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**Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Law and Policy  
(IGE Consumer)**

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**Contribution of Consumer Protection to Sustainable Consumption:**

**Consumer Protection Tools and Sustainable Development**

**Submission by Prof. Thierry Bourgoignie, University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada**

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**UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) Meeting on  
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Consumer Protection to Sustainable Consumption,  
Geneva, 9 July 2019.**

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***Consumer Protection Tools and Sustainable Development***

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# **Tools selected in this contribution**

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## **Introduction: from consumerism to sustainable consumption**

- A. Regulating the lifespan expectancy of consumer products and product obsolescence**
- B. Broadening the concept of product safety to cover risks of hazards to the environment.**
- C. Informing consumers about the impact of products or consumption patterns on sustainable development and the environment.**

# Product lifespan expectancy and obsolescence

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- **To develop a standardized evaluation method for measuring the lifespan of products and setting sustainability criteria**
- **To promote certification and consumer information schemes to attest the conformity of the product with such sustainability standards**
- **To provide for the legal obligation of manufacturers, importers and distributors to guarantee the durability of the product for a fixed period after being made available on the market.**
- **To provide for the legal obligation of manufacturers, importers and distributors to guarantee the repairability of the product**
- **To provide adequate information to consumers**
- **To sanction planned obsolescence**

# **Product safety and hazards to the environment**

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- **Commonly accepted definition of « unsafe » product**
- **Going beyond hazards to human health**

# Informing consumers

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- **Prohibition of deceptive or misleading environmental or sustainable development claims.**
- **Specific sustainable development-related disclosure requirements**
- **General pre-contractual obligation to inform**