

AG/RES. 2549 (XL-O/10)

CONSUMER PROTECTION: NETWORK FOR CONSUMER SAFETY  
AND HEALTH IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 8, 2010)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 39 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes that the member states should make efforts to obtain adequate and dependable supplies for consumers, and stable prices that are both remunerative to producers and fair to consumers; and

That at the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, in 2004, the Heads of State and Government agreed to promote consumer protection, fair competition, and improved functioning of markets through clear, effective, and transparent regulatory frameworks;

CONSIDERING ALSO the importance of information sharing and the exchange and dissemination of best practices in consumer and health protection among competent organs and agencies, for better integration of public policies related to these areas;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That in resolution AG/RES. 2494 (XXXIX-O/09), “Consumer Protection,” the OAS General Assembly requested the General Secretariat to “support . . . reinforcement of existing cooperation mechanisms and other kinds of joint activities among governmental consumer protection agencies” and to coordinate “its activities with those of national consumer protection agencies and other organizations”;

That, in light of aforementioned resolution AG/RES. 2494 (XXXIX-O/09), the General Secretariat convened and held, together with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), a technical consultation on “Consumer Health in the Americas,” on September 14 and 15, 2009;

That on April 15 and 16, 2010, the General Secretariat convened and held, with PAHO, another technical consultation with experts, thus forming a nucleus for assistance to the project for creation of the Network for Consumer Safety and Health in the Americas, in order to share experiences and discuss technical aspects of the project Network for Consumer Safety and Health in the Americas;

That the project Network for Consumer Safety and Health in the Americas consists of three strategic components: (i) sharing of relevant data on consumer safety and health; (ii) establishment of an Inter-American Rapid Product Safety Warning System (IAPSWs); and (iii) training and education of agents in consumer safety and health; and

That the IAPSWs will be implemented in three stages: (a) creation of a Website that will make it possible, in a permanent and secure manner, for health and consumer protection authorities to share, compile, and publish relevant data, that will enable them to promote the right to consumer safety, and that will include principal regional and global warnings about unsafe products; (b) development of a pilot project for implementation of the IAPSWs; and (c) expansion of the IAPSWs; and

MINDFUL that efforts must be coordinated between countries and institutions, both regional and global, in order to ensure more effective protection of consumers and of the right to consumer safety and health, in order to ensure more effective protection of consumer safety and health,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the General Secretariat, in particular the Department of Special Legal Programs of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for holding the aforementioned technical consultations and for their cooperation in furthering the topic of consumer health in the Americas.

2. To request the General Secretariat, in light of the outcomes of the aforementioned technical consultations, to coordinate actions with PAHO, in coordination with other interested international organizations with experience in the field and civil society organizations.

3. To request the General Secretariat to continue making efforts to promote consumer protection and, in particular, to coordinate its activities with those of national consumer protection agencies and other organizations.

4. To request the General Secretariat to present the results of the first phase of implementation of the Network for Consumer Safety and Health in the Americas to the Permanent Council before the next regular session of the General Assembly.

5. To invite member states, permanent observers, and other donors to support through voluntary contributions the activities undertaken by the General Secretariat in field of consumer protection.

6. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

