



Intergovernmental Group of Experts Consumer Protection Law and Policy

4th Session, 08 - 09 July 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

Round table on:

Contribution of Consumer Protection to Sustainable Consumption

Tuesday, 09 July 2019 (10:00 - 13:00 and 15:00 – 16:00)

Palais des Nations, Room XVII (First Floor)

The Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy at its Third session requested UNCTAD to prepare a study on the issue of the contribution of consumer protection to sustainable consumption in terms of how consumer protection authorities address environmental marketing claims, including consumer education and business guidance.

Sustainable consumption entered the international policy discourse at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in 1992, whose Agenda 21 states, “the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances.” Other international efforts on sustainable consumption have been promoted through the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Goal 12 and the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection, recently revised in 2015.

The UNCTAD secretariat background note¹ explores the connection between consumer protection and sustainable consumption. It refers to the interplay between sustainable consumption, the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection. Noting that even though consumer protection laws may not always include specific provisions on sustainable consumption, consumer protection agencies have used existing provisions to act in this area, engaging in consumer education and providing guidance to businesses, as well as addressing related cases, for example those related to environmental claims.

This round table session will discuss the following questions:

- a) How can section H of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection on sustainable consumption be transposed into the national laws of member States? Are developing countries prepared to undertake the task?
- b) How can international cooperation, namely through United Nations agencies and other international organizations, help to further promote sustainable consumption?
- c) What other best practices can be shared in this area from States, non-governmental organizations and the private sector?

¹ [TD/B/C.I/CPLP/17](#)

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WORK PROGRAMME

10:00 to 10:10	Introductory remarks by Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD
10:10 to 10:20	Presentation by the UNCTAD secretariat
10:20 to 11:45	Panel 1: Sustainable Consumption - the state of play in the promotion of sustainable consumption at global level: what is the role for consumer protection policy? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Laura Best, Deputy Chairperson, Consumer Protection Tribunal of South Africa• Prof. Dr. Thierry Bourgoignie, Professor of Law, Quebec University, Canada• Dr. Luciane Klein Vieira, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law of Unisinos University, Brazil
11:45 to 12:00	Interactive debate
12:00 to 12:30	Panel 2: Consumer Policy and sustainable consumption - Perspectives from international organizations and stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Helena Leurent, Director General, Consumers International• Ms. Dana Kissinger-Matray, Team Leader, COPOLCO, International Standards Organization Secretariat• Ms Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Head, Agricultural Standards Unit, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
12:30 to 13:00	Interactive debate
	Lunch Break
15:00 to 15:40	Panel 3: Consumer Policy contribution to sustainable consumption - Experiences from developing and developed member States <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Eunice Hamavhwa, Senior Investigator, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Zambia• Mr. Jean Pierre Couchot, Deputy Director, National Consumer Service, Chile• Ms. Ayako Terauchi, Director for International Affairs Office, Consumer Affairs Agency, Japan• Ms. Deon Bell Woods, International Counsel for Consumer Protection and Data Privacy, Federal Trade Commission, USA
15:40 to 16:00	Interactive debate

Delegates who would like to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat by contacting Mrs. Elizabeth Gachuri (elizabeth.gachuri@unctad.org)