



**Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Multilaterally
Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business
Practices**

19 to 23 October 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

**Roundtable: Improving consumer product safety around the world -
Good data for good policy**

**Thursday 22 October (11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)
Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor)**

Product safety is a key factor in ensuring sustainable economic development. Purchases by consumers provide not only for their needs but also provide employment and support economic expansion. To the extent that consumer purchases help provide for the public's health and well-being, economic development is further strengthened. But when people are injured or killed by hazardous products, society pays an emotional and economic price.

Product safety policy should respond to such risk. Risk is measurable from the interaction of exposure and consequence. Different societies tolerate risk at various levels but ultimately, decisions about acceptable risk are based, consciously or not, on perceptions of exposure and consequence. Most national or regional jurisdictions collect data using a formal and systematic process for policymaking, using the best tools that their resources will allow.

Key data provide policy makers with the essential information for keeping consumers safe. Data from other jurisdictions may serve as a reasonable substitute in some cases. Similarly, risk assessment should consider all reasonably available data and extrapolate when needed. Non-government stakeholders can also provide useful data. As poorly informed policies can lead to avoidable injuries and deaths, as well as avoidable harm to economic actors, stakeholder engagement is crucial in the development and implementation of new policies.

The objective of the session is to present and discuss some examples on injury data collection and other data that could be useful for policy making in the field of product safety. Product Safety policy is not homogeneously developed in member countries and there is no "one size fits all" solution. This is why several options should be presented so that various solutions offer inspiration to different jurisdictions.

**Improving consumer product safety around the world:
Good data for good policy**

Tuesday 22 October
Room XIX (Third Floor)

WORK PROGRAMME

- 11:30 to 11:35 **Welcome by moderator:** Ms. Thezi Mabuza, Deputy
Commissioner, National Consumer Commission, South Africa
- 11:35 to 12:15 **Speakers:**
- Ms. Anina del Castillo, Executive Director of ProConsumidor, Dominican Republic, and President of Consumer Safety and Health Network of the Organization of American States
 - Ms. Yvonne Stein, Deputy Director, Consumer Policy Division, Ministry of Finance, Sweden
 - Mr. Stephen J Hanway, Associate Executive Director for Epidemiology, Consumer Product Safety Commission, United States
 - Ms. Ann Conley, Vice President, Risk Engineering Services, Chubb Insurance
- 12:15 to 12:25 **Interactive debate**
- 12:25 to 12:30 **Closing**

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Mr. Arnau Izaguerri Vila (arnau.izaguerri@unctad.org).