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The United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection

Presentation

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Your Excellencies,

Honourable Moderator,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to UNCTAD for convening this important session and for raising a question that touches the core of Egypt's recent reforms—consumer protection and food security, in alignment with the national direction and under the leadership of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

The United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection have provided a solid policy foundation for our efforts, particularly in safeguarding the economic interests of consumers and ensuring food security and safety, as emphasized in paragraphs 21 and 70 of the Guidelines.

First: Food Security as a National Imperative

In full alignment with paragraph 70, Egypt has taken decisive steps to secure the availability and safety of essential goods by:

- Maintaining a strategic reserve of wheat, sugar, rice, and cooking oils for over six months, despite global disruptions.
- Expanding our smart silo network, linked to electronic tracking systems.
- Diversifying our import sources to enhance resilience.
- Cooperating with FAO and WFP to strengthen local food systems and integrate farmers into structured supply chains.

Second: Safeguarding Consumer Rights through Smart Regulation

In line with paragraph 21, we have embraced digital innovation to protect consumers and ensure transparency across markets. Key initiatives include:

- Launching a centralized digital platform for tracking strategic stocks and predicting supply-demand dynamics using artificial intelligence.

- Introducing the “Price Radar” mobile app to allow citizens to compare real-time prices and report violations.
- Developing the upcoming “Inspector’s Card” digital inspection tool for bakeries.
- Building composite indices to measure market efficiency and monitor government interventions.

Third: Institutional Reform and International Partnerships

We have also worked on:

- Reforming our subsidy model to introduce conditional cash transfers that promote fairness and choice.
- Strengthening the Consumer Protection Agency’s enforcement mechanisms.
- Engaging with partners such as JICA, FAO, and WFP to share knowledge and co-develop impactful programs.

In conclusion, UNCTAD’s Intergovernmental Group of Experts has offered Egypt an invaluable platform to benchmark against global best practices and contribute to the shaping of equitable and data-driven consumer protection policies.

We remain committed to fully implementing the UN Guidelines to ensure that consumer welfare and economic stability remain at the heart of our national development agenda.

Thank you.