Framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy

Presentation by
Professor Dr. Laura Best
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
Peer Review:
Some thoughts and reflections

Dr Laura Best, South Africa

- Self-monitoring tool: good governance and socio-economic development
- Self-review: all branches of government; private sector, civil society & media

- Mutually agreed thematic areas
  - Democracy & political governance
  - Economic management & governance
  - Socio-economic governance
  - Corporate governance
Implementation Lessons

* Develop & sustain (political) leadership interest
* Assess according to mutually pre-agreed baseline
* Continuously demonstrate contribution to national goals & imperatives (political stability, economic growth & integration, sustainable development etc)
* Stable locus of project management
* Allocate resources
Methodology: Some Observations

- Assessment process is as important as the findings, and perhaps more impactful
- Select only UNCPG aspects most pertinent to country
- Enriching effect of multi-country perspectives within the reviewers
Under-pinning Principles

• Voluntary
• Willingness despite potential discomfort
• Openness & transparency
• Perseverance
Inclusion

- **Consumer voice in review process**
- **Stimulus of public opinion**
- **Deliberate methodological effort: poor & vulnerable consumers**
• Building ownership
• Sustainability of results
• Credibility
• Beneficiary perspectives
• Enriched policy
Levers: Enhancing Success & Impact

- Align and integrate peer review outcomes into national planning cycles
- “Consumer friendly” ways to communicate outcomes: social media; blogging; integration into school curriculum
- Regional platforms and multi-country perspectives
IGE & UNCTAD Role

- Sustain momentum
- Reflect on findings
- Identify common policy implementation challenges across countries
- Basis for amendments & enrichments to UNGCP
Questions & Comments