



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
7th Session, 3 - 4 July 2023, Geneva, Switzerland and online

**Session on:
Review of Capacity-building in and Technical Assistance on Consumer
Protection Law and Policy**

**Tuesday, 4 July 2023 (15:00 - 16:00)
Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor) and online**

UNCTAD provides capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with requests received and available resources. These activities include national and regional projects related to drafting consumer protection laws and implementing guidelines, as well as strengthening institutional capacities and advocacy for the creation of a consumer protection culture.

The UNCTAD secretariat note¹ reports progress on the capacity-building and technical assistance activities in consumer protection law and policy carried out in 2022 and 2023. Technical assistance is an important pillar of the work of UNCTAD in the field of competition and consumer policies and contributes to remarkable results achieved to date. The increasing number of formal requests for technical assistance and capacity building from developing countries received by UNCTAD underlines the expertise and the relevance of technical cooperation services delivered by UNCTAD. The focus and flexibility undertaken by UNCTAD under this pillar of work throughout the last three years has allowed it to respond fully and quickly to member States' requests, and to address their needs and their challenges in the best possible manner.

In the past three years, UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities aimed to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through competition and consumer policies, and to identify the role of both policies in times of crisis considering the ongoing cost-of-living crises as well.

In this interactive discussion, delegates may want to:

- (a) Exchange views and findings from their past experiences in UNCTAD's technical assistance activities; and
- (b) Discuss what kind of technical assistance activities by UNCTAD are needed and as next steps.

¹ [TD/B/C.I./CPLP/36](#)

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WORK PROGRAMME

15:00 - 15:05 **Presentation by the UNCTAD Secretariat**

15:05 - 15:50 **Speakers**

- Mr. Matías Raúl Tambolini, Secretary of Commerce, Ministry of Economy, Argentina
- Ms. Tebelelo Pule, Chief Executive Officer, Competition and Consumer Authority, Botswana
- Mr. Tarek Younes, Consumer Protection Director, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon
- Mr. Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International

15:50 - 16:00 **Interactive debate**

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Ms. Valentina Rivas (valentina.rivas@un.org).