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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minutes of Meeting</b> <b>Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, October 9, 2019</b></p>
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As decided by the Fourth session of the Intergovernmental group of experts (IGE) on consumer protection law and policy of 8 and 9 July 2019, the mandate of the Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPS) is renewed “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), in particular: *Improving consumer product safety around the world: Good data for good policy.*

The WGCPS held its fifth teleconference call on October 9, 2019 (at 8.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Geneva time). The objective of this meeting was to discuss and decide the work plan for 2019-2020, following the proposal circulated by the UNCTAD secretariat on September 17, 2019.

**The WGCPS discussed and adopted its work plan for 2019-2020:**

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

The secretariat reminded WGCPS members that any text for the consideration of the UN Review Conference should gather consensus well in advance in order to ensure a successful outcome at the Conference.

Consensus should be reached first at the technical level (within the WGCPS). Once reached, it will be necessary to raise awareness and reach consensus with diplomatic missions.

The secretariat suggests that proposals be received and shared by November 15. Further meetings will be called as needed, depending on the comments received.

The United States will send a proposal to the secretariat to be circulated for consideration of the WGCPS.



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.

Argentina will inform the secretariat whether it wishes to pursue this proposal, its scope and calendar of activities before the next meeting of the WGCPS.

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.

WGCS 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

The European Commission will submit a concept note to the secretariat on the first week of November. The secretariat will circulate it for comments of the WGCPS.

5. The European Commission and UNCTAD will organize a workshop in the framework of the International Product Safety Week 2020 that will take place in the week 27-30 October 2020. The European Commission will liaise with UNCTAD secretariat to come with proposals of the topics.

#### Other issues:

Consumers International is conducting a Consumer Product Safety international survey and invites members of the WGCPS to participate. The survey aims to gather information about national consumer protection frameworks for product safety. It also includes additional questions on online platforms' responsibility in relation to product safety and the disposal of hazardous products.

Following on from the 2018 Consumers International report that gathered the views of experts in over 100 countries, the new edition will provide insight on changes and trends in approaches to product safety and will be shared with government and business leaders to drive change. The results will also feed into an interactive safety index that has been developed by UL, a global safety science company.



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The survey needs to be completed in one sitting. The [attached link](#) provides an outline of the questions. Consumers International suggests reading it before starting, as some information may need research.

French and Spanish versions of the survey should be available on 10 October 2019.

Should you wish to participate, please complete the survey by Thursday 31 October 2019 by accessing this link:

<https://sv.ktrmr.com/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.srf?i.project=UKC311302A01&s=GEN24&id=1&chk=na&pid=auto&korsid=769D65F51F261340A8A0108452A0B7A9>

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The next meeting of the WGCPs is called for **Thursday 28 November 2019**.

9 October 2019



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<b>Working Group on Consumer Product Safety</b>		
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Meeting – List of Participants</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Lara Godden	Office for Product Safety and Standards	United Kingdom
	Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio	Colombia
Tamara Tanzi, Lisa Mena	Directorate for Consumer Defense DNDC	Argentina
Pedro Brown	Inmetro	Brazil
Manuel Carbó Martínez	DG Consumo	Spain
Eva Sinkovic, Orsolya Csorba, Myriam Denieul	European Commission	European Commission
Antonino Serra	Consumers International	
Tilven Bernal	USCPSC	United States
Deon Woods	USFTC	United States
Wendy Ledesma	Indecopi	Peru