



Secretary General Meets with the Political Under Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil



José Miguel Insulza with the Ambassador Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, today met with the Under Secretary General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Ambassador Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos, with whom he examined the main political, economic and security issues on the inter-American agenda.

During the meeting held at the OAS headquarters in Washington, DC, both officials discussed the importance of continuing to strengthen the inter-American system on human rights, to work towards expanding the membership of the countries in the Hemisphere to the American Convention on Human Rights, and to maintain the independence of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and Court.

In addition, the OAS leader and the Under Secretary General tackled issues such as the OAS Consumer Safety

and Health Network.

Learn more *(In Spanish)*

Fourth Virtual Meeting of the CSHN Steering Committee



The Consumer Safety and Health Network's interim Steering Committee, composed by authorities with jurisdiction on consumer product safety from Peru (Chair), Brazil, Chile, Surinam and the United States, will hold its fourth virtual meeting on April 10th 2014.

In this occasion, the progress of the Working Group for the Inter-American Rapid Alert System (SIAR) on Product Safety will be discussed. The Working Group is composed by Brazil (Chair), Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Peru, and Suriname. Also, the fundamental technological aspects for the System's first stage will be presented to Member States delegates by the OAS Department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS).

The purpose of the meeting will be to advance the consensus for determining the characteristics of the first phase of the SIAR, in order for the OAS General Secretariat –through the Secretariat for Legal Affairs and DOITS- to begin the work for the design of the first stage .

In the previous meetings, the Committee has made progress in building the strategy and global projection of the Network, in particular regarding the preparation of a proposed draft structure of the CSHN, in compliance with the mandates established by the General Assembly, through resolution AG/RES. 2769 (XLIII-O/13) in 2013.

The Dominican Republic Strengthens its Consumer Safety and Health Network at the National Level



A large number of hospitals in the Dominican Republic joined the list of health institutions committed to supply relevant information to *Proconsumidor* on cases of accidents or deaths involving the use of consumer products, substances or services, in an initiative that forms part of the Dominican Consumer Safety and Health Network. Meanwhile, the consumer protection agency will process and record the information received and issue alerts that are relevant to the population, to avoid the use of products that are identified as detrimental to consumers' safety and health.

Similarly, Proconsumidor and the Regional and Dominican Medical Association signed an agreement by which both organizations are committed to raising awareness on consumers' health, consumer product safety and food safety, in order to prevent tropical diseases. These actions demonstrate the relevance of integrating the health sector in protecting the welfare of consumers.

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Chile Launches Product Safety Portal and appoints new Director of the National Consumer Service

The National Consumer Service of Chile (Sernac) launched its Product Safety Portal on March 5th. On the same occasion, a System for Proces Information was unveiled. The then National Director of Sernac, Juan Jose Ossa, as part of its annual accountability report, launched these two important initiatives with the primary purpose of facilitating consumers' access to information. Mr. Ossa also announced that the Product Safety Portal is a space that seeks to inform consumers about security alerts on consumer products.

Moreover, in mid-March, the Government of Chile appointed Mr. Ernesto Muñoz Lamartine as the new Director of Sernac. Mr. Muñoz Lamartine is a lawyer who has had an extensive career in the institution, beginning in 2001 as counsel, and thereafter serving as Regional Director in Magallanes and Advisor on International Relations and chief of staff.

[More information on the new National Director of Sernac](#) *(In Spanish)*

[Learn more about the Product Safety Portal](#) *(In Spanish)*

Brazilian Local Authorities of Consumer Protection and Health Strengthen Cooperation on Product Safety

On March 14 the workshop on "Consumer Accidents and Creation of the Consumer Safety and Health Network of the Americas in Brazil" took place in the state of *Rio Grande do Sul* (Brazil). The workshop included the participation of the National Metrology, Quality and Technology Institute of Brazil (INMETRO) and local health and consumer protection authorities.

Among other relevant issues for consumers' health and safety, the need to disclose information concerning the INMETRO Consumer Accident Monitoring System (SINMAC) was highlighted during this activity. The SINMAC is not only an advanced accident monitoring system, but it also includes every other event in which the consumer uses a product or service, or does not follow the supplier's instructions and is exposed to a foreseeable safety risk.

A prominent aspect of the day was the signing of a Protocol of Intent between INMETRO and local health and consumer protection authorities, in which the commitment to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in market surveillance on consumer product safety was reaffirmed. The agencies agreed to exchange and publish relevant information about unsafe consumer products and services, in order to take rapid and effective measures that allow consumers to be more informed and safe.

The Protocol seeks to promote technical cooperation between INMETRO and the various local authorities,

through activities such as the formation of an interagency working group on Consumer Safety and Health, with the goal of creating a unified system to promote the implementation of joint actions and the creation of relevant guidelines in the framework of the "Consumer Safety and Health Network for the Americas" that countries in the region are developing within the Organization of American States (OAS).

More information on INMETRO *(In Portuguese)*

More information INMETRO - Rio Grande do Sul State *(In Portuguese)*

More information on the Prefeitura de Porto Alegre *(In Portuguese)*



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The Consumer Safety and Health
Network (CSHN)
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