



**31 st. UN/CEFACT Forum 2018**

# **Traceability for Sustainable Value Chains**

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# UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

- 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
  - Technical Cooperation: Assistance/Capacity building.



# UNITED NATIONS GUIDELINES FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION (rev 2015)



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.



# UNGCP (2)

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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.*



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## 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*



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## 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



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## 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



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## 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.



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**THANK YOU !**

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<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/CompetitionLaw/Competition-Law-and-Policy.aspx>



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