

**Asia Pacific Civil Society Regional Consultation Meeting
22-23 November 2012, Kathmandu, Nepal**

CI's Perspective on Post-2015 Agenda and Role of MGS

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22 Nov 2012



About Consumers International

- The only independent campaigning voice for consumers
- Federation of over 240 organisations in 120 countries
- Aims to empower consumers worldwide
- It has offices in London, Kuala Lumpur, Pretoria and Santiago

Consumers – a cornerstone of the transition to a green economy

CI believes that:

- **Consumers who seek to promote sustainable consumption find themselves lost and confused in the face of underdeveloped, scarce and inconsistent standards.**
- **Consumers feel that the actions available to them are also insignificant in the context of government inaction.**

Consumers – a cornerstone of the transition to a green economy

- **Consumers cannot be left alone in this process.**
- **Individual efforts are not enough to generate the required social changes.**
- **Consumers have to be supported by an enabling framework of policies, regulations and measures.**

CI's perspective on addressing sustainable consumption

Full implementation of section G, number 44, of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection that states *“Governments, in partnership with business and relevant organizations of civil society, should develop and implement strategies that promote sustainable consumption through a mix of policies that could include regulations; economic and social instruments; sectorial policies in such areas as land use, transport, energy, and housing; information programmes to raise awareness of the impact of consumption patterns; removal of subsidies that promote unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; and promotion of sector-specific environmental management best practices”*.

Practical policy changes and CI's Recommendations

- **Implement integrated public policies**
- **Require companies to be transparent and accountable**
- **Ensure the supply of safe products and services**
- **Mandatory analysis of the product's life cycle**
- **Ensure access to information**

Practical policy changes and CI's Recommendations

- **Implement public policies that guarantee access to both formal and informal education**
- **Implement comprehensive policies to ensure healthy food for all**
- **Ensure that mobility is more sustainable,**
- **Ensure access to essential goods and services**
- **Mandatory energy efficiency programs for all products that use energy**

Role of Major Groups and Stakeholders

- **MGS have a responsibility to the public by acting as watchdogs for government and industry.**
- **Support behavioural change and enhance current policy instruments, assessment tools and indicators.**
- **CSOs have the ability to bring different stakeholders together and to raise urgent issues for public discussion.**
- **By partnering with researchers, MGS can obtain valuable data on current consumption trends, drivers and impacts.**

Obligations of Corporate Sector

Corporate response initially focused on production side; more recently, call for focus on demand side / consumption.

There is dearth of data on sustainable consumption practices of corporations in Asia Pacific.

Questions

- How responsive are AP corporations to the environmental challenge?
- Are companies addressing demand-side issues (sustainable consumption) vs. just supply-side (sustainable production)?
- Do TNCs apply same standards in AP as they do at home?
- What extra legal measures are needed to ensure that corporations emphasise sustainable consumption and production?



THANK YOU.

Join us in our campaign to protect and empower consumers worldwide

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