Traceability for Sustainable Value Chains

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- UN body responsible for dealing with economic and sustainable development issues with a focus on trade, finance, investment and technology - *Prosperity for All*;

- 194 member States;

- *Think, Debate, Deliver* - to assist developing countries in better participating in the global economy

- Focal point for Competition and Consumer Policies within the UN system;

- 3 pillars of work:
  - Consensus building - Intergovernmental deliberations
  - Research and analysis
General Assembly resolution 70/186 of 22 December 2015:

- Revised UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection (1985, amended in 1999), expanded and modernized;
- Created the IGE on Consumer protection law and policy, providing a unique international forum for intergovernmental deliberations in this field;
- Conferred UNCTAD a new mandate.
Substantive modernization to the 21st century challenges

**Definition**: First time in an international instrument;
**Good business practices**: first time recommendations aim at the private sector, recognizing shared responsibility;
**National policies for Consumer Protection**: checklist of adequate legal and institutional landscape;
**Dispute resolution and redress**: inclusion of ADR (alternative dispute resolution), collective redress, and compensation for consumers;
**E-commerce**: new guidelines;
**Financial Services**: inspired in OECD /G20 High Level Principles;
**Energy, Public services, Tourism**: new emerging issues;
**International cooperation**: especially important for cross border cases.
Aim to meet the following Consumers’ legitimate needs:

- *access to essential goods and services*;
- *The protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers*;
- *The protection of consumers from hazards to their health and safety*;
- *The promotion and protection of the economic interests of consumers*;
- *Access by consumers to adequate information to enable them to make informed choices*;
- *Availability of effective consumer dispute resolution and redress*.
- *Consumer education, including education on the environmental, social and economic consequences of consumer choice*;
- *The promotion of sustainable consumption patterns*. 
UNGCP (3)

- Gds. 33-35: V. D. *Standards for the safety and quality of consumer goods and services*

- Gds. 42-48: V. G. *Education and information programmes*

- Gds. 49-62: V. H. *Promotion of sustainable consumption*

- Gds. 79-94: VI. *International cooperation*
Third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection law and policy – 9-10 July 2018, Geneva

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

• Background note prepared by the UNCTAD Secretariat
• Benefited from contributions from member States;
• Presentation of the current international framework for consumer protection safety as contained in the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection;
• Reference to global consumer product safety issues (consequence of the digital economy; dumping of hazardous products in developing countries);
• Presentation of existing regional and global initiatives on international cooperation;
• Questions for discussion with Consumer protection agencies and stakeholders
Content of the Background Note

A. Introduction
B. The United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection
C. Defining a scope
D. Cross-border consumer product safety
   D.1. Consumer product safety concerns for developing countries
E. Consumer product safety frameworks
   E.1. General safety requirement
   E.2. Standards
   E.3. Liability laws
   E.4. Corrective measures: recalls
   E.5. Consumer awareness and education
   E.6. A case study in the toy industry
F. International cooperation
G. Questions for discussion and a possible role for UNCTAD
UNCTAD’s latest Publications on CONSUMER PROTECTION
TRACEABILITY SCHEMES AND IMPROVED CONSUMER CHOICES

- Legal and regulatory frameworks: business obligations regarding information on the key characteristics of products - consumer expanded information on the social and environmental impact of their choices;

- International standards: increased predictability towards convergence;

- Consumer education and awareness raising campaigns to the importance of sustainable consumption - promote informed choices;

- Partnerships: shared responsibilities between Governments, businesses, civil society organizations – consumer associations, other NGOs;

- The case for International Cooperation – monitoring and enforcement.
THANK YOU!

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