



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

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

Interactive discussion: Delivering for consumers – discussion on the method of work and work programme for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

Tuesday, 18 October 2016 (10 a.m.–12 p.m.)
Palais des Nations, Room XVII (first floor)

On 22 December 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/186 on consumer protection, including the revised United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and establishment of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy to provide the international institutional machinery for the guidelines.

This session will discuss the method of work and work programme for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy from 2016 to 2020, when 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 will be held.

The note by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Method of work and work programme, 2016–2020" (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/2; available at <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1060>) provides some points that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy may wish to consider. Discussions will be followed by a session on other issues, to consider the proposal to declare 15 March as the United Nations day of world consumer rights.

To facilitate discussion, the secretariat proposes the following issues:

- (a) Should any improvement be considered of past practices of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy as proposed in chapters II and III of the note by the UNCTAD secretariat?
- (b) Which issues should be selected for studies and research in 2016–2020?
- (c) Should there be any modification to the methodology for conducting voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection as proposed in the note?

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Work programme

10–10.15 a.m.

Presentation by UNCTAD secretariat on method of work

10.15–10.45 a.m.

Moderator

Mr. Sothirachagan Sinnathurai, Commissioner, Competition Commission, Malaysia

Interactive discussion on method of work

- Functions
- United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices
- Membership and participation
- Decision-making
- Venue and side events
- Adoption of agenda, election of officers and adoption of agreed conclusions
- Resources
- Procedures and method of work
- Abstention from judgment and confidentiality

10.45–11 a.m.

Presentation by UNCTAD secretariat on work programme

Interactive discussion on work programme

- Implementation of United Nations guidelines for consumer protection
- Studies and research
- Technical assistance and capacity-building
- Reports and recommendations
- Periodic review of United Nations guidelines for consumer protection
- Contact points for United Nations guidelines for consumer protection

11.30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Interactive discussion on other issues

- World consumer rights day
- Measuring the impact of consumer protection policies and enforcement

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Ms. Teresa Moreira (teresa.moreira@unctad.org).