



INCSOC



5TH DECEMBER WORLD COMPETITION DAY

5th Call from CUTS International

“Competition Issues in Public Procurement”

CUTS urges countries and competition agencies worldwide to gear up for observing 5th December, once again this year as the World Competition Day. Through this platform, we intend to spread awareness among the fellow citizens on the benefits of a competitive market structure as well as the harmful effects of anti-competitive behaviour not only at national but also at international level. This year we have suggested the theme “Competition Issues in Public Procurement”. However, countries and competition authorities can choose their own themes and CUTS would be grateful to be kept informed of your respective countries’/agencies’ activities in this occasion.

CUTS believe that an agenda for proper functioning of public procurement would enhance the economy of the country by generating demand and consumption. Efficient procurement means to procure best possible goods and services at the lowest prices. Thus, vigorous competition amongst suppliers helps this objective. Conversely, when competition is curtailed, more than fair price is paid for lower quality and Government money is wasted. It is, therefore, important that the procurement process is not distorted by practices such as collusion, bid rigging, lack of competitive neutrality, abuse of dominance, etc. Such anti-competitive activities cause adverse economic implications such as loss of efficiency and diversion of money away from development

programmes. Lack of transparency, discrimination in tenders and lack of effective mechanism makes it difficult to implement procurement policies.

It is important for the agencies to create awareness through education and outreach programs among the public, government, etc about such anti-competitive activities. Informing stakeholders on the risks of bid rigging in procurement tenders, methods such as dawn raids and leniency programs can be used as effective tool to counter such anti-competitive practices. One of the aims of the present call is to create awareness among relevant stakeholders regarding competition issues in procurement process and the dire need to support the Competition Authorities to meet the objective of public procurement.

CUTS suggest the following methods to celebrate WCD on Friday, 05th December, 2014 which could be adopted by Competition Agencies globally:

- Organising seminars/ roadshows.
- Preparing advocacy material, such as pamphlets, posters, etc.
- Publishing newspaper articles/press releases.
- Undertaking SMS campaign.
- Any other methods.

Interested countries/ competition agencies are encouraged to contact:

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for assistance, providing feedback, etc