

Minutes of 25th Meeting
Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, May 29th, 2024

The UN Trade and Development Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPS) held its twenty fifth teleconference on 29 May 2024 (at 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Geneva time). The objective of the meeting was to discuss developments in the work plan for the period 2023-2024 until the eighth session of the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (IGE, 1-2 July 2024) and decide on the mandate to be proposed to the IGE.

Adopted workplan 2023-2024.

1. **Recommendation on general consumer product safety**: South Africa and the European Commission convened a drafting committee and presented a proposal for consideration of WGCPS participants. The drafting committee met five times with participation of Australia, Azerbaijan, El Salvador, Peru, Vietnam, South Africa, and the United States. Comments were received from Canada, Chile, Egypt, Korea and an independent expert (Tica Bosch.)

The European Commission thanked the inputs and participation of WGCPS South Africa stressed that this has been a very enriching experience and that the overall aim is to improve international cooperation. For this it is important to focus efforts on improving institutional arrangements at the United Nations level.

As next steps, the European Commission and South Africa will transmit the resulting draft to the UN Trade and Development secretariat for edition and incorporation to the report of the WGCPS to the IGE as an Annex. This report will be available in the [IGE event page](#) two weeks before the meeting.

2. **Model law for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products**:¹ the United States, with the support of the American University, convened a drafting committee and presented a proposal for consideration of WGCPS participants.

The United States thanked the American University for its significant contribution to the drafting committee, including two full drafts incorporating comments Colombia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Once the text is finalized by the drafting committee, it will be shared with WGCPS.

3. **Fourth Joint EC-UN Trade and Development workshop on consumer product safety**: was reported in previous meetings. The fifth workshop will be held at the International Product Safety Week from 14 to 17 October in Brussels. The European Commission shared the link to the event page: <https://ec.europa.eu/safety-gate/#/screen/pages/safetyWeek2024>

¹ See [Recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products](#), 10 October 2023.

4. [UN Trade and Development e-Commerce Week: Shaping the Future of the Digital Economy](#): was reported in previous meetings. The AI-generated report of the session [here](#).
5. [Workshop on consumer product safety on online platforms](#): took place on 17 April 2024 and hosted 68 participants. It aimed to foster dialogue and share best practices among policymakers, enforcers, and businesses to improve consumer product safety on online platforms. It built on the background note² on this issue and the discussions held at the seventh session of the intergovernmental group of experts.³ The speakers in the session were:
 - Rafel Regla, Head of Multilateral Affairs, Federal Attorney for Consumers, Mexico
 - Jisook Yang, Manager, Injury Information Monitoring Team, Department of Injury Information, Korea Consumer Agency, Republic of Korea
 - Faith P. Mwamba, Principal Investigator, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Zambia
 - Chloe Kontos, Customer Trust External Relations, Amazon

South Africa welcomed the workshop as a source of peer learning in very practical issues and asked that more be organized in the future. Mexico proposed exploring product safety pledges, recalls and trade barriers.

The secretariat invited WGCPS participants to submit proposals for issues to be addressed in future workshops.

6. **Publication on product safety:**

For its first publication on product safety, the UN Trade and Development secretariat is organizing a collection of essays from jurisdiction around the world. So far, Argentina, France, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, the European Commission and COMESA accepted to contribute. Expressions of interest from Africa and Asia are encouraged.

Contributors will be asked to submit 2,500 word essays on the emerging trends and challenges in their jurisdictions and the way forward for international product safety. Contributions will be received by August/September 2024.

The publication is expected to be presented at the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices in 2025.

Mandate request to the IGE

² See [Building trust in digital markets through enhanced consumer protection on online platforms](#), 21 April 2023, pages 10-11.

³ [TD/B/C.I/CPLP/37](#) pages 6-8.

The WGCPS already received a mandate until 2025. WGCPS participants agreed to propose to the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy that its mandate be enhanced in the following terms:

Decides to continue the mandate of the working group on consumer product safety until the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, to continue work on strengthening consumer product safety frameworks at the regional and national levels and improving international cooperation to protect consumers from hazards to their health and safety, to pursue consultations leading to a resolution on general consumer product safety, to pursue the development of a model law for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products and to report to the Ninth United Nations Conference;

Other business

In line with standing regulations for United Nations intergovernmental meetings at the United Nations, and contrary to previous sessions, only in-person participation will be available. Delegates are advised to make their travel and accommodation arrangements at their earliest convenience as July is a busy month in Geneva.

Please see the [provisional programme](#) and the [information note for participants](#). All other documentation is available in the [JGE event page](#). The next meeting of the WGCPS will take place on 17 April 2024 (for the workshop on consumer product safety in online platforms.)

Working Group on Consumer Product Safety		
24th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
Paola Rubin	Deputy Secretariat for Consumer Defence	Argentina
Davin Phillips	Australia Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Helmut Perz		Austria
Paulo Coscarelli	IMMETRO	Brazil
Trish Heffernan	Health Canada	Canada
Diego Almarza, Daniela Parra	National Consumer Service - SERNAC	Chile
Emiliano Arévalo	Consumer Defense	El Salvador
Eva Sinkovic, Marie Gerardy	European Commission	
Rosa Moran Sullon	National Institute for the Defence of Free Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property - INDECOPI	Peru
Jisook Yang	Korea Consumer Agency	Republic of Korea
Thezi Mabuza	National Consumer Commission	South Africa
Rick Ziegler	UL Solutions	
Tilven Salazar	Consumer Product Safety Commission	United States
Elizabeth Keith	American University	
Josep Tous	Independent expert	
Tica Bosch	Observatorio del Consumo SL	