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**70th Session of the
General Assembly**

AGENDA ITEM 81

**Report of the United Nations Commission
on International Trade Law
on the work of its forty-eighth session**

Statement by Austria

New York, 19 October 2015

Mr. Chair,

Before discussing the Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-eighth session (held in Vienna, from 29 June to 16 July 2015), I wish to express Austria's gratitude and appreciation to the Chair of the Commission, Mr. Francisco REYES VILLAMIZAR of Colombia, who very ably guided the Commission's work during the last session. We also sincerely thank the Secretariat of the Commission for its professional and efficient work under the able leadership of Mr. Renaud Sorieul.

Mr. Chair,

Let me briefly highlight the **work UNCITRAL has accomplished this year.**

The Commission approved in principle a draft revision of the UNCITRAL Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings. The Commission also approved some registry-related provisions of a draft model law on secured transactions. Both drafts are due for adoption at the Commission's next session, to be held in New York in 2016. Finally, the Commission endorsed the Principles of Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts, a non-binding set of principles promoting "party autonomy" prepared by the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

The session also included an expert panel discussion to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG). The panel considered the convention's broad impact as a treaty and legislative model as well as its future potential and further implementation.

My delegation also commends the Commission for the progress made in other areas of work, such as micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), arbitration and conciliation, online dispute resolution (ODR), electronic commerce, insolvency law and security interests.

Mr. Chair,

Last week, the Sixth Committee discussed the topic of the **Rule of law at the national and international levels**. UNCITRAL plays a key role in this regard and the panel discussion it held during its past session on the role of **UNCITRAL multilateral treaty processes** in promoting and advancing the rule of law highlighted the strengths of UNCITRAL treaty-initiation, -making and -implementation relevant to the promotion of the rule of law in commercial relations. My delegation would like to thank the Commission and its Secretariat for their efforts and reiterates its call to continue and further intensify the important work of UNCITRAL in the field of advancing the rule of law.

Austria also thanks the Commission for bringing to the attention of the General Assembly matters related to UNCITRAL treaty processes, especially the need to increase awareness across the United Nations system about the **relevance of UNCITRAL's work to promoting the rule of law and development**.

Austria strongly supports the work of the Commission concerned with **technical cooperation and assistance** in the field of international trade law reform and development. In this regard, we recognize the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity building. Austria welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure greater coordination and coherence among United Nations entities and with donors and recipients and, welcomes in this regard the **guidance note** on strengthening United Nations support to States to implement sound commercial law reforms. It is our hope that the guidance note referenced in the draft resolution will meet with the approval of all member states.

I would also like to recall that last year, the United Nations **Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration** was adopted, and already has 16 signatories. The Convention constitutes an efficient and flexible mechanism by which the Transparency Rules elaborated by the Commission in 2013 will apply to disputes arising under the existing 3,000 bilateral and multilateral investment treaties currently in force. Together with the Rules on Transparency, the Convention contributes to the enhancement of transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration, and to the dissemination of knowledge about peaceful dispute resolution proceedings and to the continuous strengthening of the rule of law. In this regard, we commend the efforts by the UNCITRAL Secretariat to operationalize the **repository of published information under the Rules on Transparency** in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration, consistent with the aim to enhance transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration.

Mr. Chair,

Austria is very pleased to again serve as coordinator for the **UNCITRAL resolution**. Last week, the draft resolution was circulated to Member States via Uniteshare and I referred to some key updates in the resolution today. Delegations wishing to co-sponsor the UNCITRAL Omnibus Resolution will have the opportunity to sign their names on the list at the Austrian desk.

Let me conclude by stressing that Austria continues to attach the highest importance to the work of UNCITRAL. We will continue to support the Commission and its Vienna-based Secretariat and look forward to contributing actively to their work.

Thank you.