

SC and Development

Some key issues and challenges

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About Consumers International

- Global federation of consumer organisations
- 220 member organisations in 115 countries
- Independent and not-for-profit
- Global research and campaigns through and for our members

Consumers International's work in Sustainable Consumption & Production

Holding to account

- **Corporations** by highlighting the connections between corporate activities and violations of human rights, corruption, environmental destruction and the products and services that reach the end consumer.
- **Governments** for the implementation of progressive sustainable consumer protection policies in line with the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection

Consumer Education

Working with membership to provide consumers with independent, clear and transparent information in relation to sustainable consumption:

- targeted awareness-raising campaigns
- consumer education
- communicate the impact of consumer choice in global supply chains

Building capacity of member organisations

SC and Development

SCP is often focussed on the need to tackle levels of consumption and on the environmental impact of production with the result that the crucial elements of responding to basic needs, poverty and bringing a better quality of life to individuals and communities become an issue of particular concern. Particularly given the complexity of the different and diverse inter-linkages between all these issues

SCP and Development

It should be clear that in addition to the complex mix of social, economic and environmental factors, sustainable consumption must ensure our basic human rights, as citizens and consumers. Basic needs and quality of life necessitate safety, fair wages, decent working conditions and a protected environment.

They also mean empowerment: the ability to access relevant and accurate information in relation to goods and services provided and, in this context, to question the lack of responsible action by governments and the private sector.

Some examples of SC in support of development

- **Access to energy (or sustainable access to sustainable energy)**
- **SCP and international trade**

Access to energy

We must not forget that currently many citizens in the world still need to satisfy their basic needs, requiring access to sustainable consumption, in a fair and equitable manner:

Access – development of network services and ensuring continuity

Sustainability – promotion of sustainable alternatives and energy efficiency

Choice and flexibility – development of off-grid systems; choice of payment methods

Fairness – equitable distribution of supply, fair price formulae

Customer care and support – protection through consumer contracts

Mediation and redress – complaint and dispute resolution systems

Special assistance – targeted help for poor consumers

Governance and consumer influence

SC and Trade

It should be clear that fundamental to achieving good working conditions (and so supporting poverty reduction and development) is the support of those wielding the greatest power in the supply chain (often retailers).

Checked out

Are European supermarkets living up to their responsibilities for labour conditions in the developing world?







Unrestrained Consumption

- on Africa's Expense

A large part of our consumption is based on minerals and metals brought up from the African underground
But aggressive tax planning by the mining companies means that Africans are left with minimal return
- and mountains of waste rock



Escuelas Virtuales de Consumo

www.escuelas.cej.org.mx



Ways forward and programmes

- **We need to do more to ensure and commit to supply chains having a more positive impact on poverty reduction by improving policies and practices relating to how goods are produced and traded and by doing more to make a sustainable choice the easy one for consumers.**

Governments needs to recognise and act to mitigate against the negative impacts of lack of satisfaction of basic needs in developing countries and secure, support and acknowledge the positive contribution that sustainable consumption can make to poverty reduction and development.

- **Education, independent information, eco-labels, SC in sectors close to consumers like waste, food, energy (both access and efficiency). Sustainable lifestyles, UN guidelines for CP, partnerships**

