



UNCTAD

**The Report of the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety
to the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection
Law and Policy**

June 2021

The [Eighth United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection](#) held from 19 to 23 October 2020, decided to renew the mandate of the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety “to continue the work on strengthening consumer product safety frameworks at the national, regional and international levels to protect consumers from hazards to their health and safety; and to recommend policy options for addressing challenges faced by consumer protection authorities in this area, and to report to the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts in July 2021.”

Since October 2020The Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPS) held two online meetings [On 9 February 2021](#), the WGCPS discussed and adopted its workplan until the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy. [On 8 April 2021](#), the WGPS assessed the developments in the workplan. The activities carried out, as contained in the agreed workplan are:

1. **Webpage of the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety**: the UNCTAD secretariat set up a [webpage](#) to raise awareness on the work of the Group, displaying minutes, publications, main outputs and other relevant information.
2. **Modalities for the prevention of cross-border distribution of unsafe consumer products**: the WGCPS discussed and gathered the experiences, interest, challenges and concerns regarding the implementation of the adopted [recommendation](#) adopted by the Eighth United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection. This discussion was informed with the collection and processing of written questionnaires and consideration of existing instruments and literature. The working group wishes to continue drafting a document on the modalities for the prevention of cross-border distribution of unsafe consumer products.
3. **Kick-starting consumer product safety**: following the joint [EC-UNCTAD workshop](#) on “Kick-starting consumer product safety: a worthwhile endeavour” in the margins of the [International Product Safety Week 2020](#), the WGCPS agreed to organize a follow-up event in the third quarter of 2021.

On 9 June 2020 the Working Group facilitated an online open event on [Strategies for effective outreach to consumers and business to promote product safety](#), with over 100 participants, gathering experiences from Governments, private sector and civil society. The panel discussion addressed the following questions:

1. How can Government agencies communicate effectively with consumers to help them make informed decisions and ensure they understand their rights?
2. How can Government agencies communicate effectively with businesses to ensure they understand and comply with their responsibilities?

All minutes and documentation of the WGPR are available in the dedicated UNCTAD [webpage](#).