

8 July 2026, 10:00 - 11:00 (CEST)
Geneva, Switzerland
Venue: Room XII, Palais des Nations

Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) offers capacity-building and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy to developing countries, depending on received requests and resources availability. The Competition and Consumer Policies Branch at UNCTAD provides support in drafting and/or revising consumer protection legislation, adopting implementation frameworks, as well as strengthening institutional capacities. By fostering fair competition and protecting consumer rights, these efforts help create more inclusive and efficient markets, ensuring that businesses compete on a level playing field while consumers benefit from greater choice, fair prices, and improved quality of goods and services.

The UNCTAD secretariat note¹ reviews capacity-building and technical assistance on competition and consumer protection laws and policies delivered in 2025-2026, highlighting national and regional achievements while showing how priorities evolved in response to the rise of digital platforms and the sustainability agenda, as well as ongoing financial and resource constraints. The note also illustrates preliminary evidence of the impact of UNCTAD's technical assistance activities for beneficiaries, and underscores the need for more systematic evaluation of them, in particular with respect to outcomes and longer-term impacts.

Issues to consider for discussions

To facilitate this interactive discussion, the secretariat proposes the following questions:

- (a) How can more sustainable and predictable extrabudgetary funding for capacity-building and technical assistance activities with regard to consumer protection be mobilized, including through strengthened partnerships, joint resource mobilization and innovative funding approaches?
- (b) What methodologies and approaches could UNCTAD adopt to demonstrate the long-term impact of capacity-building and technical assistance activities, including through the improved monitoring of outcomes and follow-up assessments that capture sustained institutional and policy-related changes in beneficiary countries?
- (c) Within existing resource constraints, how can UNCTAD further improve the

¹ TD/B/C.I./CPLP/46-TD/B/C.I./CLP/80.





development impact, efficiency and sustainability of technical assistance?

(d) Given the four clusters of issues reaffirmed by 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 and in the light of resource constraints, as well as evolving market and policy challenges, what priority thematic areas in consumer protection should guide the future technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD?

Programme

10:00 - 10:10 **Presentation by the UNCTAD secretariat**

10:10 - 10:50 **Speakers**

- Ms. Wimonrat Teriyapirom, Director of International Cooperation, Office Consumer Protection Board, Thailand
- Mr. Ngabo Seli Mbogo, Commissioner, Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)
- Mr. Hubert Gambs, Deputy Director-General in charge of Digital Transformation, Justice and Consumers, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- Ms. Nathalie Khaled, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

10:55 - 11:00 **Interactive debate**

Contact

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