

 Permanent Mission
of Austria to the
United Nations in New York

78th Session of the General Assembly
Sixth Committee

**Agenda item 79: Report of the United Nations Commission on International
Trade Law on the work of its fifty-sixth session**

Statement by Mr. Maximilian Gorke
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New York, 16 October 2023

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and we would like to reiterate the following points in our national capacity.

I would like to express Austria's appreciation to the Chair of the 56th session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, Kathryn Sabo of Canada, who guided the Commission's work in last session. We also sincerely thank the Secretariat of the Commission, based in Vienna, for its professional and efficient work. Their tireless efforts as well the constructive engagement of the members of the Commission continuously advances the important work of UNCITRAL, as reflected in report A/78/17. The development of international trade law, including through the modernization and harmonization of rules of international business, is of significant importance for the private sector. States equally have an interest in improving legal certainty in order to foster trade and investment, one example being the work on the reform of the Investor-State dispute settlement reform in UNCITRAL Working Group III. In this regard, it is imperative that all members of the Commission are able to participate in its deliberations. Austria therefore made another contribution to the trust fund established to provide travel assistance to developing countries that are members of UNCITRAL.

Austria very much values and commends the Commission for its work in the past session. We particularly welcome the progress made in the context of Working Group III resulting in the adoption of a Code of Conduct for Arbitrators and a Code of Conduct for Judges in International Investment Dispute Resolution as well as Model Provisions on Mediation and Guidelines on Mediation for International Investment Disputes.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of Austria's economy - they are an essential source of jobs and innovation. Therefore, we welcome the adoption of recommendations on access to credit for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

In light of Austria's commitment to international law and the rule of law, it is our honour to be a member of UNCITRAL and host its Secretariat in Vienna. We will continue to support UNCITRAL's mandate "to promote the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law".

Thank you!