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<p style="text-align: center;">Minutes of 14th Meeting Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, September 14, 2021</p>
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The Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGPCS) held its fourteenth teleconference on 14 September 2021 (at 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Geneva time). The objective of the meeting was to discuss and adopt the work plan for the period 2021-2022 until the sixth session of the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (July 2022).

Background

As contained in its Agreed Conclusions, the fifth session of the Intergovernmental group of experts (IGE) on consumer protection law and policy, held on 5 and 6 July 2021, decided the following regarding product safety and the mandate of this working group:

Recognizing that effective policies that prevent the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products and unfair or misleading commercial practices can improve consumer confidence and provide more favourable conditions for sustainable economic development,

[...]

12. *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 propose modalities 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 sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy;

[...]

14. *Requests* the UNCTAD secretariat, in accordance with guideline 97 (b), to prepare reports and studies as background documentation for the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy on the following topics:

(a) Modalities for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products;

Considering this background and based on the work carried out in the past by the WGPCS, and the mandate renewal received by the IGE, the UNCTAD secretariat circulated a work plan for the WGPCS for 2021 and 2022 on 11 August 2021. The UNCTAD secretariat presented the workplan followed by comments from participants as follows:



Work plan 2021-2022

1. **Modalities for the prevention of cross-border distribution of unsafe consumer products:** the secretariat will prepare a background report based on the inputs received by the members of the WGCPs. Some members have already advanced work that can be further discussed and completed. This background report will inform a dedicated discussion at the IGE meeting of July 2022.

South Africa thanked Colombia and the United States for circulating the initial questionnaire and agreed with the item. The United States volunteered to participate in the drafting of the background report and informed participants it will send an advanced draft to the UNCTAD secretariat by the end of this month. Colombia and the United States volunteered to participate in the organization of the roundtable. The UNCTAD secretariat proposed to circulate the draft report to WGCPs during the month of November to receive comments until end of December. The final deadline for finalization of the report is end of February 2022.

2. **Kick-starting consumer product safety:** following the joint [EC-UNCTAD workshop](#) on “Kick-starting consumer product safety: a worthwhile endeavour” in the margins of the [International Product Safety Week 2020](#), the WGCPs will hold a follow-up online workshop on 9 November 2021 from 1.00 to 04.30 pm under the title *Building effective consumer product safety frameworks.* It will discuss two basic building blocks for an effective consumer product safety framework: legislative and policy frameworks and cross-border and regional cooperation. Prior to the workshop, the results of a previous survey will be sent to participating countries for possible updates to identify any further needs.

Consumers International asked whether non-government representatives could join. The UNCTAD secretariat will consult with the EC and revert bilaterally.

3. **Other activities:** participants of the WGCPs were invited to propose other activities to be included in the workplan.

Argentina proposed to organize a workshop on best practices (inspired by ICPEN’s Best Practices Workshops). Colombia volunteered to participate in its organization. The UNCTAD secretariat suggested the workshop be held on 15 of February or 12 April (using one of the slots of the WGCPs meetings). Consumers International asked whether this workshop could lead to a recommendation on best practices for the modalities on the implementation of the recommendation on consumer product safety. The United States and Colombia welcomed the inclusion of possible annexes to the modalities report, if needed.



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Regularity of meetings

The WGCPS will meet approximately every 2 months until the sixth session of the IGE (in the second week July 2022). The meetings will be as follows:

14 September
16 November
15 February
12 April
31 May

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

Possible outcomes

The discussions of the WGCPS will be reported orally by the secretariat to the sixth session of the IGE.

If the WGCPS reaches consensus on some recommendation/instrument/proposal, it will be submitted for consideration of the IGE.

Following the presentation of the work plan, the UNCTAD secretariat opened the floor for suggestions and comments from member States. There were no objections to the proposals and the work plan was adopted.

Other issues

Argentina extended an invitation to all members of the WGCPS to join the Informal Steering Committee, who meets more regularly than the WGCPS. Its meetings are set for the following dates:

- 15th September 10 am Argentina time.
- 19th October 10 am Argentina time.
- 16th November 10 am Argentina time.
- 10th December 10 am Argentina time.

For further information on the Informal Steering Committee, WGCPS participants are invited to contact internacional.dndc@produccion.gob.ar, marubin@produccion.gob.ar, and varios@produccion.gob.ar.

Consumers International invited WGCPS participants to provide comments to “The Online Product Safety Guidelines” (circulated by UNCTAD secretariat on 14 September).

The next meeting of the WGCPS will take place on 16 November.



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Working Group on Consumer Product Safety		
14th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
Elnur Baghirov, Ilgar Tamrazov, Firuza Nakhri,	Standardization Institute - AZSTAND	Azerbaijan
Paola Rubin, Vania Ríos	Direction on Consumer Protection	Argentina
Vinicius Moreira, Rodrigo Iglesias,	National Secretariat for Consumers - SENACON	Brazil
Pryscilla Torres Magalhães de Oliveira, Stefan Rafael Leandro Machado	National Telecommunications Agency – ANATEL	Brazil
Karine Murad, Luciana Carvalho	National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology - INMETRO	Brazil
Juan Felipe Barrera, Nataly Rojas	Superintendence of Industry and Commerce - SIC	Colombia
Chaeun Shin	Korean Consumer Agency	Republic of Korea
Lesli Gonzales, Alicia Vilca, Naghira Delgado	Instituto Nacional de Defensa de la Competencia y de la Protección de la Propiedad Intelectual - INDECOPI	Peru
Aleksandra Mrozowska-Sroka	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK	Poland
Thezi Mabuza	National Consumer Commission	South Africa
José I. Viton	Ministry for Consumer Affairs	Spain
Richard O'Brien Tilven Salazar	Consumer Product Safety Commission	United States
Antonino Serra	Consumers International	
Ayanda a Ziyane		