

## 1997/53. Consumer protection

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985, by which the Assembly adopted guidelines for consumer protection,

Recalling also its resolutions 1988/61 of 27 July 1988 and 1990/85 of 27 July 1990, as well as resolution 48/7 of 23 April 1992 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,<sup>22</sup> in which Governments were urged to implement the guidelines for consumer protection and the Secretary-General was requested to provide assistance to Governments to that end,

Recalling in particular its resolution 1995/53 of 28 July 1995, in which it requested the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, to elaborate guidelines in the area of sustainable consumption patterns and to examine the possible extension of those guidelines into other areas,

Noting that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its third session, recommended that the guidelines for consumer protection be expanded to include guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns,<sup>217</sup>

Taking note of Commission on Sustainable Development decision 4/13 of 3 May 1996,<sup>218</sup> in which it requested Consumers International to assist the United Nations and its Member Governments in the early revision of the guidelines for consumer protection to include aspects of more sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Aware that the need for assistance in the area of consumer protection, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, remains great,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on consumer protection,<sup>219</sup> prepared pursuant to Council resolution 1995/53, containing information on the progress achieved within the United Nations system in promoting the implementation of the guidelines for consumer protection, as well as on regional and international cooperation in promoting consumer protection;

2. Recognizes the impact that the guidelines have had in many countries in promoting just, equitable and sustainable economic and social development through their implementation by Governments;

3. Also recognizes the important role of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in promoting the implementation of the guidelines;

4. Welcomes the recent initiatives of the United Nations in partnership with international consumer organizations, such as Consumers International, donors and host Governments, in convening regional conferences on consumer protection, such as those held in Africa and in the Asia and Pacific region, for fostering the implementation of the guidelines and initiating the process of revising the guidelines and extending them into the area of sustainable consumption patterns and other possible areas;

5. Urges Member States, other entities of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts to implement effectively the guidelines for consumer protection and to continue work on the elaboration of guidelines to cover sustainable consumption patterns and other areas;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake this work through the convening of an interregional expert group meeting, to be financed from extrabudgetary resources and in collaboration with interested Governments, Consumers International and other concerned entities active in this field, taking into account the recommendations emanating from the recently held regional conferences on consumer protection to include aspects of more sustainable consumption patterns;

7. Recommends that the interregional expert group meeting elaborate specific recommendations for guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns for submission to the Council at its substantive session of 1998 through the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to examine the extension of the guidelines into other areas;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1998 on the implementation of the present resolution.

39th plenary meeting  
23 July 1997

<sup>217</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32)*, chap. I, para. 45, sect. E.

<sup>218</sup> *Ibid.*, 1996, *Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>219</sup> E/1997/61.