



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
29 April 2019

Original: English

**Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer
Protection Law and Policy**

Fourth session

Geneva, 8 and 9 July 2019

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3.
 - (a) Contribution of consumer protection to sustainable consumption;
 - (b) Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy;
 - (c) Voluntary peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Indonesia;
 - (d) Report of the working groups on consumer protection in electronic commerce and consumer product safety;
 - (e) Latest developments in legal and institutional frameworks and world consumer protection map;
 - (f) Virtual catalogue of international best practices;
 - (g) Update on the implementation of the actionable agreed conclusions of the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.
4. 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.
5. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.



II. Annotations

Item 1

Election of officers

1. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-Cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts may wish to adopt the provisional agenda contained in chapter I above.

3. It is proposed that the opening plenary meeting of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, which will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 8 July 2019, be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda) and introductory statements. The closing plenary meeting, on Tuesday, 9 July 2019, will be devoted to the adoption of the report and the provisional agenda of 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 to be held in July 2020 (items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda). In view of the short duration of the session, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur will be authorized to complete the final report after the conclusion of the session.

4. The remaining meetings, from 8 July (after the election of officers and general statements) to the afternoon of 9 July, can then be devoted to substantive items 3 (a) to 3 (g) of the provisional agenda (see annex). If necessary, the adoption of the report may be postponed until the late afternoon of 9 July in order to allow for an informal working session to be held that afternoon.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/CPLP/16

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

5. On 22 December 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/186 on consumer protection, including the revised United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and the decision to establish the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy. In accordance with the provisional agenda adopted by the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/15), the fourth session is invited to consider discussing the following issues related to the implementation of the guidelines:

- (a) Contribution of consumer protection to sustainable consumption;
- (b) Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy;
- (c) Voluntary peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Indonesia;
- (d) Report of the working groups on consumer protection in electronic commerce and consumer product safety;
- (e) Latest developments in legal and institutional frameworks and world consumer protection map;
- (f) Virtual catalogue of international best practices;

(g) Update on the implementation of the actionable agreed conclusions of the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.

6. The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/186, recommends that United Nations Member States implement the guidelines for consumer protection, and requests the UNCTAD secretariat to exchange information on progress and experiences regarding the implementation of the guidelines. According to guideline 97 (a), the Intergovernmental Group of Experts shall provide a forum and modalities for consultations, discussions and exchanges of views between Member States on matters related to the guidelines, in particular their implementation. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts will hear contributions on the implementation of the guidelines from experts and international and regional actors.

7. According to guideline 97 (c), the Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to conduct voluntary peer reviews of national consumer protection laws and policies. In accordance with the provisional agenda adopted by the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, the fourth session will consider the peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Indonesia. The report of the peer review will be made available and, to facilitate discussion, an overview will be made available in all languages (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/18; UNCTAD/DITC/CPLP/2019/1).

8. According to guideline 97 (e), the Intergovernmental Group of Experts shall provide capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in formulating and enforcing consumer protection laws and policies. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to identify practical ways to guide the secretariat in its future work, for improved capacity-building activities for interested consumer protection agencies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. To facilitate this exercise, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will have considered the note entitled "Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on competition and consumer protection law and policy" (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/19).

9. The third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts requested the UNCTAD secretariat to prepare reports and studies on the contribution of consumer protection to sustainable consumption, including with regard to how consumer protection authorities address environmental marketing claims, as well as consumer education and business guidance. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts will have considered the note entitled "Contribution of consumer protection to sustainable consumption" (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/17) and heard contributions from experts and international and regional actors, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society.

10. The third session also renewed the mandate of the working group on consumer protection in electronic commerce established by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts at its second session, to focus on misleading and unfair business practices, consumer education and business guidance and international cooperation in cross-border cases and to recommend policy options for the consumer protection authorities of member States; and requested the UNCTAD secretariat to convene a working group on consumer product safety, to highlight best practices and facilitate information exchanges and consultations, taking into account ongoing work at UNCTAD, and to report to the fourth session. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to decide on future work, following consideration of the report of these working groups, and to consider the UNCTAD secretariat report on the latest developments in legal and institutional frameworks, in particular the world consumer protection map.

11. The third session also encouraged member States to submit best practices to the UNCTAD virtual catalogue. In addition, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a follow-up report on the implementation of the actionable agreed conclusions of the session.

12. Experts are invited to make oral presentations supported by short written papers on the subjects referred to above. The papers will be made available online and in the meeting room during the consultations. Should member States wish to hold consultations on other subjects, they are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat of the subject by no later than 16 May 2019, to enable all participants to prepare for the consultations.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/CPLP/17	Contributions of consumer protection to sustainable consumption
TD/B/C.I/CPLP/18	Voluntary peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Indonesia: Overview
TD/B/C.I/CPLP/19	Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on competition and consumer protection law and policy
UNCTAD/DITC/CPLP/2019/1	Voluntary Peer Review of Consumer Protection Law and Policy: Indonesia

Item 4**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**

13. Acting in its capacity as preparatory body 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, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to agree on the provisional agenda for the Eighth Conference.

14. Following the invitation of the Seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices (TD/RBP/CONF.8/11, paragraph 13), the General Assembly decided to establish an intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (A/RES/70/186, paragraph 7). The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy has convened three times to date to discuss consumer protection law and policy and review the implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection.

15. In this context, member States may wish to agree on the issues for discussion during 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.

Item 5**Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy**

16. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts will adopt its report to the Trade and Development Commission.

Experts are requested to advise of their intention to submit papers and contributions to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible before Friday, 17 May 2019. Written papers and contributions must be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat by Friday, 1 June 2019.

For further information, please contact Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD (email: teresa.moreira@unctad.org).

Annex

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, fourth session, 8 and 9 July 2019: Provisional programme

	<i>Monday, 8 July 2019</i>	<i>Tuesday, 9 July 2019</i>
<i>Palais des Nations, building E, room XVII</i>		
10–11 a.m.	Opening plenary	Round table Contribution of consumer protection to sustainable consumption
11–11.30 a.m.	Keynote speech: Perspectives on consumer protection in the twenty-first century	
11.30 a.m.– 12 p.m.	Implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection	
12–1 p.m.	UNCTAD secretariat presentation Latest developments in legal and institutional frameworks and world consumer protection map Virtual catalogue of international best practices Update on the implementation of the actionable agreed conclusions of the third session	
3–3.30 p.m.	Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy	Report of the working groups on consumer protection in electronic commerce and consumer product safety
3–4 p.m.	Voluntary peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Indonesia	
4–6 p.m.		Closing plenary Agreed conclusions 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 Adoption of the report of the session