



# AUSTRALIA



**AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SIXTH COMMITTEE**  
19 October 2015

## **Agenda item 81: Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-eighth session**

**Statement by Mr Stephen Dietz  
Legal Officer, Trade and Investment Law Branch, Department of  
Foreign Affairs & Trade**

**(Check against delivery)**

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Mister/Madam Chair

We thank the Commission for its report.

Australia emphasises its support for the range of work carried out by UNCITRAL aiming 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 welcomes the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration on 17 March, 2015 in Mauritius. Australia reiterates the importance of ensuring transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration, and notes that we are moving towards accession to the Convention at the earliest opportunity.

Australia notes the continued positive engagement it has had with both the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific – or ‘RCAP’ – and the UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for Australia – or ‘the UNCITRAL Coordinator’. The UNCITRAL Coordinator was launched in September 2013 to manage and promote UNCITRAL related work in Australia. The Australian Government co-hosted an inaugural UNCITRAL-Australia Seminar with RCAP and the UNCITRAL Coordinator on 21 May 2015 in Canberra. The Seminar was attended by the Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, Joao Ribeiro from the RCAP, other Federal Court judges, legal professionals and academics.

The event highlighted the importance of ongoing engagement with 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. The keynote address at the Seminar celebrated systematic and united development of international trade law.

Australia was also delighted to participate in the RCAP-led seminar on “Rules-based trade: A legal roadmap for the South Pacific” on 24 and 25

September in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The discussions were illuminating and will undoubtedly contribute to the development of the legal frameworks that underpin trade and investment in Small Island Developing States in the Pacific. We thank RCAP, as well as the governments of Korea and Papua New Guinea, for organising this timely and extremely worthwhile seminar.

At both occasions we expressed Australia's continued interest in engaging with UNCITRAL, and that is a message we reiterate today.

Thank you.