

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
8th Session, 1 - 2 July 2024, Geneva, Switzerland

Session on:
**Enhancing the consumer movement: Means to facilitate the
development of independent consumer groups**

Tuesday, 2 July 2024 (10:00 - 13:00)
Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor)

The need to engage stakeholders in the implementation of inclusive consumer protection policies was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly¹ and emphasized by the Intergovernmental group of experts in its first session.² Consumer associations play a crucial role in representing the interest of consumers; educating, informing, advising, and defending them; distributing essential goods and services; and contributing to monitoring markets. Member States thus have an interest in facilitating their establishment and development.

The note by the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat³ provides an overview of the evolution of modern consumer groups. It describes the roles and functions that consumer groups perform, as well as their mostly shared characteristics across the UN Trade and Development member States: independence and representativeness. The note then presents the challenges faced in enhancing the development of consumer groups, with reference being made to current international and regional initiatives targeting consumer groups. It contains policy recommendations for decision makers intending to enhance the consumer movement.

To facilitate this interactive discussion, delegates may want to address the following questions:

- (a) What are the benefits and challenges in facilitating the establishment and development of independent consumer groups?
- (b) What are the most efficient ways Governments can support the establishment and development of independent consumer groups?
- (c) How can UN Trade and Development assist member States in protecting consumers and facilitating the establishment/development of independent consumer groups?

¹ [A/RES/70/186](#)

² [TD/B/C.I/CPLP/4](#)

³ [TD/B/C.I/CPLP/39](#)

Enhancing the consumer movement: Means to facilitate the development of independent consumer groups

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WORK PROGRAMME

- 10:00 - 10:10 **Presentation by the UN Trade and Development secretariat**
- 10:10 - 12:20 **Speakers**
- Mr. Fernando Blanco Muiño, Deputy Secretary for Consumer Defense, Argentina
 - Ms. Thezi Mabuza, Deputy Commissioner, Consumer Commission, South Africa
 - Ms. Erika Castillo Escobedo, Deputy Attorney for Legal Affairs, Federal Attorney for Consumers, Mexico
 - Ms. Martyna Derszniak-Noirjean, Director, International Cooperation Office of the Competition and Consumer Protection, Poland
 - Ms. Helena Leurent, Director General, Consumers International
 - Mr. Pablo Rodríguez Arias, Executive Director, Trainers of Youth Consumer Organizations (FOJUCC) of Chile
- 12:20 - 13:00 **Interactive debate**

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UN Trade and Development secretariat accordingly by contacting Mr. Arnau Izaguerri Vila (arnau.izaguerri@un.org).