

7 July 2026, 10:00 - 13:00 (CEST)
Geneva, Switzerland
Venue: Room XII, Palais des Nations

Launch of the United Nations principles for consumer product safety

In an increasingly interconnected and digitalized global economy, ensuring the safety of consumer products has become more urgent and complex. The rapid expansion of cross-border trade and e-commerce has broadened access to goods, but also increased exposure to unsafe and non-compliant products circulating through fragmented supply chains. These risks are particularly acute for vulnerable populations and in online marketplaces, where products can reach consumers across jurisdictions before effective oversight takes place. Unsafe products pose serious risks to health and safety, while also undermining consumer trust and distorting fair competition.

Significant gaps remain in national product safety systems. According to UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), only 78 out of the 122 countries for which official information is available have reported having a consumer product safety framework, underscoring the need for stronger legal and institutional capacities, particularly in developing countries. In this context, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 80/119 in December 2025, containing the United Nations Principles for Consumer Product Safety.

The Principles represent the first globally agreed comprehensive framework addressing consumer product safety across physical and digital marketplaces. They reaffirm the right of consumers to safe products—whether sold online or offline—while emphasizing business responsibility throughout the product life cycle and the importance of market surveillance, recalls and international cooperation.

This session will mark the official launch of the Principles, and bring together high-level policymakers, government experts and technical practitioners. It will open with a high-level fireside chat on their strategic importance, followed by a government-led exchange on implementation at the national, regional and international levels, and include the introduction of the UNCTAD Handbook on Consumer Product Safety, designed to support Member States in translating the Principles into effective regulatory and enforcement frameworks.

The session aims to (i) raise awareness of the Principles, (ii) promote their uptake by member States, and (iii) foster dialogue on practical implementation strategies that leave no consumer behind.





Programme

10:00 - 10:40 **High Level fireside chat: Why the Principles matter**

Moderator

Ms. Luz Maria de la Mora, Director, Division of International Trade and Commodities, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Speakers

- Ms. Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, India
- Mr. Hubert Gams, Deputy Director-General in charge of Digital Transformation, Justice and Consumers, European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

10:40 - 12:40 **Interactive debate: Advancing product safety through policy and cooperation**

Speakers

- Dr. Joon Bae Hong, Director General, Korea Consumer Agency
- Mr. Felipe Batista Garcia Ferreira, Head of the Division of Technical Articulation and Regulation, National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology (INMETRO), Brazil
- Mr. Patrick Hagumimana, Acting Head of Department, Registration, Licensing & Enforcement Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority, Rwanda (video address)
- Mr. Chris Harvey, President, International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO)

12:40 - 13:00 **From principles to action: Presentation of the Handbook on consumer product safety**

- Ms. Thezi Mabuza, UNCTAD Consultant

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