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**Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices**
Geneva, 7–11 July 2025

## Report of the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 7 to 11 July 2025

# Contents

# Introduction

The Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 7 to 11 July 2025.

# I. Action taken by the Conference

## A. Resolution A

*The Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices*,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 35/63 of 5 December 1980, adopting the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices,[1] and General Assembly resolution 39/248 of 16 April 1985, adopting the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection,[2]

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 79/195 of 19 December 2024 on international trade and development, reaffirming the fundamental role that competition and consumer protection laws, policies and enforcement can play in strong economic development and the usefulness of the Set and the guidelines, as well as the important and useful role that UNCTAD plays in this field,[3]

*Having assessed* the implementation of the Set 45 years after its adoption, and recognizing its positive contribution and the significant discussions and outcomes of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy in promoting the adoption and implementation of competition law and policy, at both the national and regional levels, worldwide, and disseminating a competition culture,

*Having assessed* the implementation of the guidelines 40 years after their adoption and 10 years since their last revision;[4] and recognizing their positive contribution and the significant discussions and outcomes of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy in promoting the adoption and implementation of consumer protection law and policy worldwide and disseminating a consumer protection culture,

*Having reviewed* the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy and recognizing its central role in addressing consumer protection and development-related issues, facilitating multilateral consultations and supporting Member States in the implementation of the guidelines,

*Reaffirming* the resolutions on strengthening the implementation of the Set and the guidelines adopted by 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]

*Recalling* the decision of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Bridgetown, 2021) in paragraphs 56, 62 and 127 (z),[6]

*Emphasizing* the importance of expanding inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all, an objective in General Assembly resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024,[7] and recognizing that advancing digital inclusion requires a predictable and transparent

[1] A/RES/35/63.
[2] A/RES/39/248.
[3] A/RES/79/195.
[4] A/RES/70/186.
[5] TD/RBP/CONF.9/9.
[6] TD/541/Add.2.
[7] A/RES/79/1.

enabling environment that encompasses policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that support innovation, protect consumer rights, nurture digital talent and skills, promote fair competition and digital entrepreneurship and enhance consumer confidence and trust in the digital economy,

*Recognizing* that effective policies that prevent trade in hazardous consumer products and fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices can improve consumer confidence and provide more favourable conditions for sustainable economic development,

*Noting with appreciation* developments in the work on consumer product safety carried out since the Eighth Conference at sessions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy and by the informal working group on consumer product safety in relation to the drafting of a resolution on consumer product safety,

*Noting with appreciation* the declaration on cross-border dispute resolution and redress for consumers, as welcomed by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy at its eighth session,[8]

*Fundamental role of competition and consumer protection laws and policies*

1. *Reaffirms* the fundamental role of competition and consumer protection laws and policies for sustainable and inclusive economic development, by promoting open, dynamic, fair and safe markets, ensuring access by consumers to essential goods and services, empowering and protecting consumers from fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices and boosting consumer education to ensure more informed choices;

2. *Encourages* Member States to strive to efficiently implement the provisions of the Set and the guidelines, given that effective application of competition and consumer protection policies is important to guarantee well-functioning markets and respect for consumer rights;

3. *Commends* the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy in providing the international institutional machinery for the implementation of the guidelines; and calls upon Member States to strengthen the work of UNCTAD in this field and request that it continue to report on its work to future Conferences;

4. *Requests* Member States to facilitate international cooperation among competition authorities and among consumer protection authorities, at both the national and regional levels, to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement against cross-border anticompetitive business practices and fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices, as directed in the Bridgetown Covenant and the document titled “Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices”, as well as the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products adopted by the Eighth Conference, assisting young and less experienced authorities of developing countries;

5. *Requests* the UNCTAD secretariat to continue to disseminate the Guiding Policies and Procedures, as well as the recommendation, and to encourage its use by Member States;

6. *Recognizes* the important contribution of competition and consumer protection laws and policies to the economic and social progress of developing countries and encourages continued support for capacity-building and peer learning, to enable these countries to fully benefit from competitive and fair markets where consumers are better protected;

*Documentation*

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the documentation prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat for the Conference;[9]

8. *Takes note with appreciation also* of Member States’ contributions to the UNCTAD secretariat background documentation and the facilitation of round tables, and of the written

[8] TD/B/C.I/CPLP/42.

[9] TD/RBP/CONF.10/1; TD/RBP/CONF.10/2; TD/RBP/CONF.10/3; TD/RBP/CONF.10/4; TD/RBP/CONF.10/5; TD/RBP/CONF.10/6.

and oral contributions from Member States and other participants that enriched the debate during the Conference;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to foster greater coordination between competition and consumer protection policies, to ensure fair, inclusive and resilient markets, recognizing that the strengthening of synergies between these frameworks leads to further economic development and consumer welfare;

*Technical cooperation: Competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks*

10. *Underscores* the vital role of UNCTAD in providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the fields of competition and consumer protection through close cooperation with beneficiary countries and by employing a multi-stakeholder approach to foster a culture of competition and consumer protection and raise awareness among consumers and businesses;

11. *Requests* UNCTAD, under its technical cooperation pillar, to:

(a) Conduct a follow-up and an impact assessment of technical cooperation activities, to improve and better adjust them to beneficiaries' needs and priorities;

(b) Further explore and develop joint and complementary work with other regional and international organizations for more effective and stronger assistance to developing countries;

(c) Continue its work in providing capacity-building in and technical assistance on competition and consumer protection laws and policies and prepare an updated review for the consideration of the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, at their twenty-third and ninth sessions, respectively;

*UNCTAD voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies*

12. *Congratulates* the Government of Angola for its voluntary peer review of consumer protection law and policy; looks forward to the successful implementation of its policy recommendations with the support of the UNCTAD secretariat; and encourages interested Member States to volunteer for future peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies, including as peer reviewers;

13. *Reflects upon* 20 years of voluntary peer reviews of competition law and policy and acknowledges their role in strengthening legal and institutional frameworks and promoting awareness and engagement with public authorities and regulators, while recognizing the persistent challenges in implementing recommendations due to limited human and financial resources;

14. *Underlines* the value of the voluntary peer reviews as a useful tool for the exchange of experiences and cooperation, at both the national and regional levels; decides that UNCTAD should undertake further peer reviews of Member States' or regional economic organizations' laws and policies; and invites Member States to assist UNCTAD on a voluntary basis by providing experts and financial resources, as national laws and policies allow, for future activities in connection with these reviews;

15. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Argentina to volunteer for a peer review of consumer protection law and policy in 2026;

*UNCTAD Model Law on Competition*

16. *Welcomes* the modernization of the commentaries on individual chapters of the Model Law on Competition, part 2, as an important guide for young competition authorities; requests the UNCTAD secretariat to continue this revision in the light of legislative and decisional developments of Member States; and encourages all Member States to complete and update this information for consideration by future sessions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, for its continued dissemination;

*UNCTAD world consumer protection map*

17. *Encourages* the continuation of the information-gathering process on the legal and institutional framework for consumer protection, in particular through the world consumer protection map; and invites all Member States to participate in completing and updating it;

*UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform on Competition and Consumer Protection*

18. *Recognizes* the useful role of this platform in strengthening UNCTAD research and policy analysis capacities and linking research findings to the technical cooperation pillar and the extensive growth of the platform, in terms of projects and participants, since its establishment in 2010;

*UNCTAD work programme support*

19. *Recommends* the continuation and strengthening of the work programme within the UNCTAD secretariat and intergovernmental machinery on competition and consumer protection law and policy issues, in active engagement with and the participation of competition and consumer protection authorities of Member States;

20. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to support the implementation of the activities outlined in this resolution and, in this respect, expresses its appreciation and gratitude to those Member States and organizations that have provided financial contributions;

21. *Invites also* other intergovernmental organizations and financing programmes and agencies to provide resources for the activities mentioned in this resolution;

*Cross-border dispute resolution and redress for consumers*

22. *Welcomes* the proposal prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on how it might assist with the objectives of the declaration on cross-border dispute resolution and redress for consumers, considering resources needed and other issues; and invites Member States in a position to do so to support its implementation;

23. *Recommends* that Member States implement policies, aligned with the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and other international instruments, aimed at establishing effective mechanisms for consumer dispute resolution and redress, particularly for cross-border cases and to foster international cooperation on this matter;

*Informal working groups of the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and on Consumer Protection Law and Policy*

24. *Commends* the significant contributions of the informal working group on cross-border cartels, established by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, and the informal working groups on consumer product safety, consumer protection in electronic commerce and consumer protection and gender, established by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy; and acknowledges with appreciation the reports presented at the Ninth Conference;

25. *Reaffirms* the strong commitment to pursuing discussions on case studies and national and regional experiences, sharing knowledge and improving international cooperation in the respective areas of the informal working groups, subject to the availability of resources; and encourages Member States and relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of their activities;

*Informal consultations for future sessions of the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts*

26. *Reaffirms* that future sessions of the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and on Consumer Protection Law and Policy should include four clusters of issues for informal consultations, namely:

(a) Competition and consumer protection policies' contribution to the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development;

(b) The role of competition and consumer protection and product safety policies with regard to electronic commerce and digital markets, including artificial intelligence technologies;

(c) Impact assessments of competition and consumer protection policies in developing countries;

(d) International cooperation between competition authorities and between consumer protection agencies, at both the national and regional levels, against cross-border anticompetitive practices and deceptive and fraudulent commercial practices;

27. *Requests* the UNCTAD secretariat to prepare reports and studies as background documentation on the following topics for proposed informal consultations during the twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy:

(a) Impact assessment and dissemination of the benefits of competition law and policy for developing countries (background note);

(b) Competition in food global value chains;

28. *Requests* the UNCTAD secretariat to prepare reports and studies as background documentation on the following topics for proposed informal consultations during the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy:

(a) Enforcement of consumer protection law in global markets, including digital tools and cross-border considerations (background note);

(b) Innovation in consumer information and education, including to promote sustainable consumption;

*World competition day*

29. *Welcomes with appreciation* the proposal from the Government of Kenya for the recognition of 5 December as world competition day; and encourages Member States to pursue consultations on this issue leading up to the twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy;

*Further review of the Set and the guidelines*

30. *Recommends* that the General Assembly rename the United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices as the United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection;

31. *Recommends* that the General Assembly convene a Tenth United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection, to be held under the auspices of UNCTAD in 2030.

*Closing plenary meeting*
*11 July 2025*

## B. Resolution B

*The Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices,*

*Noting with appreciation* the work on consumer product safety carried out since 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 at sessions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy and by the informal working group on consumer product safety in relation to the drafting of a resolution on consumer product safety,

*Consumer product safety*

*Invites* the General Assembly, at its eightieth session in 2025, to consider the adoption of the draft resolution on consumer product safety as annexed to the present resolution;[10]

*Requests* the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD to take note of the draft resolution on consumer product safety as annexed to the present resolution.

*Closing plenary meeting*
*11 July 2025*

## C. Other action taken by the Conference

1. At its closing plenary meeting, on 11 July 2025, the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices adopted a resolution as contained in a non-paper dated 11 July 2025 (see chapter I, section A).

2. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Conference adopted a draft resolution on consumer product safety, as contained in a non-paper dated 11 July 2025 (see chapter I, section B).

3. Also at the closing plenary meeting, one delegate presented a proposal on declaring 5 December as world competition day, to promote awareness, advocacy and cooperation. Several delegates expressed support, and several delegates requested further consultations. The Conference welcomed the proposal and encouraged Member States to purse consultations (see chapter I, section A).

4. At an informal session, on 11 July 2025, the secretariat provided an update on commentaries on chapters of the Model Law on Competition, part 2. Following a presentation by a speaker from Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, two delegates emphasized the need to modernize the model, to incorporate digitalization and value chain complexities, and the need to transform the document into an interactive tool, and offered support in this regard. The Conference welcomed the modernization and encouraged Member States to complete and update the relevant information (see chapter I, section A).

# II. President's summary

## A. Opening plenary meeting

5. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and a keynote speaker from University College London made opening statements.

6. The Deputy Secretary-General highlighted concentration in food and digital markets. He underlined the need for fairness, transparency and competition and consumer protection laws and policies, within a coherent framework of national policies, to close the digital and gender-related divides in the digital economy. He stated that international cooperation continued to be critical in ensuring open, safe, inclusive and competitive markets.

7. The keynote speaker emphasized the need to develop a solutions-oriented agile global competition law system and productive linkages with other public policies, as well as the ability of different competition regimes to connect, to enable exchanges of information. He noted the need for new cooperation forms with greater flexibility and consortiums between like-minded competition authorities, to address common problems.

8. The following representatives made statements: Mauritius; Gambia; Portugal; Burkina Faso; Islamic Republic of Iran; South Sudan; Syria Arab Republic; Congo; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); Guatemala; El Salvador; United Republic of Tanzania; Brazil; Jamaica; Paraguay; Costa Rica; and Zimbabwe. Several delegates shared

[10] See TD/RBP/CONF.10/7, annex I.

achievements, goals and challenges in developing competition legislation and enforcement and commended ongoing work by UNCTAD in the areas of competition and consumer protection law and policy.

## B. Report on the implementation of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, including a brief assessment of 20 years of voluntary peer reviews of competition law and policy

(Agenda item 6)

9. The secretariat presented a background document (TD/RBP/CONF.10/2), followed by presentations from two panellists representing competition authorities from Kenya and Portugal, as well as one panellist from ESSEC [École supérieure des sciences économiques et commerciales] Business School, France, and a special address from the Deputy Head, Federal Antimonopoly Service, Russian Federation.

10. The panellists provided an overview of global competition law trends since 2020, noting that momentum from the Set remained strong, with ongoing refinement and adaptation worldwide; stressed the importance of international cooperation in ensuring fair, innovative and competitive markets; and shared recommendations on institutionalized follow-up mechanisms, annual sector-specific reviews, support for developing countries and mentorship-based cooperation.

11. In his address, the Deputy Head emphasized the impact of the Set on developing national competition legislation, particularly in developing countries. He expressed support for the informal working group on cross-border cartels and noted the need to create mechanisms for deeper international cooperation, to address market concentration, global mergers and cartels.

## C. Report on the implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and of the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

(Agenda item 7)

12. The secretariat noted a background document (TD/RBP/CONF.10/3), followed by presentations from the keynote speaker, Director-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission; two representatives from the Governments of Costa Rica and Egypt; and two panellists representing consumer protection authorities from the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

13. The keynote speaker stressed the need to adapt consumer protection to the digital age, enhancing consumer protection that benefited both consumers and businesses. She endorsed multilateral cooperation and the draft resolution on product safety, highlighting the key role of UNCTAD in promoting best practices in enforcement, consumer redress and high consumer protection standards globally.

14. The panellists discussed the importance of aligning with the United Nations guidelines in achieving food security, smart regulation, the use of digital tools and international partnerships; highlighted consumer education and empowerment, institutional strengthening, access to dispute settlement mechanisms and electronic commerce (e-commerce) and sustainability as areas in which the guidelines had been influential; stressed the need to enhance consumer protection in e-commerce using digital tools in oversight, increased data protection and by protecting vulnerable consumers; and presented national initiatives in line with the guidelines in the areas of dispute resolution and consumer safety, used to resolve over 700 international consumer disputes in the last five years. The panellists commended the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy in safeguarding consumer rights and highlighted international cooperation as key in strengthening institutional, technical and normative capacities.

## D. Latest developments in legal and institutional frameworks: UNCTAD world consumer protection map

(Agenda item 8)

15. The secretariat provided an update of UNCTAD work in this area, noting that, to date, 113 countries had joined the world consumer protection map, including, most recently, Cabo Verde, Georgia and Zimbabwe.

## E. Maximizing synergies between competition and consumer protection policies

(Agenda item 9)

16. The secretariat presented a background document (TD/RBP/CONF.10/4), followed by presentations from five panellists representing competition authorities from Georgia, Italy, Kenya, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and two panellists from the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States and the University of Brasília.

17. The panellists highlighted the following: the need to design new regulations that considered both policy areas; legal reforms, institutional strategy development and integrated enforcement as key tools in delivering balanced and comprehensive outcomes; successful synergies in sectors such as energy and banking, supported by structured internal coordination, joint training and cooperation; the benefits of commitment decisions, consumer education and market monitoring; the importance of international cooperation and integrated enforcement frameworks regarding digital markets; education, inter-agency coordination, grass-roots initiatives and proactive investigations in essential sectors; and the role of UNCTAD in supporting regional legal reforms, capacity-building, awareness-raising and institutional development.

18. Several delegates underscored the importance of cooperation between competition and consumer protection authorities.

## F. Competition law and policy and food global value chains

(Agenda item 10)

19. The secretariat introduced the item, followed by presentations from four panellists representing competition authorities from Austria, Greece, Morocco and South Africa; and two panellists from the BRICS [Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China, South Africa] Competition Law and Policy Centre and New York University School of Law. The discussion was moderated by a representative from Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, Belgium.

20. The secretariat detailed the increasing concentration in fertilizer and seed markets driven by global mergers and high entry barriers, with many developing countries dependent on imported inputs, making them vulnerable to trade-related disruptions and price spikes, and noting that competition policy needed to be data-driven, to safeguard affordability and resilience; in addition, financialization in food trading was a concern, with a handful of opaque traders acting as systemic financial intermediaries, and regulation remained fragmented across competition, commodities and finance.

21. The panellists highlighted the impact of price monitoring reports, as an effective advocacy tool in correcting inflated food prices, and the need for cooperative enforcement to address global consolidation by commodity traders; recommended price transparency in wholesale fresh produce markets, reducing intermediary numbers and enabling farmer-to-consumer sales; referred to market concentration and vertical integration in the retail sector, translating into higher food prices, with retailers moving upstream and acquiring suppliers and traders moving downstream and making their own products; underlined the deterrent effect of competition investigations in food markets and the need for interdisciplinary cooperation, integrating behavioural economics, nutrition and environmental and competition-related policy; noted the power of dominant firms in the global grain trade; and

stated that price surges often stemmed from market concentration, global mergers and State restraints, requiring cross-border market studies and the revisiting of merger regimes.

22. The panellists and one delegate underscored the need for data-sharing, to analyse the effects of cross-border mergers and price formation, and access to data collected by large agribusiness companies; and granting waivers that allowed for information exchanges. A few delegates and one civil society representative highlighted the use of market studies to address food inflation; competitive neutrality; the food price index; tariff reductions; and the use of food imports to ensure a sufficient supply.

## G. Investigative techniques and digital tools in a modern enforcement world

(Agenda item 11)

23. The secretariat introduced the item, followed by presentations from six panellists representing competition authorities from China, Colombia, France, Japan, Mexico, Spain and the European Commission.

24. The panellists emphasized the importance of data and the potential of the use of artificial intelligence to uncover algorithmic collusion, urging newer agencies to invest in data infrastructure; proposed greater collaboration among competition authorities through joint tool development and data standardization, to enhance efficiency and reduce costs; stressed the importance of staff training, inter-agency collaboration and international partnerships, to strengthen digital investigations; addressed the use of scraping, application programming interfaces and targeted artificial intelligence, supported by close collaboration between data scientists and legal experts; and discussed human oversight and artificial intelligence literacy and governance, noting the need for shared audit tools and international cooperation, to close gaps and unify global standards, helping younger agencies to build digital enforcement capacity.

25. Several delegates shared experiences in digital enforcement, integrating artificial intelligence and data analytics.

## H. Protecting and empowering consumers in the circular economy

(Agenda item 12)

26. The secretariat introduced the item, followed by presentations from two panellists representing consumer protection authorities from Chile and Sweden; and three panellists from Consumer Unity and Trust Society International, the International Chamber of Commerce and the United Nations Environment Programme.

27. The panellists discussed legal interpretation updates, consumer education workshops, nationwide surveys and strategic studies; highlighted tax incentives for repair services, public–private partnerships, youth-targeted education campaigns, digital labelling tools and European Union legislation on eco-designs and the right to repair as game changers; noted the need for international harmonization through digital product passports and multilateral environmental agreements, as well as coordinated science-policy action across Governments, businesses and civil society; and stressed the need for global standards, reverse logistics and detoxification systems, as well as equity-focused circularity, clear product labelling and enhanced South–South collaboration.

28. One delegate noted the lack of dedicated circular economy legislation. One civil society representative emphasized the need for enforceable transparency rules and locally adapted tools.

## I. Safeguarding and empowering consumers in the age of artificial intelligence

(Agenda item 13)

29. The secretariat introduced the item, followed by presentations from three panellists representing consumer protection authorities from El Salvador, Poland and Thailand; and three panellists from Consumers International, the International Organization for Standardization and the International Telecommunication Union.

30. The panellists discussed how agencies used artificial intelligence in strengthening data management, enforcement and consumer empowerment; underlined that the priority was to ensure that the use of artificial intelligence tools empowered and protected consumers and was effective and responsible, with human oversight for cybersecurity and data protection; noted multi-stakeholder artificial intelligence observatories and early warning systems; addressed institutional capacity and standards for inclusive, accountable and effective consumer protection; and suggested building global partnerships for artificial intelligence governance, bringing benefits to local communities and supporting consumer advocates.

31. Several delegates stressed the importance of understanding the risks of artificial intelligence regarding consumers and competition and data protection; financial and human resources for consumer protection agencies; human oversight; guidelines for artificial intelligence governance, regional harmonization and capacity-building; digital inclusion and international cooperation; and future-proofing artificial intelligence. One panellist noted the need for UNCTAD assistance in developing international best practices, to ensure that artificial intelligence was designed ethically and effectively. Another panellist proposed that the International Organization for Standardization could join efforts with UNCTAD in defining and promoting digital consumer rights, namely through global guidelines.

## J. Report on the implementation of the guiding policies and procedures under section F of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

(Agenda item 14)

32. The secretariat introduced the item, followed by a presentation from one panellist representing the competition authority of the Russian Federation.

33. One delegate underlined the usefulness of the guiding policies and the need for improved cooperation mechanisms and clearer guidance in investigative cooperation.

## K. Reports of the informal working groups on: (a) Cross-border cartels; (b) Consumer product safety; (c) Consumer protection in electronic commerce; (d) Consumer protection and gender

(Agenda item 15)

34. The secretariat reported on the work of the informal working group on cross-border cartels. One delegate representing the competition authority of the Russian Federation and one discussant from Queen’s University Belfast, United Kingdom, emphasized the usefulness of the group in building informal, trust-based cooperation. Delegates expressed support for the continuation of the group.

35. The secretariat reported on the work of the other three informal working groups and proposed the suspension of all of the groups pending the availability of additional resources, urging member States to support UNCTAD, including through voluntary contributions and the secondment of experts.

36. The secretariat presented the draft resolution on consumer product safety sponsored by Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, South Africa, Spain and Sweden, followed by presentations from representatives from the Governments of Brazil, Costa Rica, South Africa, Spain and Sweden and from the European Commission. The speakers emphasized that the resolution addressed

urgent risks related to unsafe products and provided structured principles for action, as well as the need for enhanced international cooperation to address such risks; expressed support for the principles of the resolution, which affirmed universal consumer rights, supplier responsibility, robust public authority roles and effective cross-border recall mechanisms; stated that the resolution would promote a product safety culture, strengthen product standards, hold manufacturers accountable, reduce public health costs, protect vulnerable populations and facilitate technical assistance; noted that the resolution fostered international cooperation through alert and recall systems; and emphasized the importance of the resolution in guiding countries in developing effective product safety frameworks, business obligations, enforcement powers and consumer rights. Several delegates and civil society representatives expressed support for the resolution, which was submitted to the Conference for adoption (see chapter I, section B).

## L. Proposals for the implementation of the declaration on cross-border consumer dispute resolution and redress

(Agenda item 16)

37. The secretariat presented a proposal. A panel comprised of representatives from the Governments of the Dominican Republic and India emphasized the need for a global online dispute resolution system built on trust, technology, timeliness and transparency, with UNCTAD playing a central role in coordination and standard-setting, and proposed building a cross-border dispute resolution network, a model online platform and a system for continuous evaluation and adaptation.

38. Several delegates and a few civil society representatives expressed support for the proposal; noted concerns regarding applicable legal systems, funding mechanisms and the need for integration with national consumer protection frameworks; and emphasized that consumers should not bear the financial burden and the need for platform impartiality and safeguards against algorithmic biases and conflicts of interest.

## M. Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection and competition law and policy

(Agenda item 17)

39. The secretariat presented a background document (TD/RBP/CONF.10/5), followed by presentations from representatives from the Governments of Albania, Armenia, Cabo Verde, the Congo and Paraguay; and one panellist from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

40. The panellists discussed UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in the countries and the close collaboration in the Arab region between UNCTAD and Commission, leading to peer-to-peer exchanges, legal reform, institutional upgrades and network development.

## N. Voluntary peer review of consumer protection law and policy: Angola

(Agenda item 19)

41. The Deputy Director General, National Institute for Consumer Protection, Angola, opened the discussion. A consultant presented the recommendations of the voluntary peer review (TD/RBP/CONF.10/6), aimed at ensuring that the legal and institutional consumer protection frameworks of Angola were in line with international best practices.

42. Two representatives from the Consumer Directorate-General, Portugal; the Acting Commissioner, National Consumer Commission, South Africa; and a professor, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, acted as peer reviewers. The reviewers asked questions concerning updating complaint procedures and National Institute for Consumer Protection statutes, strengthening consumer rights in e-commerce and increasing collaboration, as well as legislation on essential services. The reviewers emphasized the importance of collaboration between the Institute and local, national, regional and

international stakeholders; consumer education; and the codification of consumer protection rules helping to unify national courts and consumer protection agencies.

43. The secretariat presented a technical assistance project on implementing the peer review recommendations.

### O. Other sessions

44. At an informal session, on 8 July 2025, on competition and regional economic organizations, panellists from the General Authority for Competition, Saudi Arabia, the Directorate-General for Competition, European Commission, the Competition Commission, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Eurasian Economic Commission thanked UNCTAD for supporting regional cooperation and requested that this issue be included in annual meetings and the Conference resolution; noted the need for continued dialogue, the sharing of best practices and cooperation among regional competition networks; underscored regional cooperation through sectoral studies, research working groups and case-handler workshops; and highlighted the European Competition Network as a successful model in regional enforcement, information-sharing and the promotion of a competition culture.

45. At an informal session, on 9 July 2025, on recent developments in digital markets, the secretariat provided updates, including as detailed in the July edition of the UNCTAD Global Trade Update, followed by presentations from three panellists representing competition authorities from Brazil, China and Uzbekistan and one panellist from University College London. The panellists noted the need for enhanced international cooperation, to regulate dominant digital platforms and artificial intelligence; a global initiative for a fair digital economy; analysing economic evidence, prior to regulating digital markets; and strengthened regulation, by revising competition laws and engaging in international cooperation; and discussed the digitalization of healthcare services by online platforms, access to personal health data and the competition risks involved. Several delegates emphasized the need for collaborative policies, data governance, enforcement and guidelines, towards a fair, safe and inclusive digital economy.

46. At the closing plenary meeting, on 11 July 2025, remarks were delivered by the Secretary-General, UNCTAD; the Minister of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030, Spain; and a representative from the Competition Authority, France.

## III. Organizational matters

### A. Opening of the Conference
(Agenda item 1)

47. The Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices was opened on 7 July 2025 by the Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD.

### B. Election of the president and other officers
(Agenda item 2)

48. At its opening plenary meeting, the Conference elected Ms. Clara Delgado Jesus (Cabo Verde) President of the Conference.

49. The Conference elected four Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur to serve on the Bureau of the Conference at its ninth session. Accordingly, the elected Bureau was as follows:

*President*: Ms. Clara Delgado Jesus (Cabo Verde)

*Vice-Presidents:* Mr. Fernando Blanco Muiño (Argentina)

Mr. Mahmoud Momtaz (Egypt)

Mr. Irakli Lekvinadze (Georgia)

Mr. Michael Aguinaldo (Philippines)

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Martyna Derszniak (Poland)

50. Following established practice, the Conference agreed that the regional coordinators would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau of the Conference.

## C. Adoption of the rules of procedure
(Agenda item 3)

51. Also at its opening plenary meeting, the Conference adopted the rules of procedure for the session contained in TD/RBP/CONF.7/9.

## D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the Conference
(Agenda item 4)

52. Also at its opening plenary meeting, the Conference adopted the provisional agenda of the session contained in TD/RBP/CONF.10/1 (see annex II). One amendment was required since a voluntary peer review of competition law and policy had not been carried out.

## E. Credentials of the representatives to the Conference: (a) Appointment of a credentials committee; (b) Report of the credentials committee
(Agenda item 5)

53. Also at its opening plenary meeting, pursuant to rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference appointed a Credentials Committee to examine the credentials of representatives, with the following membership: Cabo Verde; Chile; China; Ecuador; Egypt; Indonesia; Russian Federation; Slovenia; and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

54. At its closing plenary meeting, on 11 July 2025, the President informed participants that the credentials of States participating in the Conference were found to be in due and proper form.

## F. Provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
(Agenda item 19)

55. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Conference approved the provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy (see annex III).

## G. Provisional agenda of the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
(Agenda item 20)

56. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Conference approved the provisional agenda of the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy (see annex IV).

## H. Other business
(Agenda item 21)

57. No other business was proposed.

## I. Adoption of the report of the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

(Agenda item 22)

58. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Conference authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report on its ninth session.

# Annex I

## Draft resolution on consumer product safety

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* Resolution 70/186 of 22 December 2015 on consumer protection, adopting the revised United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, setting out the main characteristics of effective consumer protection legislation, enforcement institutions and redress systems,

*Taking note* of the mandate entrusted to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fifteenth session in the Bridgetown Covenant,[11] to continue to assist developing countries to formulate and implement competition and consumer protection policies and laws, facilitate cooperation among competition and consumer protection agencies, conduct peer reviews and foster the exchange of knowledge and best practices, including through multilateral forums, such as the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, and by contributing to the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, and of the revised United Nations guidelines for consumer protection,

*Affirming* the right of all consumers to have access to safe products and the need to provide consumers, including those in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations, with a high level of protection against unsafe products both online and offline, particularly in countries with less developed product safety frameworks,

*Affirming* that products offered to consumers should not pose an unreasonable risk to the health or safety of consumers, in reasonably normal or foreseeable use or misuse,

*Recognizing* the need to tackle emerging challenges in cross-border consumer protection enforcement arising from the evolving online environment,

*Reaffirming* that measures to ensure the health and safety of consumers should not create unnecessary obstacles to trade or be more trade restrictive than necessary, consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization,

*Recalling* that the World Health Organization defines “health” as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity,

*Recognizing* that consumers often face imbalances in economic terms, educational levels and bargaining power, and may find themselves vulnerable to unsafe products,

*Reaffirming* that product safety contributes to building trust in economic operators and markets and reduces costs to society associated with injuries, ill health, deaths and property loss, and thereby contributes to economic development,

*Recognizing* that product safety plays a critical role in sustainable consumption, that sustainable products should also be safe, conscious of the role which the circular economy will play in addressing environmental, climate and biodiversity challenges; and recognizing the interlinkages between health, safety and environmental risks,

*Affirming* the importance of setting general product safety principles, to assist all Member States with formulating and enforcing domestic and regional product safety frameworks including policies, laws, rules and regulations, among others,

*Recognizing* the importance of building local, national, regional and international cooperation in the area of product safety,

*Having regard* to the recommendation on preventing the cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer products adopted by the Eighth United Nations Conference to

[11] TD/541/Add.2.

Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, which encourages Member States to pursue policies, consistent with World Trade Organization obligations, aimed at preventing the cross-border distribution of consumer products known in their own jurisdiction to be unsafe,

*Recognizing* the informal working group on consumer product safety, established at the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, aimed at strengthening consumer product safety frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, to protect consumers from hazards to their health, and on recommending policy options for addressing challenges faced by consumer protection authorities in this area,

*Noting* that the informal working group has focused its efforts on "consumer products," understood to mean the category of products intended for and/or likely to be used by consumers, excluding food, drugs and medical devices, as these products are often subject to particular risk assessment and risk management in distinct regulatory frameworks,

1. *Decides* to adopt the United Nations principles for consumer product safety annexed to the present resolution, of which it forms an integral part;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate the principles to Member States and other interested parties;

3. *Recommends* that Member States implement this resolution and the principles, as set out in the annex;

4. *Requests* all organizations of the United Nations system that elaborate United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and related documents on particular areas relevant to consumer product safety to distribute them to the appropriate bodies of individual States;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development secretariat to exchange information on progress and experiences regarding the implementation of this resolution, review that information and report to the General Assembly on this subject on the occasion of the Tenth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the United Nations Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices;

6. *Further requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to promote the United Nations principles for consumer product safety and to encourage interested Member States to create awareness of the many ways in which Member States, businesses and civil society can promote consumer product safety in the provision of public and private goods and services;

7. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy to incorporate the United Nations principles for consumer product safety into its regular programme of work, in addition to the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, to devote a standing agenda item to their implementation and to prepare reports and documentation as appropriate.

## Annex
## United Nations principles for consumer product safety

### *I. General principles for the safety of products on the market*

1. All products offered to consumers, whether online or offline, new, used, repaired or reconditioned, in reasonably normal or foreseeable use or foreseeable misuse, are safe.

2. Businesses have the primary responsibility to ensure that products they make available to consumers are safe.

3. Businesses take safety into account in the design, quality assurance, production and supply of consumer products throughout their entire life cycle.

*II. Product safety regulation and standards*

4. Member States should empower the relevant authorities responsible for product safety to develop laws, rules, regulations and policies, participate in and encourage the development of standards and consider existing standards, for the safety of products.

5. Member States should develop policies to strengthen product safety online, engaging actors involved in the online sales of products, including online marketplaces, by ensuring that they implement appropriate measures to enhance consumer product safety.

6. Member States should formulate or promote the development and implementation of standards for the safety of products at the regional and international levels.

7. The fact that a product formally complied with product safety requirements should not preclude the relevant authorities responsible for product safety from taking all appropriate corrective measures where there is evidence that the product is unsafe.

8. Member States should perform outreach activities to industry regarding applicable product safety requirements to help businesses comply with product safety requirements.

9. Member States should encourage the availability of testing and certification facilities, including at the bilateral and regional levels.

10. Instruments laying down mandatory product safety requirements should be readily available to the public.

*III. Responsibilities of relevant authorities responsible for product safety*

11. Member States should empower the relevant authorities responsible for product safety to investigate and take action against unsafe products and the businesses in the supply chain that bring them to market. These powers may include the following:

(a) Mandate businesses to report to the relevant authorities responsible for product safety incidents associated with a product they have made available to consumers, without undue delay from the moment they become aware of the incident;

(b) Request businesses to notify the relevant authorities responsible for product safety of any unsafe product they have made available to consumers, without undue delay from the moment they know about the risk. Product safety incidents and regulatory notifications should be documented, including the time of awareness and the time of notification;

(c) Require businesses to provide in their reports and notifications to the relevant authorities responsible for product safety complete information with respect to the safety aspects, including potential risks, and to the supply chain of their products;

(d) Order businesses to take certain measures, such as those enumerated in section VI on corrective measures, in relation to a product presenting a danger to consumers' health and safety;

(e) Receive and process complaints in relation to a product presenting a danger from businesses, consumers, consumer groups, civil society and other government authorities;

(f) Investigate and take action to stop the sale and distribution of products presenting a danger to consumers' health and safety in online marketplaces;

(g) Any other power deemed necessary for the effective protection of consumers from unsafe products.

12. Member States should make publicly available and disseminate as widely as possible the contact details of the relevant authorities responsible for product safety.

13. Member States are encouraged to use existing platforms or develop systems for the timely communication of product safety alerts between the relevant authorities responsible for product safety, at the national, regional and/or international levels, to disseminate and exchange information to stakeholders.

14. Member States are encouraged to explore the use of new technologies for the enforcement of product safety requirements in their markets, keeping in mind that such technologies should be strictly delineated, contain safeguards for the protection of consumer rights and be used in a strictly proportionate manner.

15. Member States should adopt systematic procedures for risk identification, assessment and management.

## *IV. Product risk identification*

16. To identify risks, Member States should collect data, where available, from:

(a) Consumer and business complaints made to the relevant authorities responsible for product safety;

(b) Reports of death, serious injury or illness;

(c) Recalls and other corrective measures notified by businesses;

(d) Market surveillance activities to identify non-compliant or unsafe products;

(e) Information from other domestic and international regulators;

(f) Networks of consumer, business, government and other organizations;

(g) Media monitoring of news sources and other government or organization publications and media statements;

(h) Consumer product reviews.

## *V. Risk assessment and management*

17. When assessing the safety of a product and determining how to manage risk, the following elements may be taken into account:

(a) The characteristics of the product, in particular its design, features, composition, packaging and, where applicable, instructions for assembly, installation, use and maintenance;

(b) The presentation and marketing of the product, the labelling, including suitability by age, any warnings and instructions for its safe use and disposal and any other indications or information regarding the product;

(c) The types of consumers using the product, in particular consumers in vulnerable situations such as children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and taking into account the diversity of consumers;

(d) In addition, the following elements may be taken into account, when appropriate:

(i) The compliance of the product, whether in its final form or its manufacturing components, with the international specifications and/or standards applicable to Member States;

(ii) Other environmental considerations with an impact on the safety of products;

(iii) The number of products on the market, their location and the conditions in which they may be used.

## *VI. Corrective measures*

18. Where a product made available to consumers appears to be unsafe, businesses should take appropriate and timely corrective measures to ensure that the product no longer poses a risk and coordinate with the relevant authority in this regard.

19. In cases where businesses do not act upon an unsafe product or the corrective measures taken by them are considered unsatisfactory by the relevant authority responsible

for product safety, such an authority should have the power to order corrective measures to ensure that the product no longer poses a risk.

20. Measures, adopted by businesses or ordered by the relevant authority responsible for product safety, may include one or more of the following, whichever is most appropriate to the risk presented:

(a) Notification of consumers of the risks in an accessible, accurate, clear and efficient manner;

(b) Marking of the product with appropriate warnings of the risk or warning consumers of the risk;

(c) The prompt withdrawal of the product from the market;

(d) A recall of the product from consumers;

(e) The destruction of the product;

(f) The removal of the product listing by online marketplaces;

(g) Product repair if possible and allowed by relevant legislation, particularly when the risk relates to a part of the product.

21. In addition to the measures mentioned above, the relevant authority responsible for product safety may order the following measures:

(a) An order making the marketing of the product subject to prior conditions;

(b) A ban on the supply, offer to supply, display or export of the product;

(c) A rejection of the importation of the product at a national border;

(d) Take-down and stay-down orders to stop the sale and distribution of products presenting a danger to consumers' health and safety in online marketplaces;

(e) Any other measure ensuring that the product no longer poses a risk to consumers.

22. In the event of a product safety recall, initiated by a business or ordered by the relevant authority responsible for product safety, the business responsible for the product safety recall should offer an effective, cost-free and timely remedy, such as repair, replacement or an adequate refund of the recalled product, to the consumer.

## *VII. Information to consumers by relevant authorities responsible for product safety and by businesses*

23. Member States should develop a system to effectively and in a timely fashion communicate recalls and information on unsafe products, enabling consumers to identify the product and understand the nature of the risk and the measures taken. Member States should involve stakeholders in disseminating product safety information.

24. Member States should provide consumers with a channel to reach out to the relevant authorities responsible for product safety on questions related to product safety matters or to report safety issues.

25. Businesses should provide consumers with information on the safe use of their products in a clear and accessible way, taking into account the widest possible range of consumers and paying particular attention to the needs of the vulnerable and disadvantaged. Such information on the safe use of products should equally be provided for online offers.

26. To address sustainability and circular economy considerations, businesses should freely distribute and make available user manuals pertinent to the safe use of products to any interested party, including in electronic format or in another format adequate to consumers' needs.

27. Businesses should provide consumers with channels through which to report product safety issues and incidents.

28. Businesses should clearly inform consumers of actions to take when a product which they have placed on the market presents a danger to consumers' health and safety or after an incident has occurred linked to the use of the product.

29. When a product is recalled, businesses should use information at their disposal to directly contact consumers affected by the recall. In addition, businesses should disseminate the recall notice as widely as possible via various media.

30. Member States should, and businesses are encouraged to, develop, as appropriate, consumer education and awareness-raising programmes on product safety, disseminating them through effective channels of communication.

*VIII. Cooperation between businesses and relevant authorities responsible for product safety*

31. Businesses should cooperate with the relevant authorities responsible for product safety regarding actions to eliminate or mitigate risks that are presented by the products that they have made available on the market.

32. Member States should facilitate and monitor the recall process, for example, by assisting businesses with recall notice language.

33. Member States should support voluntary initiatives by businesses, going beyond the legal obligations in place, to improve the safety of products.

34. Member States should foster opportunities to bring all stakeholders together, including business organizations, consumer organizations and the relevant authorities responsible for product safety, to discuss product safety issues. They should share data on risks, update on safety guidelines and coordinate joint responses to safety concerns.

35. Businesses should implement equivalent levels of consumer product safety irrespective of the country in which they operate.

*IX. International cooperation*

36. In order to improve the overall level of safety of products, Member States should cooperate at the bilateral, regional and international levels, including through the use of communications systems enabling the rapid sharing of information on unsafe products found in their markets. Such tools should enable communications about an unsafe product found in the market of a Member State to the relevant authorities responsible for product safety of other Member States and include essential information such as the identification of the product, the nature of the risk and the corrective measures taken.

37. Where an unsafe product is found in the market of one Member State and appears to be originating from or to be available in the market of another Member State, Member States should cooperate and exchange information on the product in question, as well as enhance coordination on corrective measures, following a general principle of good cooperation, and in accordance with their national laws.

38. Member States should collaborate in setting up the joint use of testing facilities, common testing procedures and the mutual recognition of test results.

# Annex II

## Agenda of the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the president and other officers.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the Conference.
5. Credentials of the representatives to the Conference:
   (a) Appointment of a credentials committee;
   (b) Report of the credentials committee.
6. Report on the implementation of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, including a brief assessment of 20 years of voluntary peer reviews of competition law and policy.
7. Report on the implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and of the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.
8. Latest developments in legal and institutional frameworks: UNCTAD world consumer protection map.
9. Maximizing synergies between competition and consumer protection policies.
10. Competition law and policy and food global value chains.
11. Investigative techniques and digital tools in a modern enforcement world.
12. Protecting and empowering consumers in the circular economy.
13. Safeguarding and empowering consumers in the age of artificial intelligence.
14. Report on the implementation of the guiding policies and procedures under section F of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices.
15. Reports of the informal working groups on:
   (a) Cross-border cartels;
   (b) Consumer product safety;
   (c) Consumer protection in electronic commerce;
   (d) Consumer protection and gender.
16. Proposals for the implementation of the declaration on cross-border consumer dispute resolution and redress.
17. Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection and competition law and policy.
18. Voluntary peer review of consumer protection law and policy.
19. Provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy.
20. Provisional agenda of the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.

21. Other business.

22. Adoption of the report of the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices.

# Annex III

## Provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report on the implementation of the guiding policies and procedures under section F of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices.
4. Impact assessment and dissemination of the benefits of competition law and policy for developing countries.
5. Round table on competition in food global value chains.
6. Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy of a member State.[12]
7. Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on competition law and policy.
8. Provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy.
9. Adoption of the report of the twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy.

[12] To be determined.

# Annex IV

## Provisional agenda of the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report on the implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection by member States and relevant stakeholders.
4. Latest developments in legal and institutional frameworks: UNCTAD world consumer protection map.
5. Launch of the United Nations principles for consumer product safety.
6. Enforcement of consumer protection law in global markets, including digital tools and cross-border considerations.
7. Round table on innovation in consumer information and education, including to promote sustainable consumption.
8. Voluntary peer review of consumer protection law and policy: Argentina.
9. Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy.
10. Provisional agenda of the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.
11. Adoption of the report of the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.

# Annex V

[English only]

## Attendance*

1. The following States attended the Conference:

Albania
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cabo Verde
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Czechia
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Fiji
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Latvia
Lebanon
Libya
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mauritius
Morocco
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Singapore
Slovenia
South Africa
South Sudan
Spain
State of Palestine
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Türkiye
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Zambia
Zimbabwe

2. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the Conference:

African Union
Caribbean Community
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
Commonwealth Secretariat
Economic Community of West African States
Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States
Eurasian Economic Commission
European Union
League of Arab States
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
West African Economic and Monetary Union

* For the list of participants, see TD/RBP/CONF.10/INF.1.

3. The following United Nations organs, bodies and programmes were represented at the Conference:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
United Nations Environment Programme
World Trade Organization

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the Conference:

International Telecommunication Union
World Intellectual Property Organization

5. The following non-governmental organizations, in status with UNCTAD, were represented at the Conference:

*General category*

ACT Alliance Advocacy to the European Union
Consumer Unity and Trust Society International
Consumers International
Global Traders Conference
International Law Association
International Organization for Standardization