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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b> <b>Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, February 15, 2022</b></p>
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The Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPs) held its sixteenth teleconference on 15 February 2022 (at 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Geneva time). The objective of the meeting was to discuss the developments in the work plan adopted at the fourteenth teleconference for the period 2021-2022 until the sixth session of the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (July 2022).

### Work plan 2021-2022

1. **Modalities for the prevention of cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products**: the secretariat drafted a background report based on the inputs received by the members of the WGCPs and submitted it for comments and further input. Comments and further input were received from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the European Commission (and its member States), the State of Palestine, Peru, Poland and the United States. The secretariat will revise the draft and submit it for internal clearance, edition, translation and publication. It will be available in all six UN official languages in May/June 2022 and will inform a dedicated discussion at the IGE meeting on 18 and 19 July 2022.

The Secretariat is open to receive expressions of interest to speak at the session, aiming for Ministerial-level speakers. The current format envisaged is a hybrid meeting (in person and remote participation available). Should in person participation be confirmed, it would be possible to envisage the organization of side-events and bilateral meetings.

2. **Joint workshop EC-UNCTAD**: the recording of the event on "[Building effective consumer product safety frameworks together](#)" held 9 November 2021 was circulated to registered participants. The report of the meeting will be uploaded in the [WGCPs website](#) and the [event page](#). It will be circulated along with these minutes. The European Commission thanked participants for attending the event and encouraged them to consult the written report, as reference for future activities.
3. **Workshop**: under the title: "[Protecting consumers from unsafe products through import surveillance and cooperation with customs](#)" will be held online and in English on 12 April 2022. This event is only open to Government representatives of UNCTAD member States, registration is available [here](#). To date, there are 31 registered participants. On 1 February the secretariat circulated a save-the-date with the following requests (deadline 22 February):
  - a. Please reply to the question: does your national authority responsible for consumer product safety have a formal cooperation agreement or mandate with the customs authority? Yes / No? Feel free to elaborate briefly on your answer if you wish.
  - b. Please send expressions of interest and any questions you'd like to address to the product safety officials.



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- c. Please feel free to circulate this save-the-date to your customs authorities, you may also use the template letter sent by Argentina (in Annex).

To date Latvia, Mexico and Iraq reported having a formal cooperation agreement with customs. Mexico proposed the following questions:

- In your experience, what would be the best practices when coordinating between consumer protection / consumer product safety authorities and customs authorities?
- What are the main constraints for that cooperation (legal capabilities or jurisdiction, resources, limitations on information sharing)?

Poland expressed interest in presenting at the workshop and to split its presentation between the consumer product safety and the customs authority. Poland also asked about the deadline for submission of the presentation. Korea expressed interest in addressing the following question: further to memoranda of understanding, are there a more institutionalized cooperation avenues between consumer product safety and customs authorities? The United States encouraged participants to address questions to be raised in the workshop.

The next meeting of the WGCPs will be the workshop: under the title: “ [Protecting consumers from unsafe products through import surveillance and cooperation with customs](#),” of 12 April 2022 and then on 31 May 2022.

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<b>Working Group on Consumer Product Safety</b>		
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Meeting – List of Participants</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Hugo Leonardo Ogasawara	National Secretariat for Consumers - SENACON	Brazil
Nataly Rojas	Superintendence of Industry and Commerce	Colombia
Myriam Denieul	European Commission	
Jisook Yang	Korea Consumer Agency	Republic of Korea
Grace Aguilar	National Institute for the Defence of Free Competition and the Protection on Intellectual Property	Peru
Aleksandra Mrozowska-Sroka	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK	Poland
Tilven Salazar	Consumer Product Safety Commission	United States
Buumba Munyandi	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission	Zambia



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**Annex: Draft invitation for customs authority**

Dear Customs Colleagues, (or)

Dear Customs Principal [by name]:

In the context of our shared mission of protecting [name of country] from unsafe imported products that may cause injury or death, it is my pleasure to invite our colleagues in [name of customs agency] to observe an interesting webinar focused on cooperation between national consumer product safety agencies and their customs partners.

This online workshop entitled “Protecting consumers from unsafe products through import surveillance and cooperation with customs” be held in English on 12 April 2022, from 1 to 2.30 p.m. Geneva time CET (our time zone). The event is an initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Working Group on Consumer Product Safety.

During the webinar, product safety officials will explain how they interact with their own customs agencies and lessons they have learned in the process that may help ensure successful partnerships.

I hope that you and your colleagues can find time to join this interesting event. Registration is free and available here: <https://unctad.org/meeting/protecting-consumers-unsafe-products-through-import-surveillance-and-cooperation-customs>

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Cordially,

Product Safety Official