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Minutes of 17th Meeting
Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, May 31, 2022

The Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPs) held its seventeenth teleconference on 31 May 2022 (at 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Geneva time). The objective of the meeting was to discuss the developments in the work plan adopted at the fourteenth teleconference for the period 2021-2022 until the sixth session of the Intergovernmental group of experts (IGE) on consumer protection law and policy (18-19 July 2022), namely: (i) the round table discussion on Modalities for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products; and (ii) the draft proposal on the mandate that the Working Group will present for the consideration of the IGE. As there was agreement that the WGCPs will propose an extension of its mandate to the IGE, participants also discussed the possible activities to include in the work plan of the Working Group for the period 2022-2023.

1. **Sixth session IGE on consumer protection**: to be held on 18 and 19 July 2022 in Geneva and online. Delegates are invited to [register online](#) as soon as possible and before the end of June. Delegates planning to travel to Geneva are invited to inform their permanent missions. The meeting [notification](#) (containing agenda items) is available online.
2. **Round table discussion on Modalities for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products**: to be held on 18 July 2022 from 3 to 4.30 p.m. The [provisional programme](#) of the meeting is available online (not updated to today).

The session will begin with panel presentations by:

- Mr. Kamel Rezig, Minister of Trade, Algeria
- Mr. Alexander Hoehn-Saric, Chair, Consumer Product Safety Commission, United States
- Ms. Liliana Schwindt, Subsecretary for Consumers Affairs, Argentina
- Ms. Helena Leurent, Director General, Consumers International

It will be followed by an interactive debate for 20 minutes. To facilitate this interactive discussion, the secretariat raises the following questions:

- (a) What legal and institutional frameworks are necessary to prevent the cross-border 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?

The secretariat will hold a preparatory meeting with panellists.

The European Commission expressed interest in speaking from the floor.

3. **Report of the WGCPs**: a written report will be uploaded prior to the meeting. The secretariat will deliver a 5' presentation on the outputs of the WGCPs, followed by an open debate.



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4. **Renewal of the mandate of the WGCPs:** participants agreed that WGCPs request a renewal of its mandate to the IGE. The secretariat proposed the following text:

Decides to renew the mandate of the working group on consumer product safety, 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 further propose practical means for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products and to report on its continued work to the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy;

India suggested to include liability of business and cross-border trade as issues for discussion. The Republic of Korea and Poland suggested to include information sharing and best practice exchange among enforcement agencies.

The UNCTAD secretariat welcomes written suggestions for the text of the mandate renewal in return of these minutes.

The draft agreed conclusions will be shared to all registered and approved participants of the IGE on Monday 18 July at the lunch break. Informal online consultations may be called by the UNCTAD secretariat for registered and approved delegates. The agreed conclusions will be discussed and adopted at the closing plenary of the IGE on 19 July at 3.30 p.m. Geneva time.

5. **Issues to include in the next work plan for the WGCPs:** if the IGE decides to renew the mandate of the WGCPs, the UNCTAD secretariat will prepare a proposed work plan for the WGCPs 2022-2023 for discussion and possible adoption in its next meeting.

The secretariat called for ideas and suggestions to include in that work plan. Mexico, the United States and the European Commission suggested to address effective product recalls in a dedicated webinar. Brazil supported the idea of a webinar. Poland and South Korea proposed webinars for exchange of experiences. The United States proposed to produce a toolkit on how to operationalize the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution on known unsafe consumer products, which was supported by Brazil and Mexico. The European Commission proposed to develop a recommendation on the principles for an effective consumer product safety framework. Consumers International proposed to discuss international coordination as well as actions directed to businesses (such as consumer product safety pledges), which received the support of the European Commission.

6. **Other issues:** The European Commission announced that the International Consumer Product Safety Week will be held on the third week of November 2022.



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Working Group on Consumer Product Safety		
17th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
Ruth Epsztejn	INMETRO	Brazil
Karine Murad	INMETRO	Brazil
Patricia Heffernan	Health Canada	Canada
Eva Sinkovic	European Commission	
Myriam Denieul	European Commission	
Jisook Yang	Korea Consumer Agency	Republic of Korea
Nidhi Khare	Department of Consumers Affairs	India
Rafael Regla	PROFECO	Mexico
Rosa Stephany Patricia Moran Sullon	National Institute for the Defence of Free Competition and the Protection on Intellectual Property	Peru
Alicia Vilca Accinelli,	National Institute for the Defence of Free Competition and the Protection on Intellectual Property	Peru
Aleksandra Mrozowska-Sroka, Ewa Sikorska	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK	Poland
Richard O'Brien	Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)	United States
Tilven Salazar	Consumer Product Safety Commission	United States
Thezi Mabuza	National Consumer Commission	South Africa
Antonino Serra Cambaceres	Consumers International CI	