



General Assembly

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**United Nations Commission
on International Trade Law
Fiftieth session**
Vienna, 3-20 July 2017

Programme for the Congress

Modernizing International Trade Law to Support Innovation and Sustainable Development

to celebrate the 50th annual session of UNCITRAL

4-6 July 2017

9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Board Room D

Vienna International Centre

Day 1, 4 July 2017

08.00-09.30 Registration of participants

09.30-10.00 Opening of the Congress

Welcoming remarks

Opening address

10.00-12.30 UNCITRAL's contributions to the harmonization and modernization of the law of international trade and commerce

Introduction & keynote address

Session 1 – Roundtable: Development Benefits of UNCITRAL texts: International, regional and national perspectives

Introduction

Presentations – International, regional and national perspectives

– Quantitative benefits & use of Model Laws

Comments, evaluation and discussion

Lunch break

14.00-16.30 Creative International Law-making in the international trade law context

Session 2 – Roundtable on the making of international trade law

Introduction

Panel discussion: UNCITRAL law-making in corporate insolvency, transport of goods by sea and secured transactions

The regional dimension and law-making in UNCITRAL

Comments, evaluation and discussion

Session 3 – The use of UNCITRAL models

Presentations

– Opportunities and challenges in harmonization and unification of the international law of commerce

Roundtable discussion

16.30-17.00 Concluding remarks

Day 2 – 5 July 2017

09.30-11.30 Developments in the law of international trade and commerce: the digital economy

Session 4 - Integrated systems to support cross-border trade

Presentations: Blockchain and smart contracts
Comments, evaluation and discussion

Session 5 - Transport, trade facilitation and payments

Presentations:
Comments, evaluation and discussion

Concluding remarks

11.30-12.30 Developments in the law of international trade and commerce: the credit economy

Session 6 - Efficient and effective lending regimes

Introduction

Presentations: Emerging issues in the credit economy, eg

- Intellectual Property Financing and Licensing
- Secured finance and regulatory considerations
- Regional perspectives on secured finance law reform

Comments, evaluation and discussion

Concluding remarks

Lunch break

14.00-15.00 Continuation of Session 6 - Efficient and effective lending regimes

15.00-17.00 Developments in the international law of trade and commerce: exit strategies

Session 7 - Efficient and effective insolvency regimes

Introduction

Roundtable discussion: Reflections on harmonization of the law and practice of insolvency

Presentations: Emerging issues in insolvency

Comments, evaluation and discussion

Concluding remarks

Day 3 – 6 July 2017

09.30-12.30 **Developments in the settlement of commercial disputes**

Introduction

Session 8 - Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement

Roundtable discussion

- Rationale for reform
- Possible roadmap
- Technical assistance to States

Concluding remarks

Break

Session 9 – International Commercial Arbitration and Conciliation

Panel discussions:

- International framework on arbitration: where are the needs?
- International framework on conciliation: a work in progress

Comments, evaluation and discussion

Concluding remarks

Session 10 – New frontiers in dispute settlement

Introduction

Presentations on emerging issues

Comments, evaluation and discussion

Concluding remarks

Lunch break

**14.00-
16.50** **Harmonization and modernization of the law of international trade and commerce in practice**

Implementation and interpretation of UNCITRAL texts

Session 11 - Dispute settlement

Introduction

Panel discussion

- The New York Convention Guide
- The Digest of Case Law on the Model Law on Arbitration
- The Swiss Arbitration Association Toolbox as a means to promote the UNCITRAL Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings

Session 12 - Implementing the Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods

Panel discussion

- Introduction
- Presentations
- Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts

Concluding remarks

Session 13 – Approaches to keeping UNCITRAL texts up to date

Introduction

Panel discussion: The case of public procurement and PPPs

- Pre-contract breaches in procedures and post-contract remedies
- Small and medium-sized enterprises and the division of contracts into lots
- Selection procedures
- Process and updating UNCITRAL texts

Concluding remarks

Session 14 – Cataloguing developments in international trade law

Introduction

Panel discussion:

- Coordination
- Knowledge-gathering
- Knowledge dissemination

Concluding remarks

**16.50-
17.00** Closing address

