



PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
Agenda Item - 77: Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the
work of its fifty-sixth session
78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
16 October 2023
UN Headquarters New York

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Commission for its report on its 56th Session (A/78/17) and express appreciation for the efforts of UNCITRAL Secretary Anna Joubin-Bret and the Chair of the 56th Session of UNCITRAL which the Philippines attended as an observer, in moving forward the work of the Commission.

We laud the work of the Commission in facilitating fair, stable and predictable legal frameworks during the relevant period covered by the report, including the finalization and adoption of texts related to *investor-State dispute settlement reform, inter alia*:

- the UNCITRAL Model Provisions on Mediation for International Investment Disputes;
- the UNCITRAL Guidelines on Mediation for International Investment Disputes;
- the UNCITRAL Code of Conduct for Arbitrators in International Investment Dispute Resolution; and
- the UNCITRAL Code of Conduct for Judges in International Investment Dispute Resolution

We thank the Chairperson and the Rapporteur, Mr. Shane Spelliscy (Canada) and Natalie Yu-Lin Morris-Sharma (Singapore), respectively, for their valuable roles in steering the Working Group III, in their personal capacity.

We welcome the finalization and adoption of the recommendations on access to credit for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the approval in principle of the commentary to the recommendations.

We also note the satisfactory progress of the various Working Groups.

We are particularly pleased on the conduct of the UNCITRAL Colloquium on Climate Change and International Trade Law took place this year to consider areas in which international trade law can effectively support the achievement of climate action goals set by

the international community, the scope and value of legal harmonization in those areas and the need for international guidance for legislators, policymakers, courts and dispute resolution bodies.

Further, the further expansion of engagement with academic partners, targeted at young researchers and practitioners in international trade law, including through, inter alia, the UNCITRAL Asia-Pacific Days, is a welcome development that must be sustained.

We express our 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 been instrumental in building capacity in our region on international trade law and to in raising awareness of the UNCITRAL.

We are open to the suggestion from the Commission for an intersessional consultative process among States Members of the United Nations with a view to developing guidelines on streamlining and simplifying the text of future draft omnibus resolutions to be adopted by the General Assembly.

Finally, the Philippines stands ready to support Austria and co-facilitators Singapore (resolution I), Croatia (resolution II), and El Salvador (resolution IV). in their work on the resolutions on this agenda item. **END**