



CCC/PS/04/03/2019

10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

## Press Release

### **The COMESA Competition Commission Commitment on Strengthening Cross-Border Consumer Protection Collaboration**

On 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, the COMESA Competition Commission (the “Commission”) and other agencies responsible for enforcing consumer protection and related laws in 20 African countries met in Livingstone, Zambia for the **10<sup>th</sup> African Consumer Protection Dialogue Conference under the theme “Celebrating a Decade Growth for African Cross Border Consumer Protection Collaboration.”** The Commission, together with the other agencies, recognized the achievements made by the African Dialogue and African countries including COMESA Member States towards consumer protection, and pledged to enhance their future collaboration.

The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to the African Dialogue Livingstone Principles (the “Livingstone Principles”) on Cooperation in Consumer Protection Enforcement adopted in Zambia in 2013 and pledged to continue the implementation of the Livingstone Principles.

The Commission, inter alia, recognized that cross-border, regional and international collaboration for a robust, more comprehensive consumer protection regime remains crucial for consumer protection authorities, regional bodies and relevant stakeholders.

The Commission acknowledged that with increasing integration of markets and technological advances, the relevant markets for consumer transactions are consistently extending beyond national boundaries. Further, consideration should be given to the new restructuring of markets at national, regional, and continental level directly and indirectly affect the consumer in many ways.

In his remarks, the Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, therefore, called upon participating countries and institutions to fully participate in the African Continental Free Trade Area negotiations which will result in a continental market that will present enormous challenges to consumer protection. The Commission further called for the African continent to put in place a robust legal framework for consumer protection.

**George K. Lipimile,**  
**Director and Chief Executive Officer,**  
**COMESA Competition Commission,**  
**P.O. Box 30742,**  
**Lilongwe 3.**  
**Malawi.**  
Email: [compcom@comesa.int](mailto:compcom@comesa.int)  
Tel: +265 1 772 466  
Website: [www.comesacompetition.org](http://www.comesacompetition.org)