



**The Report of the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety  
to the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection  
Law and Policy**

**June 2022**

The [fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts \(IGE\) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy](#) held on 5 and 6 July 2021, decided to renew the mandate of the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety “to continue work on strengthening consumer product safety frameworks at the regional and national levels and improving international cooperation to protect consumers from hazards to their health and safety, to propose modalities for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products and to report on its continued work to the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.”<sup>1</sup>

Since then, the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPs) held five online meetings. On [14 September 2021](#), the WGCPs participants discussed and adopted the workplan until the sixth session of Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy. The activities carried out, as contained in the agreed workplan, are:

1. **Modalities for the prevention of cross-border distribution of unsafe consumer products**: participants of the WGCPs provided inputs to the UNCTAD secretariat note entitled Modalities for the implementation of the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products.<sup>2</sup> The said [recommendation](#) was adopted at Ministerial level in 2020 and is the first to explicitly address consumer product safety at UNCTAD. The participants of the WGCPs also proposed speakers for the dedicated session at the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy meeting.
2. **Joint European Commission-UNCTAD workshop**: on 9 November 2021 and under the title “[Building effective consumer product safety frameworks together](#),” the event hosted 147 registered participants from 54 countries. Mr. Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice and Consumers and Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD gave the welcoming remarks.

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<sup>1</sup> [TD/B/C.I/CPLP/26](#).

<sup>2</sup> The UNCTAD secretariat [TD/B/C.I/CPLP/28](#) received inputs from Algeria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, United States of America, Zambia, State of Palestine and the European Commission.

Representatives from Morocco, South Africa and Viet Nam discussed how to get legal frameworks for consumer product safety in place, while representatives from Argentina, COMESA and the European Commission exchanged on the benefits that cross-border and regional cooperation can bring. The report of the meeting is available [online](#).

3. **Workshop on cooperation between product safety and customs authorities**: on 12 April 2022 and under the title “[Protecting consumers from unsafe products through import surveillance and cooperation with customs](#)” the WGCPS hosted 197 registered Government representatives. Ms. Sabrina Keller, Deputy Director of Import Surveillance at the Consumer Product Safety Commission of the United States and Ms. Katarzyna Bednarz, Director of the Market Surveillance Department at the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection of Poland shared their experiences on the ways and means in which cooperation among consumer product safety and customs authorities takes place, ranging from informal to statutory cooperation. The recording of the meetings was shared with WGCPS participants.
4. **UNCTAD eCommerce Week Consumers International-UNCTAD session**: on 27 April 2022 and under the title “[Trust in cross-border e-commerce: The case for consumer product safety](#),” the event hosted over 50 participants. Mr. Richard O’Brien, Director of the Office of International Programs at the Consumer Product Safety Commission of the United States, Ms. Saroja Surandam, Director of Consumer Protection at the Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group in India, and Mr. Antonino Serra Cambaceres, Advocacy Manager at Consumers International discussed how the exchange of data and information among Governments, business and consumers can improve consumer trust in digital markets, and serve as a tool to foster inclusive development for communities around the world. The session addressed the current policy frameworks for consumer information and data sharing on product safety in online markets, as a way to make digital markets be more transparent and fairer. The [recording](#) and [report](#) of the event are available online.

The WGCPS agreed to request to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy that its mandate be extended.

All minutes and documentation of the WGCPS are available in the dedicated UNCTAD [webpage](#).