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# Speech by Mr Fabrizio Augusto Castiglioni, President of the National Commission on Competition (CONACOM) of Paraguay

## Economic and Technical Cooperation

*IX Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Competition of Latin America and the Caribbean (WGTC)  
Asunción, Paraguay  
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His Excellency Vice-Minister of Trade, Mr Pedro Mancuello;

Mr Juan Luis Crucelegui, on behalf of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

Ms Silvia Hernández, representing the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA);

Distinguished representatives of agencies in charge of Trade and Competition of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the representative of the National Commission on Markets and Competition, María Pilar Canedo, who are honouring us with their presence;

Representatives of academic institutions;

Representatives of the mass media;

Ladies and gentlemen:

Be welcome to this beautiful country, and we hope that this meeting will be fruitful and that you feel very comfortable.

For the National Commission on Competition, it is a great honour and privilege to host this event, which is of great importance for Paraguay, because the richness of the debates will allow us to face, with better tools, the challenges with a view to generating greater development in our countries.

We are particularly grateful to SELA and UNCTAD, which were in charge of jointly organizing this event.

This space offered by the Working Group allows us to address current issues that are very important for the public policies of each country, and also to gain knowledge and understand the uniqueness of each one, which will allow for dealing with the issues brought to discussion within a cooperation environment.

In this ninth meeting, we will discuss how trade and competition policies can drive innovation and generate a productive transformation that is filled with opportunities, since innovation is one of the main elements for the competitive development of businesses and, therefore, countries. The organizations should consider the knowledge and role of the Group for them, and how they can contribute to improving competitive factors.

In their struggle within the market, the companies must take good care of this asset, because with knowledge it is possible to meet the needs of the market, although they must do so while considering the new paradigms associated with the information society. The knowledge-based economy creates new challenges, as information technology processes, which are the basis of production processes, can help create competitive advantages.

This meeting is taking place at a crucial time for the National Commission on Competition, since it is taking its first steps and given that in citizens' consciousness, competition is not yet strong. Your contributions will allow businessmen and Paraguayans in general to take into account how, on the basis of competition and trade, knowledge assets can be increased in order to compete, which ultimately generates an improvement in the competitiveness of the economy as a whole.

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I do not want to make a longer speech, because the ideas about these issues will be the subject of the discussions in these two days, so it only remains for me to say that it is a pleasure for us that this ninth meeting is being held in our country, so as to contribute to the awareness of competition and transform it into *IX Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Competition of Latin America and the Caribbean (WGTC)* an instrument of development.

Once again, be warmly welcome to Paraguay and I hope that you feel at home here.