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PRESS RELEASE

THE COMESA COMPETITION COMMISSION SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (UN-ESCWA)

On 27 August 2023, the COMESA Competition Commission (“CCC”) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (‘MoU’) with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (“UN-ESCWA”).

UN-ESCWA is responsible for promoting economic and social development for its Member States in the Arab Region. Some of the Member States of UN-ESCWA are also Member States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (“COMESA”) (i.e. Egypt, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia).

The goal of the MoU is to set out the framework, general terms and conditions for cooperation and collaboration between the two organisations to promote regional integration, economic development, and social progress in the Arab countries that are also COMESA Member States.

The Arab countries established an Arab Competition Network in 2022 to drive regional cooperation and harmonization of competition policy and enforcement. The CCC has been working closely with Arab countries, who are part of the COMESA Region, in the development and enforcement of competition law in the COMESA Region. Some of the collaboration has been through the CCC playing an active role in the review of their competition law, joint trainings and investigations on competition law, among others. Some of this collaboration has been made possible through MoUs to enhance collaboration and cooperation. An example is the MoU signed with the Egyptian Competition Authority in 2016. The CCC is also at an advanced stage of signing an MoU with the Tunisia Competition Council.

The MoU signed with UN-ESCWA seeks to enable exchange of information relating to competition policy and enforcement; capacity building to enhance the competencies of competition authorities and stakeholders in Arab countries; collaboration in research and analysis; assessment of new developments in competition-related issues; sharing expertise; joint advocacy and awareness activities to raise consciousness about the benefits of competition and

consumer protection; promoting a culture of fair competition; and providing guidance to businesses and consumers in the Arab region.

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