



United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations

One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
(885 Second Avenue)
New York, NY 10017

Email: uk@un.int
http://twitter.com/UKUN_NewYork

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
UNGA75, AGENDA ITEM 78

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW
ON THE WORK OF ITS 53rd SESSION

10 November 2020

Delivered by Melina Lito

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Mr. Chairman,

The United Kingdom would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to the Chair of the Commission, the Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur for their ongoing work to promote the development of a legal framework to facilitate international trade law and investments. In particular, we would like to thank the Commission Secretariat for its excellent work in preparing for and facilitating the session.

We commend the flexible approach taken by the International Trade Law Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that UNCITRAL's important work can progress during these difficult times.

Working Group I

Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom welcomes the work undertaken by Working Group I to develop standards to reduce the legal obstacles faced by small businesses.

Working Group II

We have also noted with interest the consideration of Working Group II's consideration of the issue of expedited arbitration.

The UK is continuing to consider whether to apply the Singapore Convention on Mediation. We plan to undertake a consultation with domestic stakeholders on the Convention in the near future, and a decision on the United Kingdom's participation will be made after that.

Working Group III

Mr Chairman,

The United Kingdom thanks the Commission Secretariat for its work facilitating discussions in Working Group III on the possible reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement. We were pleased to participate in the Working Group's 39th session, which took place under the COVID-19 alternative arrangements.

The United Kingdom welcomes the Secretariat's continued support and the approach it has taken in considering the views of stakeholders. We support further such engagement, including with the business community.

We value UNCITRAL's ability to bring together a wide variety of stakeholders in Working Group III and recognise its long-standing and unique role in developing international investment law and business rules, all the more important in these current times. We look forward to continuing our work in an inclusive and efficient way.

Working Group IV

Mr Chairman,

The United Kingdom continues to support the work of Working Group IV in the development of the model law for cross border recognition of Identity Management and Trust services.

Working Group V

Mr Chairman,

The United Kingdom was pleased to participate in the 56th session of Working Group V on insolvency law, and the alternative arrangements in place of the postponed 57th session.

We were heartened to see that the Working Group continued to make good progress on its mandate: progressing its work on the insolvency of micro and small entities, and carrying out a colloquium on asset tracing in the area of insolvency. The latter represented a very welcome initial exploration of that topic.

The United Kingdom supports the Commission's continued commitment to the allocation of time from Working Group V's next session to conduct an additional colloquium, which will cover applicable law in cross-border insolvencies. We look forward to taking part in further deliberations on the insolvency of micro and small entities in the coming session of the working group, and to our participation in the upcoming colloquium.

Working Group VI

Mr. Chairman, the United Kingdom welcomes the progress made by Working Group VI. We continue to support the development of an international instrument, in relation to the judicial sale of ships that strikes a fair balance between all interested parties.

The United Kingdom remains committed to the work of UNCITRAL and we look forward to continued discussions on this topic

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.