



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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**Trade and Development Board**  
**Trade and Development Commission**  
**Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy**  
**Second session**  
Geneva, 3–4 July 2017  
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) Report on national and regional implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection
  - (b) Legal and institutional framework for consumer protection
  - (c) The protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers
  - (d) Framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy
  - (e) Consumer protection in electronic commerce
  - (f) UNCTAD capacity-building in consumer protection
4. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
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 first plenary meeting, which will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 3 July 2017, be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda) and introductory statements. The closing plenary meeting, on Tuesday, 4 July 2017, will be devoted to the provisional agenda for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, to be held in July 2018 (item 4 of the provisional agenda), and the adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (item 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 closure of the session.

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

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/CPLP/5

Provisional agenda and annotations

## **Item 3**

5. On 22 December 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/186 on consumer protection, including the revised 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 first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (see TD/B/C.I/CPLP/4), the second session is invited to discuss various issues related to implementation of the guidelines, as follows:

- (a) Report on national and regional implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection
- (b) Legal and institutional framework for consumer protection
- (c) The protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers
- (d) Framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy
- (e) Consumer protection in electronic commerce
- (f) UNCTAD capacity-building in consumer protection

6. According to guideline 97 (g), the Intergovernmental Group of Experts is to make appropriate reports and recommendations on the consumer protection policies of member States, including the application and implementation of the guidelines. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is therefore expected to discuss different initiatives undertaken at the national and regional levels to implement the guidelines, since the adoption of the revised version in December 2015. Guideline 87 invites member States to designate a consumer protection enforcement agency or a consumer protection policy agency to act as a contact point to facilitate cooperation under the guidelines. The UNCTAD secretariat will present the results of this process to date, as well as the mapping of legal and institutional aspects of consumer protection worldwide. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to decide whether future work is necessary in this regard. In addition, one of the needs that the guidelines are intended to meet is the protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers (guideline 5 (b)). The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is invited to discuss specificities and various concrete actions taken to protect the rights of such consumers, and will be asked to decide on possible future work in this area.

7. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to give guidance to the UNCTAD secretariat on the methodology and modalities for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy. To facilitate this exercise, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will have reviewed the secretariat note entitled “Framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy” (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/6), and heard presentations by experts, as well as international and regional actors.

8. In order to frame discussions on the consumer protection aspects of electronic commerce, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will have reviewed the secretariat note entitled: “Consumer protection in electronic commerce” (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/7), and heard contributions from experts and international and regional actors, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to identify practical ways to address consumer protection concerns and provide guidance to the secretariat in its future work.

9. According to guideline 97 (e), the Intergovernmental Group of Experts is to 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 will have considered the secretariat note entitled “Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy” (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/8) as well as the UNCTAD manual on consumer protection, and is expected to identify practical ways to guide the secretariat in its future work towards improved capacity-building activities for interested consumer protection agencies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

10. Experts are invited to make an oral presentation supported by a short written paper on the subjects referred to above. The papers will be made available online during the consultations. Should countries wish to hold consultations on other subjects, they are invited to inform the secretariat of the subject by 12 May 2017, to enable all participants to prepare for the consultations.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/CPLP/6	Framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy
TD/B/C.I/CPLP/7	Consumer protection in electronic commerce
TD/B/C.I/CPLP/8	Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy

#### **Item 4**

#### **Provisional agenda for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy**

11. Acting in its capacity as preparatory body for the third session, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to agree on the provisional agenda for the next session.

#### **Item 5**

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

12. 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 by 30 May 2017. Written papers and contributions must be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat by Friday, 2 June 2017.

For further information, please contact Mr. Arnau Izaguerri, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD (arnau.izaguerri@unctad.org).

## Annex

### Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, second session, Geneva, 3–4 July 2017 Provisional programme

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	Monday, 3 July 2017	Tuesday, 4 July 2017
	Palais des Nations, building E, room XVII	
<b>10–11 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening plenary</b>	<b>Round table:</b> Consumer protection in electronic commerce
<b>11 a.m.–12 p.m.</b>	Report on national and regional implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection	
<b>12– 1 p.m.</b>	<b>UNCTAD secretariat presentation:</b> Legal and institutional framework for consumer protection	<b>UNCTAD secretariat presentation:</b> UNCTAD capacity-building in consumer protection
<b>3–4.30 p.m.</b>	<b>Round table:</b> The protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers	
<b>4.30–6 p.m.</b>	<b>Interactive session</b>  <b>UNCTAD secretariat presentation:</b> Framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy	<b>Closing plenary</b> Agreed conclusions Provisional agenda for third session Adoption of report

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