Dr Kusha Haraksingh, Chairman of the CARICOM Competition Commission, is in Geneva this week to attend the 12th UNCTAD Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy. The consultations in this session will focus on topics which are of direct relevance to the evolution of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. These include competition policy and public procurement, and the challenges for developing countries and economies in transition in dealing with cross border anti-competitive practices. The session will also consider a peer review of competition law and policy in Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and also Mongolia. The session would be followed by an Experts Meeting on Consumer Protection which will discuss new and emerging issues such as consumer protection in financial sectors and product safety, and will revisit the UN Guidelines on consumer protection.

Dr Haraksingh has also been invited to hold bilateral discussions with Mr. Eduardo Pérez Motta, President of the Mexican Federal Competition Commission and Chairman of the International Competition Network (ICN) to discuss a greater role for CARICOM in the ICN.

In addition, Dr Haraksingh who is a UWI Lecturer will be engaged in the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform, an initiative which brings together researchers from research institutions, universities, competition authorities and civil society, to undertake joint research and other activities, and to exchange ideas on the issues and challenges in the area of competition and consumer protection faced particularly by developing countries. Within this programme, Dr Haraksingh is a co-designer of a special project on Competitive Neutrality which examines the advantages accruing to state owned enterprises in competition with the private sector.

The UNCTAD meetings generally involve participation by national agencies. The CARICOM Competition Commission is one of the few regional institutions accredited to attend.