

**72nd Session of the
General Assembly**

AGENDA ITEM 79

**Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
on the work of its fiftieth session**

Statement by Austria

New York, 9 October 2017

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the European Union.

I wish to express Austria's gratitude and appreciation to the Chair of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, Mr. Janos Martonyi of Hungary, who very ably guided the Commission's work during this past session, held in Vienna from 3 to 21 July this year. It is particularly significant that Hungary, a state which played an important role in establishing UNCITRAL, chaired the session of the Commission this year. We also sincerely thank the Secretariat of the Commission, based in Vienna, Austria, for its professional and efficient work.

Mr. Chair,

This year marks an important year for the Commission, with the commemoration of its **50th anniversary celebrated in Vienna**. For Austria, in light of my country's commitment to international law and the rule of law, it is a source of pride to host the Commission and its Secretariat in Vienna. My delegation commends the Commission for its achievements so far, in a variety of areas of international trade law, including its work on conventions, model laws, legislative guides and other texts. UNCITRAL has succeeded in harmonizing and modernizing the legal framework for the facilitation of international trade and investment in an increasingly economically interdependent world.

This year, the Commission finalized and adopted the UNCTRAL Model Law on electronic transferable records with an explanatory note and has made progress also in other areas of work.

Importantly, the Commission this year entrusted its Working Group III with a broad mandate to work on the **possible reform of investor-State dispute settlement**. Austria attaches great importance to this topic and, as a member state of the EU, Austria supports this process in the framework of UNCITRAL, which has time and time again proven to be a transparent, open, multilateral forum to meaningfully address challenges and concerns in a consensual manner.

Mr. Chair,

Austria reaffirms that strengthening the rule of law through the efforts of UNCITRAL and its Secretariat is essential for achieving the Goals and targets of the Agenda 2030. Austria therefore 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.

Mr. Chair,

Austria is very pleased to again serve as coordinator for the **UNCITRAL resolutions in the 6th Committee**. Last week, the draft resolutions were circulated to Member States and uploaded on the e-delegate Portal. Delegations wishing to co-sponsor the UNCITRAL Omnibus Resolution will have the opportunity to sign their names on the list at the Austrian desk as well as using the new e-delegate Portal and I encourage many delegations to do so and to show their support for the valuable work of UNCITRAL.

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 recall Austria's regular contributions to the Trust Fund for travel assistance to delegates from members of the Commission from developing countries.

Finally, allow me to express the thanks of the Austrian delegation both in New York and in Vienna to Mr. Renaud Sorieul, the Secretary of UNCITRAL, for his dedication and service in furtherance of the harmonization of international trade law and allow me to wish him all the very best.

Thank you.