

Statement by Italy
Agenda Item 81
October 19, 2015
70th Session of the UNGA
VI Committee (Mr Salvatore Zappala')

Italy welcomes the Report of the Commission, presented here today, and commends the efforts of the Secretariat of UNCITRAL, as well as the commitment and efforts of all Member States and observers in working productively towards further harmonization of international trade law. In this regard we also note the work which was finalized during the Commission session.

We would like to thank the Chairman of UNCITRAL at its 48th session, Mr Francisco Reyes Villamizar of Colombia, for his presentation and the whole Bureau of UNCITRAL, as well as its Secretariat, for the productive plenary session they had in Vienna this summer and we look forward to working effectively with them during this entire year.

We also would like to recall and commend the work of the Chair of the 47th Session, Amb. Hahn of the Republic of Korea and of his Bureau, for emphasizing the relevance of the work of UNCITRAL for the promotion of sustainable development, in a rule based environment.

Mr Chairman,

More broadly, the way in which the Commission and its working groups operate on complex and sometime divisive topics, is an example of how an in depth and technical examination of many issues can lead to positive results, including through a consensual approach. The importance of this methodology must not be underestimated: UNCITRAL couples results, with dialogue, including with non governmental actors, consensual approach and national ownership: All elements worth praising.

In this regard, we would like to recall the recent Convention, adopted last year, which Italy signed last Spring, the Mauritius or Port Louis Convention on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration which was achieved through consultation, dialogue, and cooperation among delegations in order to achieve a consensual and positive result. The delegation of Mauritius and all those who helped building momentum in that direction must still be commended for this work.

Mr Chairman,

Traditionally, Italy has given and hopes to continue to give its contribution to the work of UNCITRAL and of its working groups. We have participated actively in the sessions with experts from public and private institutions; in the past session, thank to the trust and support of the Membership (for which we thank you again today), two fellow Italian experts, two women who are law professors in Italian Universities, have chaired working groups on topics of some relevance to a real modernization of international trade law. The topics dealt with in Working Group I on Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises and Working Group IV on Electronic Commerce are particularly relevant, they might have a role also with a view to pursuing the implementation of Agenda 2030, and for their potential impact on affording chances of prosperity to all (big and small ones).

We are happy to see that the Commission has decided that these Working Groups would continue their work and their analysis, and look forward to their activities here in New York in 2016 and to the results that may be achieved through the joint efforts of all our delegations.

We also note the work done by all other working groups and remain ready to engage with others in constructive dialogue and consultations to smooth divergences and make all attempts to achieve satisfactory outcomes.

Thank you Mr Chairman.