

**Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Informal  
Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender  
May 07, 2026**

The informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender held its 18th meeting on May 07, 2026, in two sessions at 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Geneva time to discuss the working group's work plan and next steps.

The secretariat opened the meeting by thanking member States for their continued support on consumer protection and gender. It invited members involved in drafting the *Checklist on Consumer Protection and Gender* to provide updates on the document and its current status. Australia and the United Kingdom informed participants that the draft checklist has been circulated and comments have been received. The document is currently being processed within their respective governments and is expected to be submitted to UNCTAD through official channels in time for the [Intergovernmental Group of Experts \(IGE\) on consumer law and policy](#).

The secretariat also informed participants about the research on consumer protection and gender being conducted at the request of the Director of the Division on International Trade and Commodities. The outline of the research was shared, and participants were invited to provide feedback. The secretariat noted that the questionnaire supporting the research will be shared with member States shortly, and a Word version will be circulated to facilitate inputs using track changes. Further details, including timelines for contributions, will be provided via email when the documents are distributed.

Participants expressed strong interest in contributing to the research and requested access to the materials. Several members indicated their willingness to share data and insights, including on specific groups such as youth, persons with disabilities, and issues related to informality, which are particularly relevant in certain economies. Consumer organizations also highlighted ongoing work, including surveys conducted in the context of World Consumer Rights Day 2026, and offered to share relevant data.

In addition, reference was made to ongoing contributions to the [World Consumer Protection Map](#), with the United Kingdom confirming that it has already submitted its update.

Participants emphasized the importance of continued collaboration and inclusive data collection, and the secretariat welcomed further engagement and contributions from member States and stakeholders.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 June 2026. The meeting minutes and related documentation of this working group will be made available to the dedicated UNCTAD webpage.

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<b>Informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender</b>		
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Meeting – List of Participants</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Trish Heffernan	Health Canada	Canada
Gloria Isabel Ortiz Castañeda	SIC Colombia	Colombia
Nataly Rojas Cuellar	SIC Colombia	Colombia
Sara Vanessa Soto Romero	SIC Colombia	Colombia
Fanta K. Ceesay	Gambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (GCCPC)	The Gambia
Vész Márton Ferenc	Ministry of National Economy	Hungary
Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil	National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL); Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India	India
Eleonora Mascolo	Italian Competition Authority	Italy
Eralda Kaci	Italian Competition Authority	Italy
Dr. Wan Khatina Nawawi	EconWorks	Malaysia
Francisco Martinez	Indecopi	Peru
Aleksandra Mrozowska-Sroka	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection	Poland
Francisco Freitas	Directorate General for Consumers	Portugal
Mário Vilar	Direção-Geral do Consumidor (DGC)	Portugal
Laura Best	Researcher	South Africa
Prudence Moilwa	National Consumer Commission	South Africa
Jack Queenan	Competition and Markets Authority	United Kingdom
Henna Sidhu	Competition and Markets Authority	United Kingdom
Aayushi Chaturvedi		Consumers International
Ana Cipriano		UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Gul UNAL		UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Dachao Yang		UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)