

Minutes of 12th Meeting of the Informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender September 19, 2024
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The informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender held the first meeting of the mandate 2024-2025 on September 19, 2024, at 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Geneva time, to review and approve the Group's workplan.

The secretariat started the meeting by sharing information on the draft checklist which will be circulated for review to the subgroup members and then to all members of the group.

Members from Australia and Sweden highlighted the importance of keeping the draft checklist as an objective and concise set of suggestions to be integrated by member States, namely consumer protection authorities and other relevant stakeholders as they see fit.

The secretariat recalled that based on the work carried by the informal Working Group from 2022 to 2024 the main expected group activities are:

- a. Broaden engagement and membership regarding the activities of the informal Working Group
- b. Continue the work of including the gender aspect in the World Consumer Protection Map for the reference of member States
- c. Continue the work on drafting a Checklist of actions to include the gender perspective into the work of consumer protection agencies and related stakeholders.
- d. Organise and deliver a Webinar on Consumer Protection and gender to promote the topic's relevance on the occasion of the International Women's Day (March 8, 2025).

Australia and Sweden suggested that the activities can be expanded once the group agrees on the checklist text and that a second phase on the checklist's dissemination and exchange of best practices.

Colombia, Mexico and Peru referred to the importance of having webinars to celebrate March 8 and to work on the Checklist dissemination and related activities. Mexico also suggested the WG invited UN Women to March 8 webinar, what was agreed by the secretariat.

Proposed workplan 2024-2025

Like in the previous year, the secretariat proposed that the informal Working Group meets every two months until 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, as follows:

Dates	Remarks
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19 September 2024	First Meeting of the 2024-2025 term. Approval of Workplan and information on the draft checklist.
19 November 2024	Second Meeting: Review of proposed Checklist following inputs from member States and second round of consultations
30 January 2025	Third Meeting: discussion of provided examples and feedback on consultations. Review of Women's Day Webinar proposal and organization
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.

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

Participants agreed with the proposed work plan and mentioned the interest of organizing more than one seminar to work on the Checklist dissemination.

The secretariat informed that meeting minutes will be circulated on Friday 20 for feedback until the 26 of September.

Informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender		
12 th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country

Nadia Vassos	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Giulia Agricola	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Patricia Heffernan	Health Canada	Canada
Nataly Rojas	SIC Colombia	Colombia
Rafael Regla	PROFECO	Mexico
Naghira Delgado	INDECOPI	Peru
Ewa Sikorska	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK	Poland
Francisco Freitas	Directorate General for Consumers	Portugal
Dagobert Rugwiro	Consumer Protection Expert	Rwanda
Emy Gustavsson	Swedish Consumer Agency	Sweden
Caroline Hammarstedt Nuss	Swedish Consumer Agency	Sweden
Wimonrat Wim	OCPB	Thailand
Kutlu Köycü	Consumer Expert, Ministry of Trade	Turkey
Henna Sidhu	CMA	United Kingdom
George Manda	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission	Zambia
Noomi Saarinen	DG JUST	European Commission
Ana Cipriano		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Yves Kenfack		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Soha Mohamed Tharwat Abdelaziz Mansour	Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva	Egypt
Maria Luiza Targa		Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), UFRGS - Brazil

