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<p style="text-align: center;">Minutes of 18th Meeting Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, September 20, 2022</p>
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The Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGPCS) held its eighteenth teleconference on 20 September 2022 (at 8.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. Geneva time). The objective of the meeting was to discuss and adopt the work plan for the period 2022-2023 until the seventh session of the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (July 2023).

Background

As contained in its Agreed Conclusions, the sixth session of the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (IGE) (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/32, forthcoming), held on 18 and 19 July 2022, decided the following regarding product safety and the mandate of this working group:

Recognizing that preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products and unfair or misleading commercial practices is a priority for UNCTAD member States as it can improve consumer confidence and provide more favourable conditions for sustainable economic development,
[...]

5. *Encourages* member States to fully implement the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products;
[...]

13. *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;
[...]

Based on the work carried out in the past by the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGPCS), and the recent mandate received by the IGE, the UNCTAD secretariat circulated a work plan for the WGPCS for 2022 and 2023 on 12 September 2022. The UNCTAD secretariat presented the workplan followed by comments from participants as follows:



Workplan 2022-2023

1. **Practical means for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products:** the WGCPs will discuss a practical means (such as a developing handbook or toolkit) of how to operationalize the recommendation through law/policy reform or using current common legal instruments at national, regional and/or international levels.

Mexico, the United States (USA) and Consumers International (CI) volunteered to participate in the drafting of a toolkit. Australia and Mexico suggested to conduct a survey across countries to gather information on existing mechanisms. Mexico and South Africa suggested that the toolkit also consider the situation of countries that do not have consumer product safety regulations in place.

2. **Third Joint EC-UNCTAD workshop on consumer product safety:** following the two successful previous events, the EC and UNCTAD will hold an in-person workshop in the afternoon of 17 November 2022 in the framework of the [International Product Safety Week 2022](#). It will discuss the issues of consumer organizations on the product safety front-line and next generation of product safety ambassadors.

The European Commission (EC) informed participants that 2022 is the European Year of Youth and invited member to participate in-person in Brussels. CI expressed interest in participating in the workshop.

3. **Workshop on international trade (non-tariff measures) and product safety:** the WGCPs could host a workshop with WTO/UNCTAD delegates in charge of international trade issues to discuss the interface between trade and product safety policy areas in view of enhancing product safety in international trade.

Mexico, USA and CI supported the inclusion of this activity in the work plan to raise awareness among the trade community on consumer rights and product safety issues and better engage with trade authorities. Australia suggested that the event should have a clear purpose. The secretariat will circulate a concept note for this activity (tentative date 14 February).

4. **Workshop on product recalls:** the WGCPs could host a workshop on how to implement effective product recalls systems at national and regional levels and avenues for international cooperation.

Argentina, Australia, EC, Mexico, USA, South Africa and CI supported the convening of the workshop. Argentina, Australia, Mexico and USA volunteered to organize the workshop.



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5. **Other activities:** no other activities were proposed.

Regularity of meetings

The Working Group will meet every 2 months until the seventh session of the IGE (most probably in the first week July 2023), be as follows:

20 September

22 November

14 February

18 April

30 May

More meetings may be called, if needed, upon request from participating member States.

Outcomes

The secretariat will report orally the discussions of the WGCPS to the seventh session of the IGE.

Any recommendation/instrument/proposal/handbook/toolkit developed and agreed by WGCPS participants will be submitted for consideration of the IGE.

The next meeting of the WGCPS will take place on 12 November.



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Working Group on Consumer Product Safety		
18th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
Mehdi Remaoun		Algeria
Neveille Matthew	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Stefan Rafael Leandro Machado	National Telecommunications Agency – ANATEL	Brazil
Karine Murad, Ruth Epsztejn	National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology - INMETRO	Brazil
Patricia Heffernan	Health Canada	Canada
Nataly Rojas, Mateo Varela, Juan David Rico	Superintendence of Industry and Commerce - SIC	Colombia
Nancy Otori	COMESA Competition Commission	
Sergey Sinyakov	Eurasian Economic Commission	
Myriam Denieul and Eva Sinkovic	European Commission	
Dana Clees	Federal ministry for the environment, nature conservation, nuclear safety and consumer protection	Germany
Jisook Yang	Korean Consumer Agency	Republic of Korea
Juris Bulans	Ministry of Economics	Latvia
Rafael Regla	Federal Attorney for Consumers – PROFECO	Mexico
Grace Aguilar, Rosa Moran	National Institute for the Defence of Free Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property - INDECOPI	Peru
Ewa Sikorska	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK	Poland
Thezi Mabuza	National Consumer Commission	South Africa
Eleanor Coles	Market Frameworks, Office for Product Safety and Standard - OPSS	United Kingdom
Richard O'Brien Tilven Salazar	Consumer Product Safety Commission	United States
Mehtap Zor Özen	Ministry of Trade	Türkiye
Antonino Serra	Consumers International	
Coothoopermal		
Mahmud Alkhafaji		