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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”

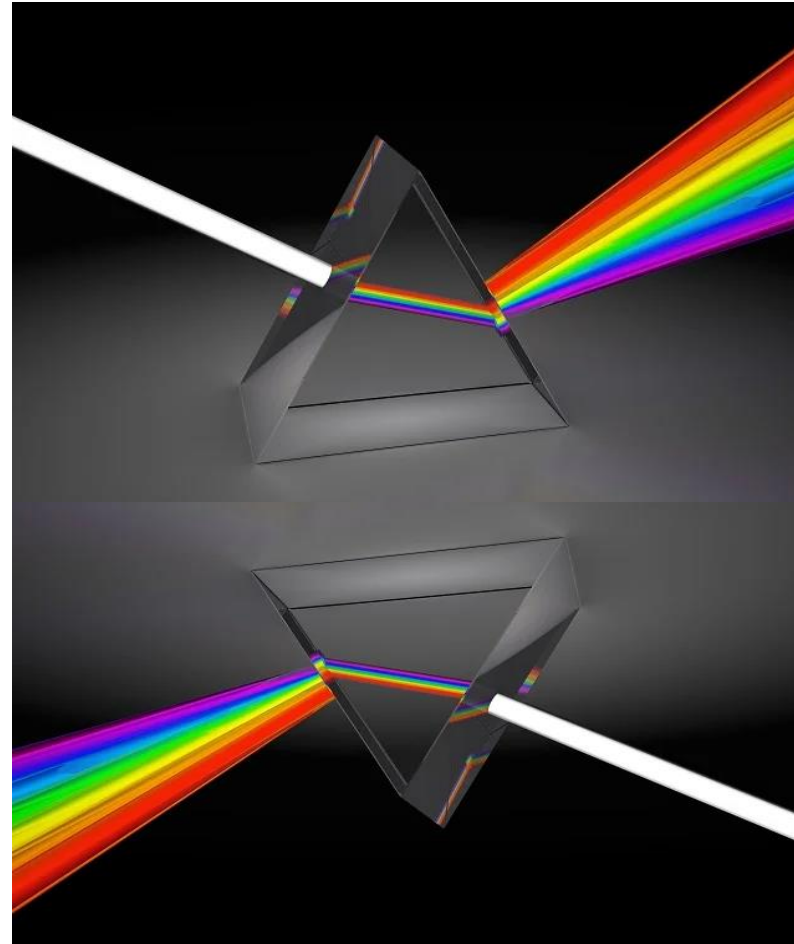
Many others – let’s talk

WHAT WE MUST DO

Incorporate Lessons Consumer Policy Lessons

SUSTAINABILITY

- Multi-faceted
- 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



Expanded definitions?

Unconscionable
conduct

Prohibited conduct

Consumer
harm/welfare

Safe products



Leverage: Inter-section of Policy Purposes

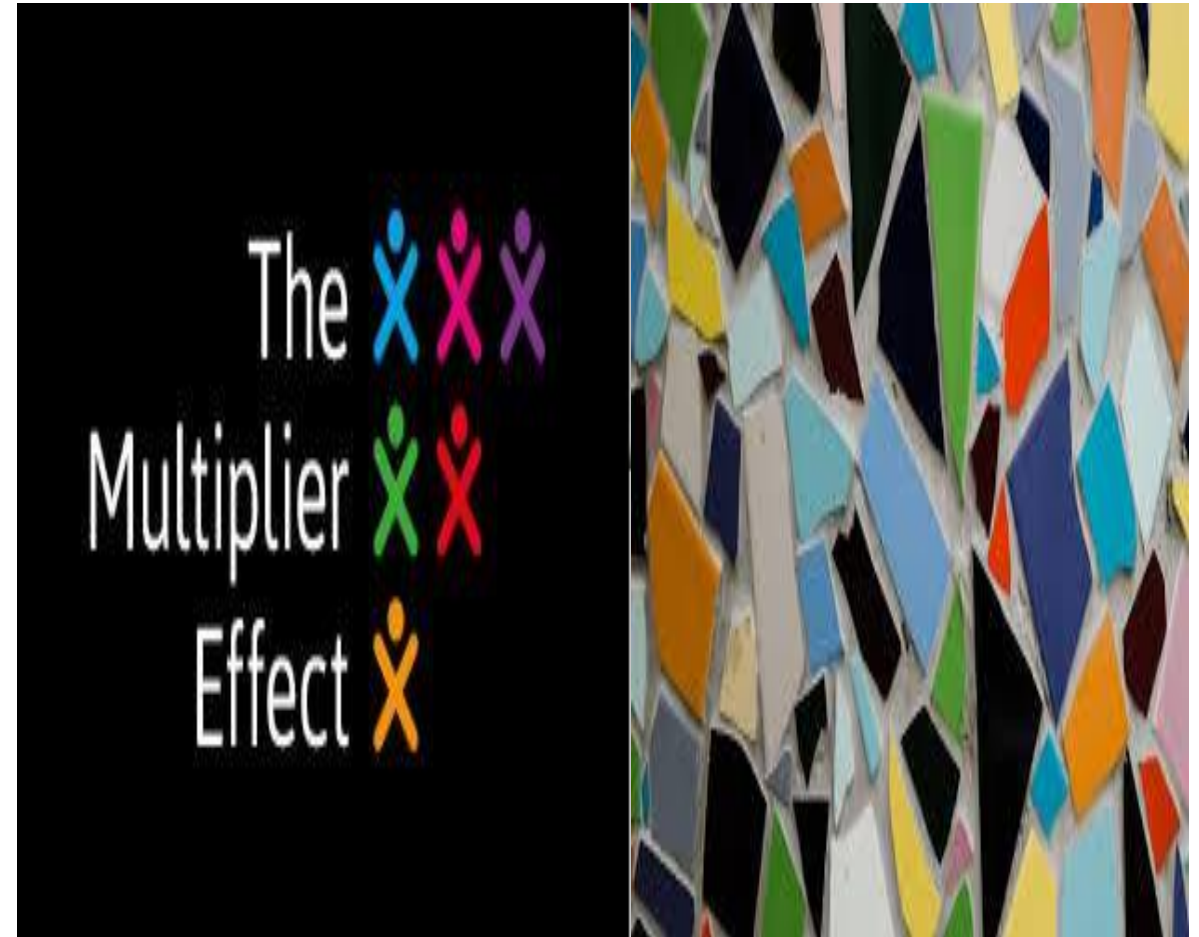
Intentionality:

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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