

World Competition Day 2023

Panel Discussion on **REGULATORY DEFICIT IN ACCESS TO EQUITABLE HEALTHCARE**

Tuesday, December 05, 2023 • 1430-1630 (IST)

Conference Hall 3rd Floor, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID)

4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi 110070

Background

Since 2010, CUTS International has championed the cause of World Competition Day (WCD) on December 5. This endeavour aims to raise widespread awareness about the merits of robust competition regulations on a global scale. By highlighting the potential benefits of well-executed competition frameworks, the initiative strives to empower consumers worldwide. It actively encourages consumer involvement in nurturing effective competition policies globally, emphasising the substantial advantages that these systems can bring.

On December 05, 1980, the United Nations Conference on Restrictive Business Practices sanctioned the UN Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices. Recognising the significance of this date, the International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition (INCSOC) initiated the World Competition Day (WCD) on December 05, 2010. The decision was spurred by substantial support and engagement from diverse competition agencies and stakeholders, signifying a crucial milestone in advocating for heightened global awareness and proactive measures regarding competition policies.

The designated theme for 2023 is '[Prioritising Socially Sensitive Sectors.](#)'

In alignment with the aforementioned theme, CUTS International and CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC) are hosting a Panel Discussion on **“Regulatory Deficit in Access to Equitable Healthcare”** in collaboration with the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) to commemorate WCD 2023. The event is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, December 05, 2023, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM (IST) at the ISID premises.

Equitable Access to Healthcare

The healthcare sector stands as a cornerstone of society and serves as a significant indicator of economic progress when considering prioritising socially sensitive sectors. Access to healthcare services has always been a complex issue that demands careful assessment. Since the advent of post-COVID-19 times, there has been a call for increased focus by the policymakers towards pharmaceuticals, private-public healthcare, medical insurance, and education, particularly in the global south, primarily composed of developing nations.

While the world seems to have overcome the initial crisis of the pandemic, the threat to human life persists, emphasising the crucial need for accessible, quality, and affordable healthcare services in all countries. The lessons drawn from this unprecedented global health crisis highlights the urgency for governments to address existing healthcare system deficiencies in the nations of the global south to better prepare for any future health-related emergencies.

Additionally, attention should be directed towards understanding the substantial repercussions of regulatory deficiencies and importance of a competitive markets. Against this backdrop, the panel will discuss the significance of optimal regulation and competition in various segments of healthcare and pharmaceuticals sectors, and such an approach can enhance access and affordability. This exploration aims at ensuring fair and affordable access to equitable healthcare services, both within national boundaries and across international borders.

Agenda

1400 – 1430	Registration
1430 – 1440	<p>Welcome Address: Kiran N Meetarbhan, Director, CUTS International and former CEO, Mauritius Competition Commission</p> <p>Release of “India Competition and Regulation Report, 2023”</p>
1440 - 1610	<p>Panel Discussion: Regulatory Deficit in Access to Equitable Healthcare</p> <p>Chair and Moderator: Nagesh Kumar, Director, ISID</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Augustine Peter, Head, AP Regulatory Law Practise and former Member, Competition Commission of India</p> <p>Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER</p> <p>Navneet Sharma, Director General, CIRC</p> <p>Priyanka Bajaj, Manager - Health and Innovation, PATH</p> <p>Ayona Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor, International Management Institute</p> <p>Reji Joseph, Associate Professor, ISID</p>
1610 - 1630	Q & A
1630 onwards	High Tea