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| <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes of 28th Meeting Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, February 12, 2025</p> |
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The UNCTAD informal Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPS) held its twenty eighth teleconference on 12 February 2025 (at 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Geneva time). The objective of the meeting was to review developments in the work plan, in preparation for the [9th United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection \(7-11 July 2025\)](#).

Adopted workplan 2024-2025

Based on the work carried out in the past by the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPS),¹ and the mandate received by the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection at its eighth session,² the workplan for the WGCPS 2024-2025 was adopted in its 26th teleconference, as follows:

1. **Resolution on general consumer product safety**: The objective of the draft resolution is to provide a guide for countries setting up or revising their product safety frameworks. The [“Ad Hoc” Expert Meeting on Consumer Product Safety](#) (4 November 2024, Geneva) was attended by consumer product safety authorities and permanent missions in Geneva. Consensus emerged on the need to adopt principles on product safety and to establish an intergovernmental machinery to oversee their implementation. The draft resolution on product safety resulting from this meeting was circulated to WGCPS participants on 17 January, and received further comments from Spain and the United Kingdom and a suggestion from Bosch S.A.

The WGCPS will host an online one-hour meeting devoted to closing the text at working group level in the week of 3 to 7 March. One or various member States will need to sponsor the draft resolution for it to be considered at the [9th United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection \(7-11 July 2025\)](#).

Once formally circulated among permanent missions in Geneva, other member States would need to express support through their permanent missions for it to be favourably considered at the Conference in July. If so adopted by the Conference, they would also need to express support for it to be considered and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Mexico, Peru, Spain and the United Kingdom requested more information on the implications of sponsoring a resolution. The secretariat shared the following on what sponsors would be expected perform:

¹ See [Report of the WGCPS to the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection](#), June 2024.

² [TD/B/C.I/CPLP/42](#) para 11.

- i. Officially submit the request for consideration at the Conference via their permanent missions in Geneva (with a Note Verbale, that the secretariat can suggest wording);
- ii. Lead consultations in tandem with their permanent missions with other member States and regional groupings (online meetings leading to the Conference, in-person meetings during the Conference);
- iii. Lead drafting and negotiations as needed, supported by the secretariat
- iv. Present and defend the resolution at the Conference;
- v. (If adopted and decided by the Conference): liaise with their permanent missions in New York for the resolution to be considered by the General Assembly, lead consultations and defend the resolution.

Action from WGCPs participants: attend the meeting to finalize the draft resolution on consumer product safety in the week of 3-7 March 2025; consider sponsoring the resolution; consider expressing support for the resolution.

2. **Model law for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products**:³ the drafting committee will pursue discussions on the development of a draft model law for consideration of the working group.

The American University reported that the draft Model Law is within the drafting committee and could be circulated to WGCPs participants by early March.

Action from WGCPs participants: consider volunteering to participate in drafting committee discussions.

3. **Joint EC-UNCTAD workshop on consumer product safety**: was held on 15 October 2025 under the title: [Developing Bridges.: EC-UNCTAD workshop on UNCTAD Recommendation on general product safety principles](#). The workshop was devoted to discussing the draft resolution on product safety, particularly on international cooperation. Plenary presentations were followed by breakout discussions on the different possibilities to enhance and broaden the usage of existing international cooperation and information sharing tools.

The next edition of the joint workshop could take place in November 2025.

No action required from WGCPs participants

³ See [Recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products](#), 10 October 2023.

4. **Workshop on consumer product safety and sustainability**: The secretariat suggested a possible topic for a workshop on consumer product safety in informal markets,⁴ as it is a significant challenge for developing countries. WGCPS participants welcomed it as an issue for future workshops and favored focusing on consumer product safety and sustainability in this occasion.

The current focus for the workshop is: in today's global market, ensuring consumer safety while promoting sustainability is a critical challenge that requires innovative solutions and collaborative efforts. The WGCPS will explore the intersection of product safety and sustainable consumption policies and initiatives. Key topics could include the lifecycle impact of consumer products, the safety of second-hand goods, and the role of international standards in fostering safer and more sustainable products.

The workshop will be held online on 15 April 2025 for 1.5 hours. WGCPS participants are invited to volunteer to intervene and organize the workshop.

The secretariat suggested inviting members of the [One Planet Network Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme](#) (hosted by UN Environment), which was welcomed by WGCPS participants.

The secretariat also reminded that the 9th United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection will host a discussion about “Protecting and empowering consumers in the circular economy.”

The Republic of Korea volunteered to intervene to share its experience with second hand online platform markets and sustainability and the European Commission to present an upcoming study. South Africa suggested inviting young ambassadors to address the issue. All WGCPS participants favoured inviting members of the One Planet Network.

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| <u>Action from WGCPS participants</u> : volunteer to organize/speak at the workshop. |
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5. **Other activities**: UNCTAD shared that the publication on [Emerging trends and challenges on consumer product safety](#) is available online. It gathers contributions from Argentina, France, Lithuania, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, Viet Nam, COMESA, and OAS.

⁴ Understood as economic activities, transactions, and business operations that occur outside government regulation, taxation, and legal frameworks. These markets operate without formal registration, licenses, or compliance with product safety laws.

A communication campaign and launch event will follow shortly.



No action required from WGCPS participants

| Working Group on Consumer Product Safety | | |
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| 28th Meeting – List of Participants | | |
| Name | Organization | Country |
| Davin Phillips | Australian Competition and Consumer Commission | Australia |
| Paulo Coscarelli, Mauricio Pereira | IMMETRO | Brazil |
| Trish Heffernan | Health Canada | Canada |
| Steven Kamukama | COMESA | |
| Emiliano Arévalo, Diana Burgos, Emma Fernández | Consumer Ombudsman | El Salvador |
| Marie Gerardy, Myriam Denieul | European Commission | |
| Juliette Savaton | Directorate General for Competition, Consumer Protection and Fraud Repression | France |
| Hideshi Yoshinaga, Naoya Nishimura | Consumer Affairs Agency | Japan |
| Nderitu Mwangi | Competition Tribunal | Kenya |
| Jisook Yang | Korea Consumer Agency | Republic of Korea |
| Rafael Regla, David Morales, Carlos Cárdenas | Federal Attorney for Consumers – PROFECO | Mexico |
| Cherry Ma | Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment | New Zealand |

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| Katia Peñaloza Vassallo, Rosa Moran Sullon, Sergio Bullard | National Institute for the Defense of Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property | Peru |
| Emil Szerszén | Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK | Poland |
| Thezi Mabuza | National Consumer Commission | South Africa |
| José Ignacio Vitón | Directorate General for Consumer Protection | Spain |
| Yvonne Stein | Ministry of Finance | Sweden |
| Richard Frewin, Bulent Ismail | Office for Product Safety and Standards / Department of Business and Trade | United Kingdom |
| Laura Costa | Unit of Consumer Defense | Uruguay |
| Lo Thi Trang Nhung | Consumer Protection Board, Viet Nam Competition Commission | Viet Nam |
| Érico de Melo | Consumers International | |
| Mark Prince | Amazon | |
| Antonino Serra | Expert | |
| Josep Tous, Tica Bosch | ieConsumo Barcelona | |
| Bauer Kai, Daniel Mota | Bosch GmbH | |
| Elizabeth Keith | American University | |
| Hans Lori | | |