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Consumer Protection Policies and Sustainability

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CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICIES AND SUSTAINABILITY

13th Meeting UNCTAD RPP

Laura Best
What we know

What we have

What we MUST do
What We KNOW

Sustainability affects us ALL

Sustainability is on the GLOBAL AGENDA

URGENCY is needed

Sustainability is COMPLEX
What we HAVE

• Good will
• Interest
• Networks
• Possibility
What we HAVE

• Global instruments
• Public policy tools
• Consumer protection measures
• Research findings
What we MUST DO
Public Policy Approach

Evidence-based

• Make
• Midwife
• Mainstream
• Monitor
• Modify

Values – driven

Explore and embed
“Sufficiency”
“Ubuntu”
“Enough is as good as a feast”

Many others – let’s talk
WHAT WE MUST DO
Incorporate Lessons Consumer Policy Lessons

SUSTAINABILITY
• Multi-facetted
• Inter-relational
  • People
  • Planet
  • Prosperity
• Confluence
• Integrative

CONSUMER PROTECTION
• Many domains
• Inter-connected
  • Economic
  • Social
  • Environment
• Convergence
• Co-ordination
MUST DO: Similarities Shared Concerns

Balancing needs of current and future generations

Balancing responsibilities of businesses and consumers

Resources
Expanded definitions?

Unconscionable conduct
Prohibited conduct
Consumer harm/welfare
Safe products
Leverage: Inter-section of Policy Purposes

Intentionality:
Change of consumption patterns

Quality of life (better)
Fairer and safer world

Including sustainability into consumer protection policy can magnify and impact positively
Learn from Research for Policy Inclusion

**ECOSYSTEM - APPORTIONMENT**

**PROPOSING A MODEL**

- Definition of sustainability
- Product life cycle inclusion
- Sector self-regulation for sustainability
- Policy Instruments
- **Novel policy innovations**
Concluding

Policy as a change maker
Tools that are convenient
Framing of choices - pleasing for the average consumer and do-able by business
Indivisibility globally
Social mobilization
Conscious commitment – leadership criticality
Change the World

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