



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

delivered by
MS. MARIA ANGELA A. PONCE
Minister and Legal Adviser

**Item 78: Report of the United Nation Commission
on International Trade Law of the Work of its 53rd Session
75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Sixth Committee**

10 November 2020, Conference Room 2
UN Headquarters New York

We thank the Commission for its reports on its 53rd Session. It has been and continues to be a challenging year, and so we commend the Commission for being able to advance its work despite restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We welcome in this regard its approval for publication of the joint UNCITRAL-
Unidroit-the Hague Conference Legal Guide to Uniform Legal Instruments in the Area of
International Commercial Contracts, and its endorsement of the Incoterms® 2020 rules.

The Philippines also welcomes the entry into force of the Singapore Convention
on Mediation. The Convention complements the existing legal framework on international
mediation and is of much value to the fair and efficient settlement of disputes arising in
international commercial relations.

The Commission was established to promote progressive harmonization and
unification of international trade law. As such has an important role in promoting the rule
of law at both international and national levels. Its legislative work is critical to the
achievement of the SDGs through establishing and facilitating fair, stable and predictable
legal frameworks for inclusive, sustainable and equitable development. For this session
we note the value of its contribution in the areas of public procurement and infrastructure
development.

The pandemic has hastened the need to transition to a digital economy thus
spurring our Government's plans to advance its digital transformation and accelerate its
e-commerce roadmap. The series of online panels organized by the Secretariat on the
work of UNCITRAL and the economic consequences of the pandemic have been most
helpful in providing guideposts on mitigation measures and making it possible to conduct
business transactions and transmit and use documents by using electronic means.

We particularly appreciate the sessions on micro-, small and medium-sized
enterprises (MSMEs) and public-private partnerships. Capacitating MSMEs for the digital

economy and giving them opportunities to participate in global value chains is a priority of our pandemic response and recovery plans. The Philippines is committed to engage with Working Group I's future work on preparing a legislative guide on an UNCITRAL limited liability organization and to start as soon as possible to consider the draft materials on access to credit for MSMEs.

We also reaffirm our support for the proposal of Japan and Israel to discuss the enlargement of the membership of the Commission. We believe that such expansion should reflect proportionate membership from the Group of 77 and China Member States to ensure equal and balanced representation in the Commission.

We once again express our deep appreciation to UNCITRAL's Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific and to the Republic of Korea for its support for the Center. The Center has done much to build capacity of our region on international trade law and to raise awareness of UNCITRAL.

Finally, as a current member of the Commission the Philippines thanks Austria for its work as facilitator on the resolution for this agenda item, which we are pleased to co-sponsor.

Thank you.