UNCTAD’s mandate on Consumer Protection

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

- 195 members;

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

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

The custodian of the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection, the only internationally agreed instrument in the field of consumer protection

- UN General Assembly Resolution 70/186 of 22 December 2015 -
UNCTAD’s 3 pillars of work

Consensus Building
- UN Review Conference - every 5 years since 1985
- Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) meetings on Competition (since 1998) and Consumer Protection (since 2016) Law and Policy - annually

Research and Analysis
- Publication of papers and studies on competition and consumer protection
- Legal assessment
- Research Partnership Platform (since 2010)

Technical Cooperation
- Demand-driven assistance at national (since the late 90s) and regional (since 2003) levels
- UNCTAD Voluntary Peer Reviews on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
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.
Currently displaying information from 104 member States and showing the importance of Legal Frameworks and National Policies on Consumer Protection
Standards for the safety and quality of consumer goods and services

Other UNGCP relevant issues include:

- Fair and equitable treatment;
- Commercial behaviour;
- Disclosure and transparency;
- Education and awareness-raising;
- Protection of privacy;
- Consumer complaints and disputes.

Principles for Good Business Practices
"Sustainable Consumption includes meeting the needs of present and future generations for goods and services in ways that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable"
International Cooperation in the field of Consumer Protection

REGULAR COOPERATION with International institutions
Ongoing UNCTAD-UNECE Cooperation on Consumer Protection and Circular Economy

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STARTS WITH YOU

Governments, businesses, consumers, and international organisations have a shared responsibility towards sustainable consumption.

Currently, a third of all food produced globally is lost or wasted along the supply chain or by consumers. Thus large tracts of land and around 30% of the world's fresh water supply is used to grow food that is never eaten, causing around 20% of greenhouse gas emissions. To ensure sustainable food systems and improve food security, both businesses and consumers have a role to play: businesses should follow good practices and standards; consumers can make informed, sustainable and responsible consumption choices.

We all need to reduce food loss and waste. Here are some things you can do:

CONSUMERS
- Use your right to receive clear and complete information about goods
- Learn about the impact of your consumption on the environment
- Buy only what you need
- Serve up a healthy portion
- Take leftovers home
- Send food to the poor

TRADERS AND RETAILERS
- Inspect products carefully
- Encourage home storage and cooking
- Keep information about stores and products
- Make sure products are stored in a safe area
- Keep a clean and safe environment

CONSUMERS AND TRADERS CAN BE DRIVERS OF CHANGE AND DECISIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO AVOID AND REDUCE FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

For more information:
2. www.Unfood.org
3. wwwUNCTAD.ORG
4. UNECE.WORLD/FOOD-AND-WASTE

FOOD LOSS AND WASTE
Consumers and traders can be drivers of change and contribute to avoid and reduce food loss and waste
Final remarks

- Trust and a safe environment are crucial for consumers as well as for businesses to flourish.

- Information, education and guidance for consumers and traders is fundamental for an enabling environment.

- International cooperation between governments and international organizations and networks is essential to address common challenges and find global solutions.

- Strong business engagement (standards and self-regulation initiatives) is instrumental for improved consumer protection.

- Civil society organizations (consumer associations, for instance) need also to be fully associated to contribute to awareness-raising, education and outreach.
THANK YOU!

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https://unctad.org/Topic/Competition-and-Consumer-Protection