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Session I:

Consumer protection policies for sustainability/achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Promoting sustainable consumption necessitates the empowerment of consumers as drivers of positive change. It involves implementing robust consumer protection policies that actively promote sustainability and incentivize responsible decisions through collaborative efforts among policymakers, businesses, and civil society. Policymakers play a pivotal role in crafting effective strategies within consumer protection policies, while taking into consideration the economic, social and environmental context. Concurrently, businesses contribute by endorsing ethical and eco-friendly products, championing recycling, and combating deceptive practices. This collaborative approach establishes a robust framework for sustainable consumption, aligning individual choices with broader societal and environmental goals.

In session I, a distinguished panel of experts and policymakers will engage in discussions focused on consumer protection policies that advance sustainability and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Policymakers will share insights into the challenges they face, and the strategies employed to overcome those challenges. Through these conversations, policymakers and experts aim to provide valuable insights, develop effective strategies, and formulate policies that address economic, social and environmental aspects, ultimately shaping recommendations for a sustainable future.

Note: the duration of this session will be 120 minutes, with each panellist speaking for 15 minutes, followed by a 45-minute discussion around member States' developments and Q&A.

Topics of discussion

- Explore the different roles of stakeholders in supporting sustainable consumption, and emphasize the need for collaborative efforts.
- O Discuss diverse means to empower consumers to make sustainable choices through strategies that enhance consumer awareness and incentivize responsible consumption patterns.
- Examine policymakers' initiatives in developing consumer protection policies to promote sustainability and achieve the SDGs.
- Discuss the challenges that policymakers face, and the policies/strategies employed to overcome those challenges.
- Explore progress, lessons and best practices in developing and strengthening consumer protection frameworks for sustainability in member States.

Speakers



Entesar Abdulaal

Consumer Protection Director, Government Innovation Ambassador, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Bahrain



Mohamad Abou Haidar

Director-General of the Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon



Pedro Gaspar

Director-General for Consumer Affairs, Portugal



Arnau Izaguerri Vila

Legal Officer, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD



Robin Simpson

Expert (UNCTAD consultant) and former Consumers International expert