

The Steering Committee

Chairpersons

Pradeep S Mehta

CUTS International, India

Allan Asher

Energy Watch, UK

Members

Albert Foer

The American Antitrust Institute, USA

Atiur Rehman

Unnayan Shamunnay, Bangladesh

Breda Kutin

International Consumers' Research Institute,
Slovenia

Deunden Nikomborirak

Thailand Development Research Institute, Thailand

Flora Musonda

East African Community, Tanzania

Grazyna Rokicka

Association of Polish Consumers, Poland

Heba Nassar

Cairo University, Egypt

Indrani Thuraisingham

Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations
(FOMCA), Malaysia

Kimera Henry Richard

Consumer Education Trust, Uganda

Malathy Knight John

Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka

Michal Gal

University of Haifa, Israel

Mosadeq Sahebodin

Institute for Consumer Protection, Mauritius

Navin Dahal

SAWTEE, Nepal

Oscar Lanza

Bolivian Committee for Consumer's
Rights Protection, Bolivia

Phil Evans

Finsbury International Policy &
Regulatory Advisers, UK

Robert Kerton

University of Waterloo, Canada

Robin Brown

Foundation for Effective Markets &
Governance, Australia

Santiago Roca

ESAN University, Peru

Spencer Weber Waller

Loyola University, USA

Surendra Kanstiya

Consumer Guidance Society of India, India

Taimoon Stewart

University of West Indies, West Indies

For further details contact:



INCOSOC

**C/o CUTS Centre for Competition,
Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER)**

D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302016, India
Ph: +91-141-2282821, Fax: +91-141-2282733/2282485
E.mail: incsoc@incsoc.net, Website: www.incsoc.net



**Promoting
a healthy
competition
culture...**



**International Network of
Civil Society Organisations
on Competition
(INCOSOC)**

Mission

“To promote and maintain a healthy competition culture around the world by coalition building among civil society and other interested organisations.”

Background

The International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition (INCSOC) was floated by several civil society organisations (CSOs) as a coalition promoting a healthy competition culture in the World.

The concept came out of extensive work on the subject of competition policy & law undertaken by Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS). INCSOC was the result of a path-breaking project on comparison of competition regimes in seven developing countries (popularly called the 7Up Project) of Asia & Africa (2000-02).

The 7Up Project revealed a dire need for building a network of stakeholders, especially civil society, so that the competition regimes at the national levels could be strengthened, and developed. This need has been further underscored in the 7Up2 (2004-06) and 7Up3 (2005-08) projects of CUTS.

Competition enforcement agencies of different countries of the world have responded to such a situation through the formation of International Competition Network (ICN). Similar initiative have also been launched by various international agencies such as OECD and UNCTAD.

To complement such initiatives and enhance peoples' participation, it was essential to establish a coalition on competition for the civil society, whose voice on the global stage is not as strong as is desirable. INCSOC endeavours to fulfill this role.

What are the Objectives?

1. To build coalitions of CSOs interested in promoting a healthy competition culture;
2. To build capacity of the CSOs on competition policy issues to enable them to engage in competition advocacy at different levels;
3. To catalyse research and networking on competition issues and create better understanding on them; and
4. To liaise with all relevant institutions for sharing of experiences and promoting mutual learning on competition issues.

How is the Network Managed?

A Steering Committee comprising of members from various backgrounds in terms of organisation, location and gender has been created to oversee the activities of the network.

Who can become a Member?

Primary Members

- Public interest groups
- Civil society organisations
- Consumer organisations
- Research and academic institutions
- Parliamentarians interested in competition issues

Associate Members

- Competition enforcement agencies
- Supranational agencies
- Inter-governmental bodies
- Regional bodies
- Donor agencies
- Academics
- Lawyers
- Media persons
- Stakeholder groups interested in competition issues

How to become a Member?

An intent to join the network is sufficient to join the network, which could be sent to incsoc@incsoc.net

There is also a provision for individual membership including academics, lawyers, media representatives and others with interest on competition policy and law issues. They are included as Associate Members of the network.

What are the Activities of the Network?

The activities of the network revolve around the objectives of coalition building, networking and capacity building on competition issues, primarily of the CSOs, and secondarily of other stakeholder groups.



◆ Past

Competition Regimes in the World – A Civil Society Report: was an unique initiative undertaken by INCSOC for developing a volume comprising of brief essays on national competition regimes of around 120 jurisdictions. This almanac has been prepared

through voluntary contributions from members of INCSOC and other experts on the subject. (www.competitionregimes.com)

Briefing on Abuse of Dominance: Recently, INCSOC released a briefing entitled, “Consumers Demand Action Against Abusive Monopolies”, which collates consumers’ views to counter abusive conduct by dominant firms.

◆ Present

Strengthening the Consumer Protection Regime in the World: INCSOC has recently initiated a project entitled ‘Strengthening the Consumer Protection Regime in the World’, which aims to compile and conduct an analysis of the state of consumer protection in countries across the globe. The project would again be executed through voluntary contributions of country papers from members of INCSOC, and others interested. Those interested can write to c-cier@cuts.org for further information.

◆ Future

As has been decided by the Steering Committee members of the network, the future work of INCSOC would revolve around the following issues:

- Campaign on an ‘International Competition Fund’ to be created out of fines levied on international cartels;
- Competition Policy and Consumer Protection (Engaging Civil Society to promote competitive reforms in developing countries);
- Consumer education and advocacy on competition (e.g., on anti-competitive practices in the pharmaceutical sector)

Secretariat and Administration

INCSOC is a virtual network, which means that the work takes place through the mode of the internet. At present CUTS International, based at Jaipur, India serves as the Secretariat of the network, moderating its activities.

The network maintains close contact with the ICN, GCF (IBA), UNCTAD, OECD, WTO, World Bank and other such bodies.