

MEDIA RELEASE

TRACIT presents policy recommendations to the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

TRACIT calls for increased focus on the link between combating illicit trade, increasing consumer protection, and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Geneva, Switzerland, 9 July 2018 – Today, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) presented policy recommendations to the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.

“It is the poorest, most disadvantaged consumers who are most vulnerable to illicit products—and need your protection,” said Jeffrey Hardy, TRACIT’s Director-General. “Moreover, consumers are increasingly at risk from fakes and other harmful or illegal products on-line.”

In elaborating the linkages between illicit trade, consumer protection, and achieving the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs), TRACIT outlined 6 key policy recommendations for consideration by UNCTAD member states. These included:

1. Member States should adopt effective policies which counter illicit trade to better protect consumers from health, safety, environmental and socio-economic risks.
2. Member States should consider their commitments to achieving their UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets during implementation of relevant UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection.
3. Member States should implement measures to ensure sufficient protection to consumers engaging in e-commerce.
4. Regulatory policies and tax policies promoted by Member States in relation to consumer goods should facilitate international trade and promote transparency and predictability as a means of encouraging economic growth and development.
5. Member States should adopt policies which encourage access to information, including relevant health, safety and other risk-related information.
6. Public-private partnerships should be encouraged in relation to promoting effective consumer protection regulations, and governments should work with the business community to adopt policies which encourage innovation and facilitate access by consumers to better products.

“This organization [UNCTAD]—and all of its expert bodies—has a responsibility to ensure that illegal trade does not undermine development,” said Mr. Hardy.

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](#)) is an independent, private sector initiative to drive change to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade. TRACIT draws from industry strengths and market experience to build habits of cooperation between business, government and the diverse group of countries that have limited capacities for regulatory enforcement. Connecting and mobilizing businesses across industries, sectors and national borders makes it possible to achieve results more effectively than any single actor can accomplish alone.

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