



November 14, 2022

The OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network holds its 9th Regular Plenary Meeting and International Workshop on Product Safety 2022



The Ninth Regular Plenary Meeting of the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN), hosted by the Undersecretariat of Actions for the Defense of Consumers of Argentina, was held on November 2nd. This year the meeting was hybrid in nature giving Network members the option to participate in person or online as the Network attempts to return to normal operations following the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the annual meeting being virtual over the past 2 years. Out of the 21 CSHN member States, 19 participated in this year's Plenary meeting: 7 countries, including the host Argentina met in person in Buenos Aires while the other 12 participated remotely.

During the meeting, the outgoing president of the 2021-2022 Management Committee, Colombia, and the coordinators of the 5 working groups shared advances made in executing the work plan for the period. Some of those advances included Colombia's continued efforts to finetune the SIAR 2.0 which it launched in 2021, further enhancements in the communications strategy of the Network, fostering and strengthening strategic alliances with other multilateral organizations, presenting a webinar on consumer protection in digital environments, continuing work on risk management of potentially harmful products in each country and preparing guidelines for consumer protection in the early detection of unsafe consumer products.



The meeting also celebrated the installation of the 2022-2023 Management Committee which now comprises Argentina as President, Colombia (President 2021-2022) as 1st Vice President and El Salvador (President 2023-2024) as 2nd Vice President, Costa Rica and the United States as delegate members, and Chile and Jamaica as Associate members.

During this meeting, Argentina also presented its proposed work plan for 2022-2023 which includes the reinstallation of the 5 existing working groups: strategic alliances with other multilateral organizations, communications, consumer protection in digital environments, risk management of potentially harmful or unsafe products in each country and guidelines for consumer protection in the early detection of unsafe consumer products. Additionally, a new working group will be formed to respond to the 2022 OAS General Assembly mandate that requests *“the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) to prepare a report describing the measures that have been adopted to protect the health and safety of consumers in the period 2021-2022.”*

Later that same day, Argentina, as President of the Network hosted the 2022 International Workshop on Product Safety in the Americas which also was hybrid in nature and consisted of 2 panels. The first was titled the *Challenges of product safety in cross-border trade* and the second: *The relevance of consumer education in product safety: good practices related to information and prevention*.

The CHSN is the inter-American interdisciplinary mechanism, specialized in promoting -at a national and hemispheric level- consumer health and safety policies and programs, and the impact they can have on consumers' health and wellbeing.