



UNCTAD

Minutes of 8th Meeting
Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender
February 7, 2024

The Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender held its eighth online meeting on February 7, 2024 (at 2 p.m. Geneva time). The meeting's objective was to discuss the invitations received to take part in seminars organized by UNCTAD and ICPEN, which will tackle the consumer protection and gender perspectives and the documents and questionnaire being prepared by the subgroup considering the proposals of action to tackle advertisement, product safety, and financial issues.

The secretariat started the meeting by thanking the participation of member states and inviting a representative from the Working group on e-commerce to explain the next WG Webinar on the Protection of vulnerable consumers in e-commerce, will take place on Thursday 21st March and to which this consumer protection and gender group is invited to participate. The Consumer Authority of Colombia (SIC) has expressed interest in representing the working group on this occasion.

The secretariat also clarified that for the purposes of this Working Group, UNCTAD follows the gender definitions established by UNWOMEN. At the [UN](#), gender refers to [women and girls](#). If member States have more comprehensive definitions, thus protecting other vulnerable groups and minorities, this is welcome.

The secretariat also informed that seven member States have replied to the questionnaire concerning the UNCTAD World Consumer Protection Map and will circulate the questions again to its membership.

Following the creation of a subgroup to draft best practices and recommendations proposed by Sweden and Australia, having the support from Argentina and Colombia the group reported on the latest activities. The subgroup carried out two online meetings and is currently working on a checklist for Consumer protection agencies to incorporate gender in their agendas and work. At the same time, the group has drafted a questionnaire, focused on the three areas of concern, chosen by member States as a priority: advertising, consumer product safety and financial services. The questionnaire will be circulated at the latest in February and open to contributions until March 8.

Professor Carmen Ligia Valderrama from Colombia suggested the inclusion of references to the Sustainable Development Goals in the documents being prepared by the subgroup. The proposal was welcomed by member States.

Finally, the secretariat suggested that the Working group meets in two different times zones so that a larger number of member States can participate in the discussions.

The secretariat also recalled that more meetings may be called, if needed, upon request from participating member States and that the next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2024.

The secretariat informed that meeting minutes will be circulated for feedback.



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Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender		
8th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
Nadia Vassos	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Anthony Jones	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Giulia Agricola	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Patricia Heffernan	Health Canada	Canada
Nataly Rojas Cuellar	Superintendence of Industry and Commerce - SIC	Colombia
Rafael Regla	PROFECO	Mexico
Ximena Galicia	PROFECO	Mexico
Naghira Delgado	INDECOPI	Peru
Ewa Sikorska	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK	Poland
Francisco Freitas	Directorate General for Consumers of Portugal	Portugal
Oleg V. Prusakov	Head of Consumer Rights Protection Department of Rospotrebnadzor.	Russia
Caroline Hammarstedt Nuss	Swedish Consumer Agency	Sweden
Melek Koç Derinyar		Turkey
Felicia Fara	Office for Product Safety and Standards, Department for Business and Trade,	United Kingdom
Rebecca Upson	Office for Product Safety and Standards, Department for Business and Trade	United Kingdom
Laura da Costa Ferré	UDECO - – Ministry of Economy and Finance	Uruguay
Rebecca Fleming	DG JUST	European Commission
Josephine Parmee		Consumers International



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Carmen Ligia Valderrama		Externado of Colombia University
Ana Cipriano		UNCTAD
Yves Kenfack		UNCTAD