



UNCTAD

Minutes of 3rd Meeting
Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender
February 15, 2023

The Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender held its third online meeting on 15 February 2023 (at 2 p.m. Geneva time). The meeting's objective was to discuss the working group's purpose, future activities and outcomes, which will be presented at the seventh session of the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (July 2023).

Before opening the floor, the UNCTAD secretariat reminded participants of the working group's purpose as established in its concept note "The purpose of this working group is to provide a forum for member States representatives and interested stakeholders to discuss the impact of gender on consumer issues, exchanging experiences on different strategies and approaches to overcome challenges; and eventually draft policy recommendations/guidance on issues highlighted in the Group's discussions and a compilation of best practices on consumer protection and gender".

The UNCTAD secretariat thanked participants and informed them of receiving answers to the circulated questionnaire from Australia, Botswana, the European Commission, Portugal, Consumers International and the University of Buenos Aires.

Following a previous request, the secretariat invited Argentina to take the floor. Argentina proposed a webinar to address the topic of consumer protection and gender, inviting experts from both consumer and gender agendas. Members also suggested that the webinar should take place in May and that additional meetings would be required. Argentina also proposed that the group draft a conclusion to the answers gathered by the WG to be presented at the next Intergovernmental Group of Experts to take place next 3-4n July in Geneva. The conclusion to the contributions would also support the continuity of the working group for another year.

The proposals for a webinar and drafting of a conclusion were supported by Mexico, Colombia, and Australia, member States that also offered to assist in the drafting.

To follow up on the proposed activities, Argentina, assisted by other interested member States, will prepare an agenda and suggest names of speakers for the webinar foreseen in May. The Secretariat offered assistance to the organization of the webinar.

Professor Claudia Lima Marques suggested that a meeting after the webinar would be necessary to prepare for the IGE meetings.

The secretariat informed participants that the working group members could call for extra meetings to prepare for both the proposed webinar and IGE meetings. The secretariat also highlighted that it is recommended that meetings take place until one month before the IGE meetings, meaning the last week of June.



Sweden (Swedish Consumer Agency) sent a written proposal of clustering the topics mentioned during the last meeting to facilitate the WG's focus areas and activities, therefore contributing to the draft of conclusions and possible recommendations.

The secretariat informed participants that the minutes of the meetings would be circulated for feedback.

The next meeting is scheduled for 26 April 2023



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| Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 3rd Meeting – List of Participants | | |
| Name | Organization | Country |
| Iara Asprella | Undersecretary for Actions for the Defense of Consumers | Argentina |
| Shermara Fernando | Australian Competition and Consumer Commission | Australia |
| Bekkyann Persaud | Health Canada | Canada |
| Magdalena Lazcano | Servicio Nacional del Consumidor SERNAC | Chile |
| Nataly Rojas Cuellar | Superintendence of Industry and Commerce - SIC | Colombia |
| Yoonkyung Na | Korea Consumer Agency | South Korea |
| Ko Taesang | Korea Consumer Agency | South Korea |
| Rafael Regla | Federal Attorney for Consumers – PROFECO | Mexico |
| Ximena Galicia | Federal Attorney for Consumers – PROFECO | Mexico |
| Zenia Panduro | National Institute for the Defence of Free Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property – INDECOPI | Peru |
| Mariela Villacorta | National Institute for the Defence of Free Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property – INDECOPI | Peru |
| Aleksandra Mrozowska-Sroka | Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK | Poland |
| Ewa Sikorska | Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK | Poland |
| Francisco Freitas | Directorate General for Consumers of Portugal | Portugal |
| Caroline Hammarstedt, | Swedish Consumer Agency | Sweden |
| Buumba Munyandi | Competition and Consumer Protection Commission | Zambia |
| Marta Thinnes | European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers | EU |
| Josephine Parmee | | Consumers International |
| Professor Claudia Lima Marques | | UFRGS, Brazil |
| Sergey Sinyakov | | Eurasian Economic Commission |
| Yves Kenfack | | UNCTAD |