

**Minutes of 14th Meeting of the Informal
Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender
February 06, 2025**

The informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender held its 14th meeting on February 06, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Geneva time, to discuss the draft checklist, the latest updates, and future work.

The secretariat opened the meeting by thanking the support of member States on the topic of consumer protection and gender and the work carried out by the subgroup members on drafting a checklist to include the gender lens in the work of consumer protection. The secretariat also clarified that it is the secretariat's responsibility to achieve a draft that is clear, easy to understand and well structured, that can be useful for the broader membership and that any document expected to be submitted to the [9th United Nations Review Conference](#), UNRC or IGEs will be thoroughly reviewed by the secretariat and until the end of July 2025 cleared by the head of the branch. The secretariat also highlighted that whatever this informal Working Group produces and proposes needs to comply with UNCTAD's objectives and responsibilities.

The secretariat went through the checklist text, referring to amendments and proposals and explaining changes and why certain suggestions were not retained.

After reviewing the proposed document, the secretariat opened the floor for comments. Australia and Sweden, as members of the subgroup drafting the first checklist proposals, shared their concerns about the substantial amendments made to the checklist draft, considering that there's been a change of scope and broadening of issues beyond the mandate (e.g., adding in broader references to UN gender work not related to consumer protection). They noted this is a departure from what was initially proposed, and it is no longer a short practical tool for consumer protection agencies. They also noted that the intention was to create a menu of options for consumer protection agencies to consider in their work.

The secretariat questioned member States if it would be acceptable to continue working on the draft as proposed by the secretariat and have the Checklist annex as proposed by Australia.

Australia, Mexico and Sweden agreed that the annex idea may work but it would depend on the drafting. Australia and Sweden noted their preference for the proposed document from June 2024. Colombia and the United Kingdom agreed with the two-document idea.

Australia and Sweden agreed that the proposed annex would be acceptable provided that the checklist was based on the initial proposal but noted that this would involve significant redrafting of the main document circulated in advance of the meeting. They also noted concerns about the resources this work would take.

The United Kingdom also asked about having a specific disclaimer on the “gender” reference and the purposes of the working group. The secretariat explained that any document or paper produced by the working group will be submitted to the Review Conference or the Intergovernmental Group of Experts Meeting and, as a UNCTAD document, it must comply with UNCTAD’s objectives, responsibilities and Style Guidelines. The secretariat explained another option is to submit a document as a [contribution document](#). However, in this case it would be a contribution from one or more member States and not a UNCTAD document.

The secretariat also asked member States about March 8 and the idea of promoting the Consumer and Gender Toolkit/checklist and focusing on consumer product safety since it is one of the topics chosen by the WG members. Moreover, it would serve as an opportunity to address consumer product safety and gender and raise awareness of the proposal of a UNCTAD Resolution on Consumer Product Safety.

Australia, Mexico and Sweden expressed their concerns about having a webinar since no consensus on the draft checklist/toolkit has been reached. Colombia and the UK supported the idea of a webinar on March 8.

Consumers International will support the draft checklist by providing examples from their membership and agreeing with the organization of a March 8 webinar.

The UK asked about the next steps regarding the procedure for submitting the checklist to the Review Conference next July 2025. The secretariat mentioned that once the text is agreed upon within the informal working group and officially promoted within UNCTAD’s wider membership, a UN member, or multiple members, would need to sponsor the checklist for it to be considered at the Conference.

The secretariat will share the draft *checklist/toolkit* with all the Working Group members, seeking consensus on its text.

Next steps

08 March 2025	Proposed Webinar on International Women’s Day
24 April 2025	Fourth Meeting: Review of the Checklist status and next steps for the 9th United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices.
12 June 2025	Final meeting before the 9th United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and

	Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices.
7-11 July 2025	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

The secretariat recalled that more meetings may be called, if needed, upon request from participating member States.

Informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender		
14th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
Nadia Vassos	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Giulia Agricola	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Trish Heffernan	Health Canada	Canada
Nataly Rojas Cuellar	SIC Colombia	Colombia
Nishimura, Naoya		Japan
Santa Buša	Ministry of Economics	Latvia
Christina Schuerr	Directorate for Consumer Protection	Luxembourg
Rafael Regla	PROFECO	Mexico
Katia Penaloza	INDECOPI	Peru
Zenia Panduro	INDECOPI	Peru
Aleksandra Mrozowska-Sroka	Polish Competition Authority, UOKiK	Poland
Emil Szerszeń	Polish Competition Authority, UOKiK	Poland
Emy Gustavsson	Swedish Consumer Agency	Sweden
Henna Sidhu	CMA	United Kingdom
Ana Cipriano		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)

Erin Parsons		Consumers International
Érico de Melo		Consumers International
Antonino Serra Cambaceres		Independent Expert

