Framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CONSUMER PROTECTION – SECOND SESSION

PANEL ON FRAMEWORK FOR VOLUNTARY PEER REVIEWS ON CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW AND POLICY

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- Framework for voluntary peer reviews (VPRs):
  - Objectives
  - Methodology and scope

- Self-assessments (SAs) and VPRs:
  relationship and comparison

- Templates elaborated by IGE

- Training for pioneers
VPR OBJECTIVES

• External independent assessment
• Greater visibility, public awareness, policy coherence, stakeholder participation, political support, international recognition
• Identification of challenges
• National & international information-sharing

• Recommendations for improvement
• Facilitate obtaining and targeting of technical assistance
• Enhanced policy quality, focus, effectiveness
• Consensus-building on good practice
• Long-term facilitation of cooperation
VPR METHODOLOGY & SCOPE

- Request by Member State
- UNCTAD secretariat engages international experts
- Research through documentation, questionnaires, interviews
- Draft report covering substantive rules, procedures, institutions, enforcement, awareness-raising (broad similarities, no standard format)
- Comments by reviewed party followed by finalisation
VPR METHODOLOGY & SCOPE

Comments by IGE delegation

In IGE, interactive exchange between review panel and reviewed party

Reactions by reviewed party

Secretariat then prepares project document, looks for donors, holds national seminars to disseminate VPR results, supports & advises
SAs and VPRs: relationship and comparison

Should SAs precede, succeed, complement or reinforce VPRs, or stand alone?

Differences in:
- objectives?
- scope?
- methodology?
- expertise/independence/quality/credibility?
- understanding of local situation/presence/contacts?
- ownership/commitment to implementation?
- capacity-building?
- resources?
• So IGE could elaborate sets of questions and issues (templates) on specific consumer topics as international benchmarks to guide SAs:
  - Building on suggestions made during 1st IGECPLP
  - Reflecting UN Guidelines and drawing on Manual on Consumer Protection
  - Mini and maxi options
  - Implementation on stand-alone basis or integrated within VPRs
  - Desirable but not obligatory to place stand-alone SAs before IGE

• Adherence to templates helps enhance and reassure on independence and quality – while country retains discretion on whether to undertake SA, review scope and methodology in line with its specific issues/conditions, in-house or mandated local expert to make assessment report, membership of IGE review panel, dissemination, implementation
TRAINING FOR PIONEERS

To launch SA exercise, training needed on how to use templates to prepare good SAs, providing demonstration models to encourage more SAs:

• Secretariat could provide backup to pioneer SAs, e.g. given suggestions during 1st IGECPLP, could advise on data-gathering and analysis, effects of regional arrangements, road-maps to implement recommendations
• IGE could undertake reviews (facilitated by greater uniformity induced by use of templates) of both stand-alone SAs and those integrated within VPRs, using same procedures as standard VPRs, with strong initial focus on methodology
• Donors could consider supporting preparation/presentation to IGE of pioneer SAs, dissemination and implementation of recommendations
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION