

7Up4

Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Select West African Countries



CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS CCIER) is implementing a two-year project entitled, **'Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Select West African Countries'**, referred popularly as the **7Up4 project** in seven countries of West Africa from mid-2008. The project is supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK; International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden. The 7Up4 project is being implemented in **Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo**; and combines capacity building on competition and regulatory policy issues with research based advocacy at the national and regional levels. Through a participatory approach, this project aims to enhance awareness about and raise the profile of competition issues from the perspective of national and regional development in the project countries.

The 7Up4 Approach

CUTS has developed and institutionalised a methodology that creates an opportunity for civil society to work together with state and other Non State Actors (NSAs) in evolving and implementing competition regimes in developing and least developed countries (LDCs). Since the year 2000, CUTS has successfully been implementing such projects (referred to as 7Up projects) in various parts of Asia and Africa. In addition to strengthening conditions for competition to thrive in the markets, these initiatives of CUTS put special emphasis on building the capacity of civil society to emerge as a catalyst for competition reforms.



7Up4 Project

The overall purpose of the 7Up4 project is to develop the capacity of multiple stakeholders in select countries of Western Africa to bring the debate on the need for an effective competition regime into the wider public domain.

Throughout the first year of the project these partner institutions, guided by CUTS, are involved in intensive **Research** to evaluate the competition concerns facing the project countries, including their regional dimensions and implications.

A unique feature of the project is the involvement of civil society representatives as pioneers to take the debate on the need for an effective competition regime up to the policymakers, through a bottom-up **Advocacy** process.

The final element of the project is **Capacity Building** and **Training** of various stakeholders on competition policy and law issues. 'Training needs' of various stakeholder groups on competition policy and consumer protection issues are identified, and addressed through national and regional training workshops.

Full details of the project are available at
www.cuts-ccier.org/7Up4

For further details, please contact
Rijit Sengupta, Project Coordinator
CUTS International, Email: rsg@cuts.org, c-cier@cuts.org
Ph: +91-141-2282821, Cell: +91-9829285928