of media to report anti-competitive practices and their ill effects on consumers	Orientation and training of media representatives (as a follow-up to the training for media representatives already organised by ISSER and CUTS, under the 7Up4 project) Continuous capacity building training ² and initiation of an ‘Award for Journalists’ reporting on competition issues	An informed press leads to wider dissemination of information and greater public awareness

² PURC Ghana has identified a core group of media and trained them on regulatory issues. ISSER to get this list from PURC and build-on the discussions