



<p style="text-align: center;">Working Group on Consumer Product Safety</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proposed Work Plan for 2019-2020</p>

In its agreed conclusions, the fourth session of the **Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (IGE)**, held on 8 and 9 July 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland:

Recognizing that effective policies that prevent trade in hazardous consumer products and unfair or misleading commercial practices can improve consumer confidence and provide more favourable conditions for sustainable economic development,

[...]

Decides to renew the mandate of the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety to continue the work on strengthening consumer product safety frameworks at the national, regional and international levels to protect consumers from hazards to their health and safety, noting its efforts since its establishment by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy at its third session; and to recommend policy options for addressing challenges faced by consumer protection authorities in this area, and to report on its continued work to the Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set.

The IGE also adopted the **items related to consumer protection** to be included in the provisional agenda for the Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices (UN Review Conference):

[...]

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

Based on the work carried out in the past by the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPs), and the fresh mandate received by the IGE, the UNCTAD secretariat proposes the following work plan for the WGCPs for 2019-2020 until the Eighth UN Review Conference in July 2020.

1. The WGCPs recalls its working definition on **consumer products**: *“Consumer products: the category of products intended for and/or likely to be used by consumers. This category does not aim to cover food, drugs and medical devices, as these products should be*



subject to specific risk assessment and risk management in distinct regulatory frameworks.”

Required action from WGPS members: no action required

Next steps: consider this definition in all future activities of WGCPS.

2. The WGCPS could discuss language proposals and gather consensus around a Recommendation to Prevent “Dumping” of Hazardous Consumer Products for consideration of the UN Review Conference.

The United States submitted the following proposal:

“The Working Party recognizes that there are occasions when a company may seek to export a hazardous consumer product to a foreign market specifically because its hazard(s) prevent it from being sold legally in the jurisdiction where the product is located. In some cases, the product may have been the subject of an intervention by the product safety authority.

The Working Party is of the view that member states should be encouraged to prevent companies, where possible, from “dumping” hazardous products on foreign markets. To that end, the Working Party proposes to engage in the preparation of an instrument, the nature of which is to be determined, calling on member states take appropriate action, within their legal frameworks, to prevent such “dumping”.

The recommendation, if agreed by consensus at the UN Review Conference, would be attached to the Conference Resolution and may be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption.

Required action from WGPS members: decision to discuss language proposals and gather consensus

Next steps: Set a deadline for submission of proposals and comments. Set a schedule for discussions and stages in consensus-building.

3. The WGCPS could serve to conduct a Product Safety Regulatory Mapping Survey. The initiative should be led by a member State or a group of member States (Argentina volunteered in 2018). That member State or group of member States should lead the



preparation, dissemination, follow-up, collection and processing of a bespoke survey to map consumer product safety. The UNCTAD secretariat will focus on increasing answers to its [World Consumer Protection Map](#) survey, which includes a chapter on product safety. The resulting intelligence could be shared at the UN Review Conference.

Required action from WGPS members: decision to undertake mapping survey. Volunteering member(s) to lead the initiative. Definition of scope and calendar of activities.

Next steps: Set a schedule for stages in the production of the survey.

4. Organizing a round table discussion session on Improving consumer product safety around the world: Good data for good policy at the UN Review Conference, as volunteered by some WGCPs members.

WGPS volunteering members will be responsible for:

- a. Drafting a proposed concept note of the session: context, objective, desired outcome, suggested speakers (to be sent to the secretariat before 22 November 2019)
- b. Liaise with and support UNCTAD secretariat in the organization of the session
- c. Provide input for communications purposes as requested by the secretariat

Required action from WGPS members: volunteer to organize the session

Next steps: draft a concept note

Once the work plan is agreed, the secretariat will propose a calendar of meetings and deadlines for activities.

17 September, 2019.