
Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Law and Policy
(IGE Consumer)

2nd SESSION
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Afternoon Session

**Framework for voluntary peer reviews on consumer protection law
and policy**

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Peer Review: Some thoughts and reflections



Dr Laura Best, South Africa

African Peer Review Mechanism: African Union: 2003



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

African Peer Review Mechanism: African Union: 2003



- ▶ Mutually agreed thematic areas
 - ▶ **Democracy & political governance**
 - ▶ **Economic management & governance**
 - ▶ **Socio-economic governance**
 - ▶ **Corporate governance**

REVIEW INTENTIONS





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*



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- 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

