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## **Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 21 February 2024**

Dear colleagues,

I am looking forward to our meeting on 21 February 2024. As always, many ICN projects are running simultaneously and multiple events are coming up. To keep the membership informed, I have circulated an ICN newsletter which you can find [here](#).

### **ICN Annual Conference**

The preparations for the ICN Annual Conference, which will take place in Salvador, Costa do Saúpe, from 14 to 17 May 2024, are in full swing. The working groups are working intensively on the topics for the plenaries and breakout sessions, which will be discussed and decided at our meeting, and the Advocacy Working Group has launched the traditional [Competition Advocacy Contest](#) which is open for applications until 1 March 2024. The invitations to the conference will be sent out shortly and the website will go live soon.

### **ICN Operational Framework**

As announced at our last meeting, the ICN Operational Framework Working Group will provide us with regular updates on the progress of their important work.

### **Workshops and future events**

We have many exciting workshops and events coming up. As early as from 22 to 23 February the Advocacy Workshop will take place in Nairobi, Kenya. Next up is the Technologists Group Forum from 25 to 26 March 2024 in Washington, DC, on which the US FTC will provide us with more information.

In addition, we will hear about the Sustainability Workshop hosted by the French AdIC which will take place virtually from 2 to 3 July 2024, and about the Cartels Workshop planned for October 2024 hosted by the Mexican COFECE.

Two more events are in the pipeline: at our meeting, the Merger Working Group will propose the Taiwan FTC as a host for a merger workshop in November. Furthermore, the OECD Regional Centre for Competition in Latin America in Lima, a joint venture between ICN member INDECOPI and the OECD, has reached out and suggested another joint ICN/OECD Chief Economist Workshop building on the successful approach applied in 2018 when a joint workshop took place at the OECD-Korea Policy Centre in Seoul.

### **Working Group Status Reports**

We are continuing with the Working Group Status reports in which the working groups have the opportunity to provide more details on their plans and share the progress of their projects. At our last meeting, the Advocacy Working Group informed us about their ongoing activities and projects. This time, an update will be provided by the Unilateral Conduct Working Group.

### **Membership Working Group**

The Membership Working Group is currently processing several applications. I very much welcome the fact that so many new competition authorities are interested in the ICN and have applied for ICN membership. At our meeting, the Membership Working Group will present its assessment of the application by Mozambique's CA.

### **SG Members' Hot Topics Presentation**

I am very pleased that Cani Fernández, President of the Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission, will tell us more about an AI-based algorithm to classify potential collusion. At our last meeting we discussed generative artificial intelligence and issues of competition. Next week, we will build on this fruitful discussion and focus on the role AI might play in competition law enforcement.

Just like last time, you will need to register for the meeting in advance for reasons of safety and transparency.

I look forward to seeing you next week, at least virtually.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt