

**Minutes of 13th Meeting of the Informal
Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender
November, 28 2024**

The informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender held its 13th meeting on November 28, 2024, at 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Geneva time, on the draft checklist and latest updates.

The meeting included the participation of Competition and Consumer Policies Branch Head Teresa Moreira, who spoke as the secretariat. Ms. Moreira started the meeting by thanking all the support and contributions to this informal working group and to the drafting of the *Gender-Inclusive Consumer Protection Checklist*.

The secretariat explained that provided that the checklist will be submitted to the [9th United Nations Review Conference](#), documents proposed and containing contributions from member States must follow specific drafting rules, including the [United Nations Style Guide](#). The secretariat suggested a more objective introduction, leaving the background information for the informal working group's reporting. On the substantive aspect, the secretariat suggested improving the draft checklist to clarify its addresses better, suggesting a structure divided into 1. Consumer Protection Agencies and 2. Stakeholders' engagement and partnerships. On the work by consumer agencies, the suggestion is to include gender considerations in analysis, work processes and remedies; undertake education and advocacy activities, consider gender in new policies and programmes and apply a gender lens to ex-post evaluations, measures and projects, focus on the gathering of quantitative and qualitative information (statistics, data, already identified as necessary by this informal group); the use of survey and research and analysis, staff training and progress monitoring system. It was also discussed that the document is intended to be a living resource that can be updated with more recent examples

The secretariat also referred to the examples from member States to be included in the draft checklist. On this point, Sweden and the United Kingdom mentioned the latest policy initiatives.

Australia suggested that the International Women's Day webinar could be used as an opportunity to promote or consult on the checklist.

Australia praised the work of the secretariat and questioned the next steps regarding the checklist draft. Regarding the procedure to submit the checklist to the Review Conference next July 2025, the secretariat mentioned that a UN member, or multiple members, would need to sponsor the checklist for it to be considered at the Conference.

The secretariat proposed to circulate the draft on the first week of December and, as suggested by Sweden, convene a subgroup meeting to discuss the draft on January 30, followed by a WG meeting in February.

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.

The secretariat will share the draft *Gender-Inclusive Consumer Protection Checklist* with the drafting member States for comments and then with all the members of the Working Group before circulating it to the entire membership.

Proposed workplan 2024-2025

The secretariat proposed that the informal Working Group meet 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.

Recalling that during the last WG meeting, participants agreed with the proposed work plan and mentioned the interest in organizing more than one seminar to work on the Checklist dissemination, here is the updated workplan:

Dates	Remarks
30 January 2025	Subgroup meeting to discuss the draft <i>Gender-Inclusive Consumer Protection Checklist</i> review and contributions
06 February 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.

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		
13th Meeting – List of Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
Wuassamba Neto	INADEC	Angola
María Paola Rubin	Undersecretariat of Consumer Protection and Fair Trade	Argentina
Nadia Vassos	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Giulia Agricola	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Australia
Jónica Tavares	Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy	Cabo Verde
Nataly Rojas Cuellar	SIC Colombia	Colombia
Sara Todini	Italian Competition Authority	Italy
Aleksandra Mrozowska-Sroka	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK	Poland
Natalia Leite	Directorate General for Consumers	Portugal
Caroline Hammarstedt Nuss	Swedish Consumer Agency	Sweden
Melek Koç Derinyar	Consumer Expert, Ministry of Trade	Turkey
Tuna Han Akdoğan	Consumer Expert, Ministry of Trade	Turkey
Henna Sidhu	CMA	United Kingdom
Jack Queenan	CMA	United Kingdom
Laura da Costa	UDECO	Uruguay

George Manda	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission	Zambia
Mwanto Chitalu West	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission	Zambia
Noomi Saarinen	DG JUST	European Commission
Teresa Moreira		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Ana Cipriano		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Yves Kenfack		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Erin Parsons		Consumers International
Érico de Melo		Consumers International
Claudia Lima Marques		Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), UFRGS – Brazil / IACL
Antonino Serra Cambaceres		Independent Expert

UNCTAD INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND GENDER



Draft Gender checklist

Proposed reviewed structure:

i) Introduction: background

ii) The checklist

1. Consumer Protection agencies

a) Priorities' setting:

- include gender considerations in analysis, work processes and remedies;
- undertake a gender perspective in education and advocacy activities;
- consider gender and inclusion in new policies and programmes;
- apply a gender lens to ex-post evaluation of actions, measures and projects.

UNCTAD INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND GENDER



Draft Gender checklist (2)

Proposed reviewed structure of the checklist (continued):

1. Consumer Protection agencies (cont.)

b) Tools to develop or improve

- gather quantitative and qualitative information – statistics, data
- use surveys and research and analysis
- organize staff training
- implement a monitoring system to track progress

2. Stakeholders' engagement and partnerships