CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE COMMERCE ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy 6th Session, 18 – 19 July 2022, Geneva, Switzerland and online

Session on:

Modalities for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products

Monday, 18 July 2022 (15:30 - 17:00) Palais des Nations, Room XVII (First Floor) and online

All consumers should have the right of access to non-hazardous products and protection of consumers from hazards to their health and safety is a priority for UNCTAD member States, as recommended by the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection.¹ The Recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products,² adopted by the Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices on 23 October 2020, is the first globally relevant instrument calling for action on this threat to consumer safety.

The note by the UNCTAD secretariat³ provides the context in which the recommendation was adopted, presents the experiences of member States in preventing the distribution of unsafe products within national borders and abroad, and discusses ways to raise awareness among consumers and businesses. Further, it outlines the current limitations in Governments' capacities to act on this issue and the need for improved international cooperation proposes avenues for cooperation and implementation.

To facilitate this interactive discussion, the secretariat raises the following questions:

- (a) What legal and institutional frameworks are necessary to prevent the crossborder distribution of known unsafe consumer products?
- (b) How can the effectiveness of national, regional, and international recall mechanisms be enhanced?
- (c) How may UNCTAD best assist member States in improving national and regional consumer product safety frameworks?
- ¹ <u>A/RES/70/186</u>

² TD/RBP/CONF.9/9

³ TD/B/C.I/CPLP/28

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WORK PROGRAMME

- 15:30 15:40 **Presentation by the UNCTAD secretariat**
- 15:40 16:40 **Speakers**
 - Mr. Alexander Hoehn-Saric, Chair, Consumer Product Safety Commission, United States
 - Mr. Samy Kolli, Director General of Regulation, Ministry of Trade and Export Promotion, Algeria
 - Mr. Adrián Ganino, National Director for Consumer Defense and Arbitration, Argentina
 - Dr. Willard Mwemba, Chief Executive Officer, Competition Commission, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
 - Ms. Helena Leurent, Director General, Consumers International

16:40 - 17:00 Interactive debate

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Mr. Arnau Izaguerri Vila (arnau.izaguerri@un.org).