The Fourth International Colloquium on Secured Transactions will take place from 15 to 17 March 2017 at the Vienna International Centre. Same as the first Colloquium, which took place on 20 to 22 March 2002, the second Colloquium, which took place on 18 and 19 January 2007 and the third Colloquium, which took place from 1 to 3 March 2010, the Fourth Colloquium is expected to discuss possible future work in the area of secured transactions and related areas, in particular, further to the completion of the Commission's work on a guide to enactment of the UNICITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions (the "Model Law").

At its forty-ninth session in 2016, the Commission decided that the preparation of a contractual guide on secured transactions and a uniform law text on intellectual property licensing that it had placed on its future work programme in 2010 should be retained. In addition, the Commission decided that the following topics should also be placed on its future work programme and considered at a future session on the basis of notes to be prepared by the Secretariat, after a colloquium or expert group meeting, to be held within existing resources: (a) the question whether the Model Law and the draft Guide to Enactment might need to be expanded to address matters related to secured finance to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); (b) the question whether any future work on a contractual guide on secured transactions should discuss contractual issues of concern to MSMEs (e.g. transparency issues); (c) any question that might not have already been addressed in the area of warehouse receipt financing (e.g. the negotiability of warehouse receipts); and (d) the question whether disputes arising from security agreements could be resolved through ADR mechanisms (see A/71/17, paras. 124 and 125).

The Fourth International Colloquium on Secured Transactions is being organized in accordance with that decision of the Commission in order to obtain the views and draw on the expertise of experts from Governments, international organizations and the private sector. The language of this informal meeting will be English.