

Minutes of 27th Meeting
Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, October 30, 2024

The UNCTAD informal Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPS) held its twenty seventh teleconference on 30 October 2024 (at 8.30 a.m. and 3.40 p.m. Geneva time). The objective of the meeting was to prepare for the [Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on Consumer Product Safety](#) of 4 November 2024 in Room XXII, Palais des Nations in Geneva and online.

Mandate

The eighth session of the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (IGE) ([TD/B/C.I/CPLP/42](#)), held on 1 and 2 July 2024, adopted the following mandate for this informal working group:

*11. Decides to continue the mandate of the informal working group on consumer product safety until the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set, to continue work on strengthening consumer product safety frameworks at the regional and national levels and improving international cooperation to protect consumers from hazards to their health and safety, to **pursue consultations leading to a resolution on general consumer product safety**, to pursue the development of a model law for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products and to report to the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set; (emphasis added)*

Between October 2023 and July 2024, an informal drafting committee chaired by South Africa and the European Commission prepared the text for the [draft resolution](#). The text was circulated to participants of the informal working group on 11 October 2024.

The Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on consumer product safety will further discuss the text of the draft resolution, namely the principles for consumer product safety and the possible international institutional arrangements for the implementation of the resolution. A revised draft resolution could then be presented for consideration at the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices to be held from 7 to 11 July 2025, under the auspices of UNCTAD in Geneva. The Conference could decide to submit it for consideration of the UN General Assembly.

Script for the meeting

10:00 - 10:10

Opening Remarks

Speaker: Ms. Luz Maria de la Mora, Director of International Trade and Commodities (DITC), UNCTAD

Ms. de la Mora will open the meeting by highlighting the importance of consumer protection in the broader context of global trade and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She will emphasize the meeting's role as a preparatory forum for the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set, scheduled for July 2025. The focus of the discussion will be on strengthening frameworks for consumer product safety and advancing the Resolution on General Product Safety.

10:10 - 10:20

Introduction

Speaker: Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch (CCPB), UNCTAD

Teresa Moreira will make an introduction about the content of the draft resolution, its principles, aims and recommendations and explain the rules and procedures from the Ad Hoc discussions to the submission of the draft resolution to the next Review Conference on July 2025.

10:20 - 13:00

Session 1: Principles for a Resolution on General Product Safety

Moderator: Ms. Ana Cipriano, Legal Officer, CCPB, UNCTAD

Panelists will deliver 5-minute presentations on key aspects of the draft Resolution on General Product Safety, followed by in-depth discussions. This session will provide a platform for expert insights and collaborative dialogue on shaping the future of global consumer product safety standards

Panelists:

- **Ms. Pinuccia Contino**, to Deputy Director for Consumers, European Commission (in person)
 - Principles for safety of products in the market (I) (5 minutes)
 - **Discussion** (10 minutes)
- **Mr. Marcio Andre Oliveira Brito**, President, National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (INMETRO), Brazil (tbc)
 - Product safety regulation and standards (II) (5 minutes)
 - **Discussion** (10 minutes)

- **Mr. Fernando Blanco Muño**, Deputy Secretary for Consumer Defense, Argentina (online)
 - Product Safety authorities' responsibilities (III) (5 minutes)
 - **Discussion** (10 minutes)
- **Mr. Marcio Andre Oliveira Brito**, President, National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (INMETRO), Brazil (tbc)
 - Product Risk identification (IV) (5 minutes)
 - **Discussion** (10 minutes)
- **Mr. Brian Lingela**, Executive Director, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Zambia (online)
 - Product risk assessment (V) (5 minutes)
 - **Discussion** (10 minutes)
 - Product risk management and corrective measures (VI) (5 minutes)
 - **Discussion** (10 minutes)
- **Ms. Pinuccia Contino**, to Deputy Director for Consumers, European Commission (in person)
 - Information to consumers by businesses and relevant authorities responsible for product safety (VII) (5 minutes)
 - **Discussion** (10 minutes)
 - Cooperation between business and relevant authorities responsible for product safety (VIII) (5 minutes)
 - **Discussion** (10 minutes)
 - International Cooperation (IX) (5 minutes)
 - **Discussion** (10 minutes)

*If needed, this can run into the afternoon session.

15:00 - 16:30

Session 2: International Institutional Arrangements – Interactive Debate

Moderator: Mr. Ana Cipriano

This interactive panel on the proposed Resolution on General Product Safety will explore the international institutional arrangements required to enhance global cooperation on consumer product safety.

Panelists will discuss the type of institutional framework needed to implement the resolution, its crucial functions, and the challenges to consider when establishing these structures. The panel seeks to provide insights into building effective mechanisms for international collaboration, ultimately contributing to safer markets worldwide.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Thezi Mabuza**, Deputy Commissioner, National Consumer Commission, South Africa
- **Ms. María Emma Fernández Girón**, Legal Officer, Legal Department of the Consumer Protection Office, El Salvador (online)
- **Ms. Yvonne Stein**, Deputy Director, Consumer Policy Division, Ministry of Finance, Sweden (in person)
- **Ms. Dr. Wimonrat Wim Teriyapirom**, Director of International Cooperation Section, Office of the Consumer Protection Board, Thailand (in person)
- **Brigitte Acoca**, Head of Consumer Policy Unit, Committee on Consumer Policy, OECD

16:30 – 17:40**Discussion**

Considering the proposed Resolution on General Product Safety, this interactive discussion will focus on the international institutional arrangements necessary to improve cooperation on consumer product safety and support the implementation of the resolution. Each panelist will have 5 minutes to address:

- 1. What institutional arrangement is needed to support the implementation of this draft resolution?*
- 2. What are the most important functions?*
- 3. What are the issues to consider when deciding on institutional arrangements?*

17:40 – 18.00**Conclusions and Way Forward**

Speaker: Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head of Competition and Consumer Policies, DITC, UNCTAD

Ms. Moreira will lead the closing session by summarizing the outcomes of the discussions and outlining the next steps for finalizing the draft resolution on consumer product safety. This resolution will guide future international cooperation efforts, ultimately feeding into the 2025 Conference.

Registration

Registration is mandatory for both online and in-person participants:
<https://unctad.org/meeting/ad-hoc-expert-meeting-consumer-product-safety>

Member States delegates attending in-person require accreditation (Note Verbale) from their permanent missions.

Liaison with permanent missions

The UNCTAD secretariat invites participants of the working group to inform their permanent missions in Geneva about this meeting and encourage them to attend, if possible. Permanent missions can read statements on behalf of authorities who cannot attend.

It is important that permanent missions are aware of this initiative and ready to engage, especially if consultations pursue and the draft recommendation is submitted for consideration at the United Nations Conference of July 2025. The directory of permanent missions before the United Nations Office in Geneva is available [here](#).

Please feel free to share the official [notification](#) of the meeting.

Working Group on Consumer Product Safety		
27th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
María Paola Rubín	Undersecretariat for Consumer Defence	Argentina
Davin Phillips	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Paulo Coscarelli	IMMETRO	Brazil
Leandro Santos Teixeira	Permanent mission before the WTO and economic organizations in Geneva	
Emma Fernández	Consumer Ombudsman	El Salvador
Sergei Sinyakov	Eurasian Economic Commission	
Pinuccia Contino, Eva Sinkovic, Marie Gerardy	European Commission	
Nderitu Mwangi	Competition Tribunal	Kenya
Rafael Regla	Federal Attorney for Consumers – PROFECO	Mexico
Emil Szerszén	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK	Poland
Thezi Mabuza	National Consumer Commission	South Africa
José Ignacio Vitón	Directorate General for Consumer Protection	Spain
Yvonne Stein	Ministry of Finance	Sweden
Wimonrat Wim Teriyapirom	Office of the Consumer Protection Board	Thailand

Richard Frewin	Office for Product Safety and Standards	United Kingdom
Tilven Salazar	Consumer Product Safety Commission	United States
Brian Lingela	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission	Zambia
Josep Tous	Expert	
Tica Bosch	Expert	
Bauer Kai	Bosch	
Elizabeth Keith	American University	