

**Remarks of Chairman Joseph Simons**  
**Hearings on Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Session on FTC's**  
**Role in a Changing World**  
**March 25, 2019**

Good morning, and welcome to our two-day exploration of the FTC's Role in a Changing World. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> session in our Hearings on Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **I. Enforcement Cooperation**

Our starting point today is international enforcement cooperation. In the quarter century since the Pitofsky hearings, the FTC has been involved in an ever-increasing number of competition and consumer protection matters with an international dimension. We have often cooperated with enforcement agencies outside the United States, which has resulted in better outcomes for competition and consumers. That's why the FTC, under successive Chairs, has focused on developing strong relationships with our counterparts and expanding our cooperation tools.

For example, in 2006, Congress enacted the U.S. SAFE WEB Act. The Act enables effective enforcement cooperation in consumer protection cases by providing the FTC with cross-border enforcement tools in four key areas: information sharing, investigative assistance, cross-border jurisdictional authority, and enforcement relationships.

We have used this authority in a wide range of cases – from Internet pyramid schemes and sweepstakes telemarketing schemes, to complex advertising and privacy investigations. The U.S. SAFE WEB Act has been a remarkable success. Under the Act, the FTC has responded to 130 information-sharing requests from more than 30 foreign enforcement agencies. We have issued more than 115 civil investigative demands in over 50 investigations on behalf of foreign agencies. These efforts have advanced FTC enforcement, and often supported the actions of foreign counterparts in ways that have protected U.S. consumers.

For example, in a matter announced this month, the FTC reached a \$30 million settlement with the operators of a sweepstakes scam that appeared to target seniors. We received significant



Today's sessions will focus on the wide range of tools – statutory authority, best practices, MOUs, and international networks – that we use to accomplish our enforcement cooperation, and explore how to improve them. We will also examine the cross-border enforcement and policy issues raised by emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence.

Our panels will