

**Minutes of the 17th Meeting of the Informal
Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender
November 20, 2025**

The informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender held its 17th meeting on November 20, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Geneva time to discuss the working group's work plan and next steps.

The secretariat opened the meeting by thanking the support of member States on consumer protection and gender, despite the organisation's resource constraints.

The secretariat shared with participants the two paragraphs of the 9th United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection Resolution A, related to the informal working groups and their future work:

24. Commends the significant contributions of the informal working group on cross-border cartels, established by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, and the informal working groups on consumer product safety, consumer protection in electronic commerce and consumer protection and gender, established by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy; and acknowledges with appreciation the reports presented at the Ninth Conference;

25. Reaffirms the strong commitment to pursuing discussions on case studies and national and regional experiences, sharing knowledge and improving international cooperation in the respective areas of the informal working groups, subject to the availability of resources; and encourages Member States and relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of their activities

The following topic covered was the proposed work plan for the informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender. Following the mandate received by the 9th United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection, the proposed workplan for 2025-2026 until the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on consumer protection law and policy, to be held **from July 6 to 8, 2026.**

The proposed work plan included: 1. Continue exchanging best practices and the work on key actions at the national level to include the gender perspective in the work of consumer protection agencies and related stakeholders. 2. Continue the work of including the gender aspect in the World Consumer Protection Map for the reference of member States and, 3. Continue broadening engagement and membership regarding the activities of the informal Working Group.

At this point, the secretariat informed that a new questionnaire, including a gender component, was being drafted for circulation to update the UNCTAD World Consumer Protection map. Participants of the working group were particularly supportive of this initiative.

Representatives of Australia, Colombia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom provided updates on the drafting of the Checklist to incorporate a gender perspective into the work of Consumer Authorities and other relevant stakeholders. They also clarified that these member States make up the committee responsible for organising the Checklist. It was also added that other members are welcome to join and collaborate on the drafting work and/or support the document. The Checklist is expected to be finalized by May 2026 in time for submission to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Law and Policy meeting in July 2026.

The secretariat will collect examples of best practices and initiatives to be showcased in the Checklist and assist in the work of circulating the Checklist among member States. The secretariat also added that the completion of the Checklist by member States and its circulation will allow for a sense of who can support, making the document more visible.

Members of the drafting committee also clarified that other representatives are welcomed to join the drafting committee and backing up the document and that until March the group will be seeking supporters.

The next meeting is scheduled for 21 May 2026 unless an extraordinary meeting is required.

All minutes and documentation of this working group will be made available to the dedicated UNCTAD webpage.

Informal Working Group on Consumer Protection and Gender		
17th 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
Gloria Isabel Ortiz Castañeda	SIC Colombia	Colombia

Nataly Rojas Cuellar	SIC Colombia	Colombia
Christina Schuerr	Directorate for Consumer Protection	Luxembourg
Javairia Saleem	Competition Commission	Pakistan
Aleksandra Mrozowska-Sroka	Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection	Poland
Mário Vilar	Direção Geral do Consumidor	Portugal
Anood AS	Ministry of Commerce	Saudi Arabia
Caroline Hammarstedt	Swedish Consumer Agency	Sweden
Henna Sidhu	CMA	United Kingdom
Ana Cipriano		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Teresa Moreira		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Arnau Izaguerri		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
Yves Kenfack		UN trade & development (UNCTAD)