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Minutes of 4th Meeting
Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender
May 3, 2023

The Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender held its fourth online meeting on May 3, 2023 (at 2 p.m. Geneva time). The meeting's objective was to discuss the first working group's Webinar on Consumer Protection and gender.

The secretariat started the meeting by thanking the participation of member states and stakeholders and praised the delegation of Argentina for its leadership in organizing the first webinar and the delegations which appointed speakers. After the presentation of the webinar's concept note and agenda, the secretariat opened the floor for comments.

The representative of Mexico explained that they were not able to confirm the participation of a consumer association. However, they mentioned the possibility of making a reference of their work during the webinar.

The secretariat highlighted the importance of having a consumer association representative during the webinar.

The following discussion focused on the pending topics to be addressed by the panels during the webinar. The delegation of Argentina took the floor and suggested the topics of advertisement and financial issues. The delegation of Portugal confirmed their participation at the panel on advertisement by the head of advertisement branch. The secretariat highlighted the main topics that came up during the group discussions: consumer financial issues, advertising, and product safety.

The Swedish delegation reminded that the workshop had the purpose of sharing information on best practices. The secretariat confirmed the importance of sharing best practices experiences and not only referring to challenges.

The representative of the European Union reminded the Group of the importance of product safety and how it affects vulnerable consumers and women differently. The representative of consumers international supported by Portugal and other delegations proposed a 3 panel model including product safety.

The new format would be presented as follows: three topics of 15/minute panels each followed by 20 minutes general discussion. The first panel would be on advertisement and gender norms perpetuated in advertising, the second panel on Consumer product safety and inclusion by design and the third panel on consumer financial issues.



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The secretariat updated the agenda for the webinar and will circulate for final comments and adjustments until Monday 8 of May.

The delegation of Brazil mentioned their intention to share a Technical Note that was launched on Women's Day regarding abusive advertisement and consumer protection gender related issues. The delegation of Australia sought confirmation of the dates of the next meeting, and whether the webinar would be recorded. The secretariat confirmed that the webinar would be recorded and shared after the event. Australia confirmed their attendance at the upcoming webinar.

The secretariat informed that the working group members that the next Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer protection and policy will take place on the 3 and 4 of July and invited member States and participants to [register online](#).

The secretariat also highlighted that the last meeting will take place on May 30 one month before the IGE meetings, so that the working group reports are ready for the IGE meetings on time.

The secretariat informed that the minutes of the meetings would be circulated for feedback accompanied by the new webinar agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for 30 May 2023.



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| Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender | | |
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| 4th Meeting – List of Participants | | |
| Name | Organization | Country |
| Iara Asprella | Undersecretary for Actions for the Defense of Consumers | Argentina |
| Nadia Vassos | Australian Competition and Consumer Commission | Australia |
| Tomaz Disitzer Carvalho de Miranda | National Secretariat for Consumers-SENACON | Brazil |
| Bekkyann Persaud | Health Canada | Canada |
| Nataly Rojas Cuellar | Superintendence of Industry and Commerce - SIC | Colombia |
| Kim Joonkwon | Korea Consumer Agency | South Korea |
| Ximena Galicia | Federal Attorney for Consumers – PROFECO | Mexico |
| Zenia Panduro | 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 |
| Francisco Freitas | Directorate General for Consumers of Portugal | Portugal |
| Dagobert Rugwiro | Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA) | Rwanda |
| Caroline Hammarstedt, | Swedish Consumer Agency | Sweden |
| Syeda Quader | Competition and Markets Authority - CMA | United Kingdom |
| Felicia Fara | Office for Product Safety and Standards | United Kingdom |
| Marta Thinnés | European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers | European Commission |
| Josephine Parmee | | Consumers International |
| Maria Luiza Targa (representing professor Claudia Lima Marques of UFRGS) | | UFRGS, Brazil |
| Antonino Serra | | Expert, Argentina |
| Diógenes Carvalho | | Expert, Brazil |
| Yves Kenfack | | UNCTAD |
| Arnau Izaguerri | | UNCTAD |