



# AUSTRALIA



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16 October 2013

## **General Assembly, Sixth Committee**

### **Agenda item 79: Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-sixth session**

**Statement by Ms Julia O'Brien  
First Secretary (Legal)  
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations**

**(Check against delivery)**

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Mr Chairman

We thank the Commission for its report.

Australia emphasises its support for the range of work carried out by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) aimed at progressively harmonising the law of international trade and implementing modern private law standards. Implementing uniform and modern standards internationally will assist in reducing barriers to international trade, commerce and investment.

Australia notes the importance of close cooperation between UNCITRAL and other international and regional organisations aiming to harmonise private law internationally,

such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law. Such efforts go some way in avoiding duplication of effort and ensure a systematic and united development of the law of international trade.

Like others have done, Australia welcomes the finalisation and adoption of UNCITRAL rules on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration, which are intended to apply to investor-State arbitration conducted under an investment agreement concluded on or after 1 April 2014. Australia reiterates the importance of ensuring transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration.

Australia especially welcomes the opening of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific on 10 January 2012 in the Republic of Korea. The Regional Centre can play a significant role in enhancing UNCITRAL's engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia notes the positive engagement it has already had with the Regional Centre. On 6 February 2013, a range of participants attended a seminar at the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in Canberra, Australia, where the Head of the Regional Centre, Dr Luca Castellani delivered the key-note contribution highlighting the work of UNCITRAL, including that of the RCAP.

Finally, Australia welcomes the establishment of an UNCITRAL Coordinator in Australia to provide coordination for the UNCITRAL-related work. This Coordinator role was launched on 23 September 2013, which was attended by Dr Luca Castellani from the Regional Centre.

Thank you.