



## **About the Consumers International IP Watch List**

The Consumers International (CI) IP Watch List is a global survey that rates national copyright laws and enforcement practices from the perspective of how well they promote access to knowledge for consumers, by allowing them fair access to the fruits of their society's culture and science.

This aims to counterbalance the United States Trade Representative (USTR) Special 301 Report which undertakes a similar exercise from the perspective of IP owners, and which harshly criticises many countries – ranging from China to Canada – for offering inadequate IPR protection.

The Consumers International IP Watch List will be used as a tool for campaigning and advocacy at national and international level. Sixteen countries are included in the survey for 2009, and approximately ten more will be included for 2010.

The countries selected range from developed to developing countries, from all major global regions, and includes both those highlighted by the USTR in its Special 301 Report, as well as those that the USTR considers to have more “developed” IP regimes such as the USA itself, the United Kingdom and Australia.

The country reports on which the IP Watch List is based have been prepared by CI members and partners worldwide, based on a set of criteria that have been developed by an external advisory group of experts. The criteria include over sixty questions grouped into the following categories:

1. Legal background
2. Scope and duration of copyright
3. Freedom to access and use
  - (a) By home users
  - (b) For education
  - (c) Online
  - (d) By content creators
  - (e) By the press
  - (f) By libraries
  - (g) By disabled users
  - (h) In public affairs
4. Freedom to share and transfer
5. Administration and enforcement

The inaugural 2009 Consumers International IP Watch List is to be launched at the Unlocking IP Conference in Sydney, Australia. It identifies the countries whose IP policies and practices are most harmful to consumers, but also highlights a range of best practices of fairness and balance in copyright law.

### **About Consumers International**

Consumers International (CI) is the only independent global campaigning voice for consumers. With over 220 member organisations in 115 countries, we are building a powerful international consumer movement to help protect and empower consumers everywhere. For more information, visit [www.consumersinternational.org](http://www.consumersinternational.org).