New global research programme to support UN Guidelines amendments

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Consumers International is pleased to announce a new programme of research to support the amendments that we have developed to update the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection for the digital age and to promote access to knowledge. This research, funded by a grant from IDRC, will establish a sound evidence base to help support advocacy for the adoption of the amendments, whilst also increasing the capacity of the global consumer movement, particularly in the global South, to engage in research-based advocacy to support policy changes at an international level.

CI [2] members and partners in India, Brazil and South Africa will lead the research, which will indicate how the inclusion of A2K [3] principles in the UN Guidelines would provide a more comprehensive foundation for the treatment of A2K issues that affect consumers in their countries. They will also be responsible for liaison with other CI members in their countries and with their governments, to partner in advocating for the adoption of the amendments by the UN.

In addition to the lead researchers who will carry this dual role of research and advocacy, opportunities will exist for other CI members from around the world to contribute more focussed research on specific new Guidelines of particular relevance to their country. Members will be contacted soon with more information about these opportunities, and provided with the draft first chapter of the background paper to which their research would contribute.

This announcement coincides with the launch of a new portal for the UN Guidelines amendments on ECOSOC’s [WSIS Knowledge Communities portal](http://a2knetwork.org/pg/groups/399241/a2k-amendments-to-un-consumer-guidelines) [4]. This marks the beginning of a new phase in our UN Guidelines campaign, of intensive outreach and collaboration with intergovernmental stakeholders. With the help of our research partners, CI aims to place access to knowledge for consumers firmly on the agenda of the United Nations and to build consensus around the need for new Guidelines such as those we have proposed.

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