

## **The Report of the Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender to the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy**

**June 2024**

The [seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts \(IGE\) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy](#) held on 3 and 4 July 2023 decided “to renew the mandate of the working group on consumer protection and gender, to continue work on integrating the topic at the international, regional and national levels and to report on its continued work to the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy;.”<sup>1</sup>

Since then, the WG on Consumer Protection and Gender held six online meetings. On [06 September 2023](#), the Working group participants discussed and adopted the work plan until the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy. Apart from presenting and discussing proposals to address the topics of advertisement, product safety and financial services, the group focused on creating a tool to map disaggregated data and work on integrating the gender perspective in consumer protection at the international, regional and national levels.

The Working Group meetings counted on the special participation and presentations by representatives of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), which presented the [Financial Consumer Protection Work](#), focused on policies and regulations regarding financial consumer protection as an essential part of improving financial inclusion and by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which presented the [Gender Inclusive Competition Toolkit](#) addressing the role of Competition authorities and equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to incorporate gender considerations into their work.

The working group also contributed with inputs to the UNCTAD [Webinar on empowering women as consumers: Bridging trade, gender and consumer protection](#), held on the occasion of International Women’s Day on -March 8, and a result of a partnership of the [UNCTAD Trade and Gender](#) programme and the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch. The webinar explored the synergies between trade, gender, and consumer protection, offering insights into leveraging consumer rights and improving women’s business resilience and growth.

---

<sup>1</sup> [TD/B/C.I/CPLP/37](#).

As part of World Consumer Rights Day, the Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender also featured in the news item [Empowering women as consumers: 5 things to know](#), as an example of UN trade & development actions to advance gender equality through consumer protection.

Apart from the six meetings held online, on April 22, the group organized a [Webinar on incorporating gender perspective in consumer protection: Launching the new pathway](#) to introduce the importance of the gender perspective in consumer protection and launch the new tool designed by the Working Group members for consumer protection agencies and regulators, containing a list of steps to introduce a gender lens into the work of consumer protection. During the webinar, participants also chose a name for the checklist: *Gender-Inclusive Consumer Protection*. The webinar had presentations by Nadia Vassos, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and Emy Gustavsson, Swedish Consumer Agency (KO).

Following this webinar, the Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender met one last time on May 30 to discuss the work carried out by the group, its future work, and the agenda to be proposed at the next 8th session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on consumer protection law and policy.

In conclusion, the Working Group on Consumer protection and gender agreed to propose to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on consumer protection law and policy that its mandate be renewed in the following terms:

*"Decides to renew the mandate of the working group on consumer protection and gender, to continue work on incorporating a gender perspective in consumer protection at the international, regional and national levels by advancing and implementing the Gender-inclusive Consumer Protection Checklist to integrate gender perspective in consumer protection, encourage and share best practices and advance activities focused on advertising, consumer product safety and financial services to report on its continued work to the Ninth United Nations Conference."*

All minutes and documentation of the Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender are available on the dedicated UNCTAD [webpage](#).