

73rd Session of the General Assembly

Sixth Committee

**Agenda Item 80: Report of the UN Commission on International Trade Law on the Work
of its fifty-first session**

Statement by Ms. Nadia Kalb

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New York, 15 October 2018

Mr. Chair,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made 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, Prof. Beate Czerwenka of Germany, who very ably guided the Commission's work during this past session, held in New York in July this year. We also sincerely thank the Secretariat of the Commission, based in Vienna, Austria, for its professional and efficient work and welcome the new Secretary of the Commission, Dr. Anna Joubin-Bret and wish her all the very best for her work.

Mr. Chair,

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 the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation and has recommended the Convention to the General Assembly for adoption. We are grateful to Singapore, which will host a signing ceremony in August next year.

The Commission also finalized work on the Model Law on International Commercial Mediation and International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation as well as the Model Law on Recognition and Enforcement of Insolvency-Related Judgments including its guide to enactment. Furthermore, in the framework of its work on Micro- Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises, the Commission finalized a draft legislative guide to business registries.

Austria commends the Commission for progress also in other important areas of work, in particular the progress made in its 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 and open forum to meaningfully address challenges and concerns in a consensual manner.

Austria also welcomes discussions on enhancing the efficiency of the work of the Commission, including on the length and preparation of its session and discussions on the allocation of topics to different working groups in order to make the best use of the time available to the Commission and its Working Groups.

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 also 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 do so on the e-delegate Portal and I encourage many delegations to do so and to show their support for the valuable work of UNCITRAL. Informal consultations will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, at 9am in this room.

Let me conclude by reminding of the informal briefing and Q & A session to take place immediately following our plenary session at lunchtime today in this room. The Chair and Secretary of UNCITRAL have kindly agreed to inform about on the future work of the Commission, in particular on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and discussions in Working Group III.

Thank you.