Framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law and policy

Presentation by
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Guideline 97

- ‘voluntary peer reviews of national CP policies...as implemented by CP authorities’
- Implemented means ‘real world’ application, not just legal theory. Legislation-application gap.
- Authorities can include bodies other than ‘consumer’ agencies, that might have CP authority eg sectoral regulators.
- GL 97 does not specify scale of review nor precise relation to UN Guidelines.
Questions: scope & methodology: self-assessment

1. Improvement.
   1st self assessment could lead to terms of reference.

2. Terms of reference:
   - Vertical: choice of sectors;
   - Horizontal: Eg UNGCP principles

3. Self-assessment (2)
   Self-review of sectors &/or application of UNGCP.
What peer review is & is NOT:

- NOT legal compliance review as with UN conventions;
- NOT condition of membership with pass/fail marks: (the reviewed countries are already UN members!)

What peer review IS:

- Learning opportunity for reviewees and reviewers; vital role of empathy;
- Opportunity for domestic stakeholders to intervene in CP debate;
- Raising potential for international cooperation between partners; competition reviews: 10 out of 12 improved.