



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

First session, 17 and 18 October 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

High-level segment: Launch of the revised United Nations guidelines for consumer protection

Monday, 17 October 2016 (10 a.m.–12 p.m.)

Palais des Nations, Room XVII (first floor)

This high-level segment will focus on the adoption of the revised United Nations guidelines for consumer protection. Panellists will review the guidelines and discuss national experiences in implementing the directives.

The revision of the guidelines has a long history. Consumers International has been advocating a comprehensive revision since the mid-1990s. Early efforts resulted in the addition of a chapter on sustainable consumption in 1999 (annex III of the guidelines). Many additional areas require revision and current projects in this regard are ongoing.

UNCTAD is the United Nations agency responsible for the guidelines. A resource manual describing UNCTAD management of the revision is available. Key participants are identified and information is provided on how Governments, intergovernmental organizations and Consumers International have been engaged in the process. In particular, the role of ad hoc expert groups is explained, including the recent formation of specific working groups to further undertake revisions. Finally, the manual indicates when further developments are expected to arise and how Consumers International proposes to influence them.

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Work programme

10–11 a.m.

Opening ceremony

Opening remarks

Mr. Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Launch of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection

- Mr. Welmer Ramos, Minister of Economy, Industry and Trade, Costa Rica
- Mr. PP Chaudhary, Minister of State, India
- Ms. Nathalie Homobono, Director General, Directorate General for Competition, Consumption and Fraud Repression, France
- Mr. Ernesto Nemer, Attorney, Office of the Federal Prosecutor for the Consumer, Mexico
- Ms. Anna Y Popova, Head, Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection, Russian Federation
- Mr. Francis Kariuki, Director General, Competition Authority, Kenya
- Mr. Hugh Stevenson, Deputy Director, Office of International Affairs, Federal Trade Commission, United States of America
- Ms. Amanda Long, Director General, Consumers International

12 p.m

General statements

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Mr. Juan Luís Crucelegui (juanluis.crucelegui@unctad.org) or Ms. Alda Sadiku (alda.sadiku@unctad.org).