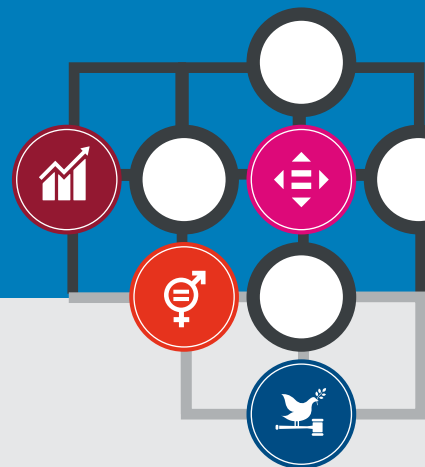


Sixth ARAB COMPETITION FORUM (ACF)

28-29 May 2025
Baghdad, Iraq



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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Session I The Mergers & Acquisitions: Challenges and Opportunities in Competition Law Enforcement

Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) are increasingly shaping the economic transformation of the Arab region, offering significant opportunities for investment and regional integration. However, without effective oversight, M&A activity can lead to increased market concentration and diminished competition. While most Arab countries have enacted competition laws that address M&A, enforcement remains inconsistent due to legal divergences, limited institutional capacity, and fragmented cross-border regulatory frameworks. To ensure that M&A supports rather than undermines competitive markets, it is essential to strengthen regulatory standards, enhance institutional capabilities, and foster regional cooperation.

This session will explore the role of competition authorities in regulating and monitoring M&A activity, with a particular focus on cross-border transactions and their implications for regional market dynamics. The discussion will address key legal, procedural, and institutional barriers to effective enforcement, and identify opportunities to enhance regional coordination. It will also showcase international best practices and successful case studies from the Arab region.

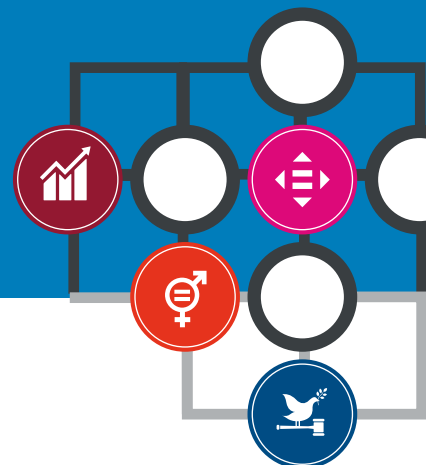
Note: the duration of this session will be 120 minutes; each panelist will speak for 10 minutes, followed by interventions from Member States and a Q&A session.

Topics of discussion

- Evaluation of the current legal and institutional frameworks governing M&A in Arab countries.
- Key challenges in merger review, including inconsistent notification systems and limited enforcement capacity.
- The impact of cross-border mergers on regional market structures and the need for regulatory coordination.
- Case studies from Arab countries highlighting substantive merger control decisions and enforcement outcomes.
- International best practices and strategies for Arab competition authorities to adopt more integrated and transparent merger review processes.

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Speakers



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