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**STATEMENT
BY
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**DURING THE SIXTH COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 80:
"REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE
LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION" AT THE 76TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

18 October 2021
United Nations HQ.
New York

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

Mme. Chairperson,

At the outset my delegation would like to thank the Chair of the 54th session of UNCITRAL, Amb. Philibert Johnson, Ghana's Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna, for the comprehensive report on the work of UNCITRAL during its fifty-fourth Session. We commend the Secretariat of UNCITRAL for its hard work in ensuring limited disruption to the work of the Commission despite the ravaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ghana would also like to place on record the remarkable cooperation of Member States during the 54th Session which ensured the finalization of six legislative texts in this difficult time.

Mme. Chairperson,

Ghana has taken note of the work done by the various working Groups, particularly, Working Group I, V, II and III.

We have also taken note of the progress made by Working Groups IV and VI and support the call for Working Group III to be afforded additional time and resources to complete its work.

My delegation believes that the important work being undertaken by Working Group III should not be unduly delayed or conditioned expressly or de facto on the attainment of a prior consensus on the many specific and useful incremental reform proposals being discussed by the Working Group.

Ghana, therefore, finds the request for additional time and resources for working Group III to be reasonable. This would ensure completion in good time of the critical work on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Reforms which remains important to developing countries, particularly African countries.

We support the view that the work plan be treated with the necessary flexibility to enable the Working group to adapt to changes and new developments and urge all delegations to show flexibility and consider the request of the Commission's Chair on this matter.

Mme. Chairperson,

The development of an investment protocol for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is ongoing. A reformed instrument on Investor State dispute resolution germane to the prevailing realities, would provide useful measures to facilitate the

satisfactory resolution of the very large number of disputes that have characterised the relations between states and investors in recent years and this would go a long way to enhance trade and development, especially in Africa.

Mme. Chairperson,

My delegation commends the Commission for the work done on the text of the UNCITRAL Limited Liability Organization and will continue to support further work in this regard.

Mme. Chairperson,

Ghana would also like to commend Japan for her resilience and hard work in getting the proposal on the expansion of the Commission through. Ghana would have wished for equitable geographical representation in the expansion of UNCITRAL Membership. Nonetheless, we consider the work done in this area as work in progress which is not intended to set precedence in the future. Ghana, therefore, urges full support for the adoption of the resolution on the expansion of UNCITRAL membership by the General Assembly. We believe that even though it did not meet the aspiration of all Members particularly, those from developing

Member States it is a crucial step nonetheless and must be supported.

Mme. Chairperson,

In Conclusion, Ghana would like to urge the Secretariat to enhance capacity building in International commercial law within the remit of UNCITRAL and to implement a deliberate programme that would ensure the involvement of African Member States in the work of UNCITRAL.

We thank the Commission and the Secretariat once again for this report and look forward to continuing engagement on all outstanding matters.

Thank you Chair.