**Resolution for ACR AGM 2022**

**Title of Resolution**

# Promoting Sustainable Consumption in Malta to Help Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate Climate Change

**Name of individual submitting the Resolution**

Catherine Camilleri, ACR Executive Committee member

**Background Information**

Traditionally, consumer associations worldwide focused on lobbying for better protection of consumer rights. However, increasing environmental and climate problems have shown that consumers must not only enjoy rights but also uphold certain responsibilities. The climate emergency clearly indicates that consumption must also be sustainable.

Responsible consumption in Malta is also urgently needed to help Malta uphold its international obligations to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and to reduce its carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050.

In view of the above context, in conjunction with lobbying for consumer rights, ACR Malta is taking on sustainable consumption as one of its primary objectives.

In 2021, ACR Malta organised a webinar for its members and to the public on how sustainable consumption in Malta can help mitigate climate change. ACR Exec Committee member, Catherine Camilleri, also gave this presentation to the members within the Civil Society Committee (CSC) of the MCESD. Subsequently, the CSC drew up various sustainability related initiatives which have been presented to the Ambassador for Climate Action in Malta, Prof S Borg, and will be also presented to the MCESD for further action.

Additionally, as member of the CSC, Catherine Camilleri drafted various proposals for incentives to be given to Maltese consumers as part of the 2021 Government budget to encourage sustainable consumption. These proposals were presented to government through the MCESD.

**Proposals/Recommendations**

Given the lack of awareness among the public at large about what is sustainable consumption and why it is critically needed, in 2022 ACR Malta will strive to provide the relevant consumer education and thus help reduce pollution and carbon emissions in Malta. The Association aims to promote sustainable consumption particularly through:

* Writing media articles and press releases,
* Writing articles and posts for ACR Malta’s website and Facebook page,
* Organising webinars and giving presentations to various consumer sectors including primary & secondary school student, on sustainable and responsible consumption.

To aim for meaningful and concrete impact, the Association aims to encourage consumers to:

* Reduce single-use-containers and switch to reusable alternatives.
* Use public transport instead of private vehicles
* Repair disused wells, so as to harvest and use rainwater

ACR Malta deems that to encourage Maltese consumers to adopt sustainable consumption practices, the Maltese authorities concerned need to improve support, incentives, and rewards for sustainable consumption, particularly those practices listed above. The Association aims to lobby and work with the authorities concerned towards this end.

ACR Malta also deems it of critical importance that consumer groups act as watchdog to help ensure that the EU Green Deal meaningfully enhances sustainable consumption. Towards this end, the Association aims to monitor the development and implementation of the EU Green Deal. It will also strive to disseminate the arising implications of the EU Green Deal to consumers in Malta.

To be able to adequately promote sustainable consumption in Malta, the NGO will apply to have a public officer seconded with ACR Malta to work full-time on the above-mentioned sustainable consumption initiatives.