

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
Eighth session
In-person meeting
1 and 2 July 2024

Information note for participants

1. Introduction and draft provisional agenda

The eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy will take place on 1 and 2 July 2023 in room XIX of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The draft provisional agenda and organization of work with all other relevant documentation, is available following this link:

<https://unctad.org/meeting/intergovernmental-group-experts-consumer-protection-law-and-policy-eighth-session>

2. Registration

Online registration is mandatory and should be completed by copying/pasting the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1005243/> using Google Chrome, Safari, or Mozilla Firefox.

Also, delegates willing to attend the twenty-second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy from 3 (afternoon) to 5 July 2024, are invited to register by copying/pasting the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1005239/> using Google Chrome, Safari or Mozilla Firefox. Delegates willing to attend to the fifteenth meeting of the Research Partnership Platform on 3 July 2023 (morning) are invited to register using the same link.

Guidelines for registering are available in the following link: <https://indicohelp.unog.ch/>.

To facilitate approval of registration, Permanent Missions of members States to the United Nations Office at Geneva are requested to inform the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat of the name(s) and title(s) of their representative(s) to: meetings@unctad.org and jacqueline.bouvier@unctad.org. Kindly note that the letter of credentials of representatives should be uploaded to the system during the online registration process.

Other delegates (i.e., representatives of specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental bodies as well as experts wishing to attend as observers) are also eligible to participate in the session as observers and should register online by the same date using the link above.

Due to the need to comply with registration approval requirements, registration will be closed on 28 June 2024 at close of business of Geneva.

Any enquiries concerning registration should be sent to the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service (IOSS), e-mail: meetings@unctad.org.

3. Participation

The session will be held in Room XIX, at the third floor of the E-Building, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. Delegates are invited to liaise with their Permanent Missions in Geneva for updated advice and logistical arrangements.

Please note that, contrary to previous sessions and in line with standing regulations for United Nations intergovernmental meetings, only in-person participation will be available.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to collect their badges from the United Nations Security Service, at the Pregny Pavillon, Avenue de la Paix 14a, 1202 Geneva.

As part of the new system at the United Nations Office at Geneva, participants will receive a digital badge consisting of their photo, a quick response (QR) code and the name and date of the meeting. The digital badge will be sent to each participant by email once they have been accredited by the meeting organizer and should be downloaded to a mobile telephone or other mobile device. Participants may also print the digital badge in order to use the QR code.

The United Nations Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 8.30 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting room in the E-building of the Palais des Nations. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them.

Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations. Visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the United Nations Security Service gives special clearance.

4. Visas

Switzerland joined the Schengen visa scheme on 12 December 2008. All foreign nationals who require a visa for entry into the Schengen visa area, need a visa to enter Switzerland.

Delegates are advised to seek information on requirements applicable in their case from Swiss diplomatic or consular missions in their home countries. Information on visa and other relevant regulations for travelling to Switzerland is available at: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/entry-switzerland-residence/visa-requirements-application-form.html>.

In countries where no Swiss representation exists, missions from European Union member States should be contacted. Where a visa is required, applicants are advised to apply at least six weeks prior to departure to Geneva.

Should you require UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) assistance with issuance of a visa, please send the official letter of your nomination to represent your country to the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat: jacqueline.bouvier@unctad.org.

5. Accommodation

Delegates are requested to make their own hotel reservations. A list of hotels in Geneva is available at: <https://www.geneve.com/en/plan-a-trip/where-to-stay>.

Delegates are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the meeting. Hotels in Geneva during the week of the meetings are in very high demand and may be fully booked, given the large number of conferences and other events.

For delegates from Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the organization Geneva Welcome Center (CAGI) offers logistical support for the planning of accommodation and may grant financial aid to reduce the cost. Delegates from LDCs wishing to apply for logistical and financial support are invited to contact CAGI as soon as possible, following this link: <https://www.cagi.ch/en/delegates-welcome/accommodation-for-delegates.php>.

6. Duration and interpretation

The session will take place on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 July 2024 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and between 3 and 6 p.m. Interpretation to the six United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) will be provided.

7. Statements and interventions

Delegations that would like to make an intervention during any of the sessions are strongly encouraged to inform the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat not later than 20 June 2024 at jacqueline.bouvier@unctad.org. Delegations are invited to make one statement per country or organization per session, and to participate in the discussions through one delegate who will take the floor. During the sessions, delegates can request the floor by raising their country nametag in the room.

Delegates are asked to observe the time limit of 3-4 minutes for interventions during the sessions.

To facilitate interpretation, delegates are kindly requested to submit a copy of their written interventions/remarks in advance by email to the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat: jacqueline.bouvier@unctad.org, indicating whether they should be made available in the event website.

8. Agreed Conclusions

The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to adopt its Agreed conclusions at its closing plenary on Tuesday 2 July 2024 in the afternoon. The UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat will circulate a draft text to Permanent Missions in Geneva and to registered and approved delegates on Monday 1 July 2024 at lunch time.

The UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat will host informal consultations in English regarding the Agreed Conclusions of the session on Monday 1 July 2024 afternoon and Tuesday 2 July 2024 during the lunch break in Room XIX, at the third floor of the E-Building, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

9. Side events

The UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat is making available one room for side events organized at the margins of the session. Side events are organized by and are the responsibility of delegations and not the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat.

Delegations wishing to organize side events are invited to send their request to the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat: arnau.izaguerri@unctad.org.
