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Work programme of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat

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I. Introduction

A. Background

1. At its forty-sixth session, in 2013, the Commission agreed that it should reserve time for discussion of UNCITRAL's future work as a separate topic at each Commission session ([A/68/17](#), para. 310). This Note has been prepared to assist the Commission's consideration of its overall work programme and planning of its activities at this fiftieth session.

2. This Note considers both legislative development and activities designed to support the effective implementation, use and understanding of UNCITRAL texts. This Note also introduces possible future work in various areas of UNCITRAL activity.

3. The Commission may wish to consider its work programme and activities taking into account the progress reports of its Working Groups and reports from the Secretariat noted below, and the conclusions reached at its forty-ninth session under this agenda item ([A/71/17](#), paras. 343-373). The Commission also has before it several draft texts for consideration and possible adoption. When setting UNCITRAL's work programme for the forthcoming period, the Commission may also wish to recall its decision at the forty-sixth session that it would normally plan for the period to the next Commission session, but that some longer-term indicative planning (for a three-to-five-year period) may also be appropriate ([A/68/17](#), para. 305).

4. Documents for the current Commission session are available at www.uncitral.org/uncitral/commission/sessions/50th.html.¹ They include:²

(a) Progress reports of the Commission's Working Groups:

[A/CN.9/895](#) and [A/CN.9/900](#) — Report of Working Group I (MSMEs) on the work of its 27th and 28th sessions (Vienna, 3-7 October 2016; New York, 1-9 May 2017)

[A/CN.9/896](#) and [A/CN.9/901](#) — Report of Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation) on the work of its 65th and 66th sessions (Vienna, 12-23 September 2016; New York, 6-10 February 2017)

[A/CN.9/897](#) and [A/CN.9/902](#) — Report of Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce) on the work of its 54th and 55th sessions (Vienna, 31 October-4 November 2016; New York, 24-28 April 2017)

[A/CN.9/898](#) and [A/CN.9/903](#) — Report of Working Group V (Insolvency Law) on the work of its 50th and 51st sessions (Vienna, 12-16 December 2016; New York, 10-19 May 2017)

[A/CN.9/899](#) and [A/CN.9/904](#) — Report of Working Group VI (Security Interests) on the work of its 30th and 31st sessions (Vienna, 5-9 December 2016; New York, 13-17 February 2017)

(b) Draft texts for consideration and possible adoption by the Commission, and comments by States thereon:

[A/CN.9/914](#) and Add.1-6 — Draft Guide to Enactment of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions

[A/CN.9/920](#) — Draft Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records with Explanatory Notes

[A/CN.9/921](#) and addenda — Compilation of comments by States and international organizations on the draft Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records with Explanatory Notes

¹ Titles and symbols of the documents referred to are current as at the date of submission of this Note, but are subject to change. Further documents may also be issued, and, if so, will be available at the UNCITRAL weblink indicated.

² Working Group III has not met since the 49th Commission session.

[A/CN.9/922](#) — Note by the Secretariat on proposed amendments to the draft explanatory notes and additional issues for consideration by the Commission

(c) Reports on other events and from the Secretariat:

[A/CN.9/905](#) — Note by the Secretariat on technical cooperation and assistance

[A/CN.9/906](#) — Note by the Secretariat on promotion of ways and means of ensuring a uniform interpretation and application of UNCITRAL legal texts

[A/CN.9/907](#) — Bibliography of recent writings related to UNCITRAL's work

[A/CN.9/908](#) — Note by the Secretariat on coordination activities

[A/CN.9/909](#) — Note by the Secretariat on status of conventions and model laws

[A/CN.9/910](#) — Note by the Secretariat on activities of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific

[A/CN.9/912](#) — Note by the Secretariat on legal developments in the area of procurement and infrastructure development

[A/CN.9/913](#) — Note by the Secretariat on possible future legislative work on security interests and related topics

[A/CN.9/915](#) — Note by the Secretariat on possible future work in the field of dispute settlement: concurrent proceedings in international arbitration

[A/CN.9/916](#) — Note by the Secretariat on possible future work in the field of dispute settlement: ethics in international arbitration

[A/CN.9/917](#) — Note by the Secretariat on possible future work in the field of dispute settlement: reforms of investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS)

[A/CN.9/918](#) and addenda — Investor-State Dispute Settlement Framework, Compilation of comments

[A/CN.9/923](#) — Proposal from CMI for possible future work on issues related to the judicial sale of ships

[A/CN.9/924](#) — Note by the Secretariat on possible future coordination and technical assistance work on security interests and related topics

5. Background documents from the Commission's forty-ninth session are available at www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/commission/sessions/49th.html. The Commission may wish to refer to the following documents in particular:

[A/CN.9/878](#) — Work programme of the Commission — Note by the Secretariat

[A/CN.9/880](#) — Settlement of commercial disputes: Possible future work on ethics in international arbitration

[A/CN.9/881](#) — Concurrent proceedings in international arbitration

[A/CN.9/890](#) — Settlement of commercial disputes: presentation of a research paper on the Mauritius Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration as a possible model for further reforms of investor-State dispute settlement

[A/CN.9/891](#) — Legal Issues Related to Identity Management and Trust Services

[A/71/17](#) — Report of the Commission's forty-ninth session (especially paras. 343-373)³

³ Background documents from the Commission's earlier sessions are available at [www.uncitral.org/uncitral/commission/sessions/\[ordinal number\].html](http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/commission/sessions/[ordinal number].html).

II. Summary of current activities and proposals for future work programme

A. Legislative development

1. Current legislative programme

6. Table 1 below sets out legislative development currently under way in the Commission's Working Groups, and the envisaged completion dates of the texts concerned.

Table 1
Current legislative activities⁴

Topic	Report and document references	Envisaged completion date
<i>MSMEs (WG I)</i>		
Preparation of legislative guide on simplified business entities	A/CN.9/WG.I/WP.99 and Add.1 and A/CN.9/895	Ongoing
Preparation of legislative guide on best practices in business registration	A/CN.9/WG.I/WP.101 and A/CN.9/900	Ongoing
<i>Dispute settlement (WG II)</i>		
Enforcement of settlement agreements resulting from international conciliation/mediation	A/CN.9/896 and A/CN.9/901	Estimated 2018 or beyond
<i>Electronic commerce (WG IV)</i>		
(i) Electronic transferable records	A/66/17 , para. 238; A/CN.9/897	Estimated 2017
(ii) Electronic single window facilities	A/66/17 , para. 240	Ongoing
(iii) Contractual aspects of cloud computing	A/71/17 , para. 235; A/CN.9/902	Ongoing
(iv) Legal issues related to identity management and trust services	A/71/17 , para. 235; A/CN.9/902	Ongoing
<i>Insolvency (WG V)</i>		
(i) Model law or legislative provisions on selected international issues, including jurisdiction, access and recognition in the cross-border insolvency of enterprise groups	A/CN.9/691 A/65/17 , para. 259 (a) A/CN.9/798 A/CN.9/803 A/CN.9/829	Ongoing
(ii) Obligations of directors of enterprise group's members in the period approaching insolvency	A/CN.9/691 A/65/17 , para. 259(b) A/CN.9/829	Since text overlaps with work on topic (i), finalization related to progress with that topic.
(iii) Model law on recognition and enforcement of insolvency-related judgments	A/69/17 , para. 155 A/CN.9/829	Ongoing
(iv) Insolvency of MSMEs	A/69/17 , para. 156; A/71/17 , para. 246	Starting spring 2017
<i>Security Interests (WG VI)</i>		
Preparation of a draft Guide to Enactment of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions	A/CN.9/914 and Addenda 1-6	2017

⁴ Working Group III has not met since the 49th session.

7. As noted above, the following draft texts will be presented for consideration and possible adoption at this Commission session:

[A/CN.9/914](#) and Add.1-6 — Draft Guide to Enactment of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions

[A/CN.9/920](#) — Draft Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records with Explanatory Notes

[A/CN.9/921](#) and addenda — Compilation of comments by States and international organizations on the draft Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records with Explanatory Notes

[A/CN.9/922](#) — Note by the Secretariat on proposed amendments to the draft explanatory notes and additional issues for consideration by the Commission

Progress of Working Groups

8. At its forty-seventh session, the Commission requested that the progress and status of the work of each Working Group, as set out in their reports, be collated and presented to the Commission so as to allow context of each Working Group's suggestions for future work and for prioritization among existing and new topics to be clearer ([A/69/17](#), para. 253). A brief summary of the progress of each Working Group is accordingly presented below.

MSMEs (Working Group I)

9. At its twenty-seventh session (Vienna, 3-7 October 2016), Working Group I continued its exploration of the legal issues surrounding the simplification of incorporation, and considered a draft legislative guide on a simplified business entity ([A/CN.9/WG.I/WP.99](#) and Add.1). It completed its consideration of the commentary and recommendations in respect of the first 13 of the 27 recommendations in the text. The Working Group also heard a short presentation of working paper [A/CN.9/WG.I/WP.94](#) of the French legislative approach known as an "Entrepreneur with Limited Liability" (or EIRL), which represented a possible alternative legislative model applicable to micro and small businesses.

10. At its twenty-eighth session (New York, 1-9 May 2017), the Working Group commenced its deliberation of the draft legislative guide on key principles of a business registry ([A/CN.9/WG.I/WP.101](#)) from 1 to 5 May, and from 8 to 9 May continued with its discussion of the draft legislative guide on a simplified business entity ([A/CN.9/WG.I/WP.99/Add.1](#)). The Working Group also heard a short presentation of working paper [A/CN.9/WG.I/WP.102](#) by the delegation of Italy proposing possible future work in support of MSMEs on contractual networks.

Dispute settlement (Working Group II)

11. In line with the mandate received from the Commission, the Working Group commenced work on the topic of enforcement of settlement agreements at its sixty-third session, with the aim of identifying relevant issues and developing possible solutions, including the possible preparation of a convention, model provisions or guidance text, on the basis of notes by the Secretariat. At its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions (Vienna, 12-23 September 2016; New York, 6-10 February 2017, respectively), the Working Group considered the scope of a possible instrument, form requirements of settlement agreements, as well as the main features of an enforcement procedure and defences to enforcement, on the basis of draft provisions included in notes prepared by the Secretariat ([A/CN.9/WG.II/WP.198](#), and [A/CN.9/WG.II/WP.200](#) and its addendum, respectively). At its sixty-sixth session, the Working Group agreed that the Secretariat should prepare draft model legislative provisions complementing the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Conciliation and a draft convention, both addressing enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from conciliation.

Electronic commerce (Working Group IV)

12. At its fifty-fourth session (Vienna, 31 October-4 November 2016) the Working Group finalized its work on the preparation of a Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records and requested the Secretariat to revise the draft Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records and explanatory materials contained in document [A/CN.9/WG.IV/WP.139](#) and its addenda to reflect the deliberations and decisions at that session and transmit the revised text to the Commission for consideration at its fiftieth session. The Working Group recalled that UNCITRAL practice was to circulate the text as recommended by an UNCITRAL working group to all Governments and relevant international organizations for comment. It was noted that the same practice would be followed with respect to the draft Model Law, so that the comments would be before the Commission at its fiftieth session ([A/CN.9/897](#), para. 20).

13. At its fifty-fifth session (New York, 24-28 April 2017) the Working Group considered legal issues related to identity management and trust services as well as contractual aspects of cloud computing in order to report back to the Commission so that it could make an informed decision at a future session, including on the priority to be given to each topic.

14. At its forty-fourth session, in 2011, the Commission welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the Secretariat and other relevant organizations on legal issues relating to electronic single-window facilities, and asked the Secretariat to contribute as appropriate, with a view to discussing relevant matters at the working group level when the progress of joint work offered a sufficient level of detail. In that respect, the Secretariat has regularly contributed to the preparation by UN/ESCAP of a Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, which has been adopted on 19 May 2016, and is now contributing to its promotion as well as to developing the tools for its implementation (see [A/CN.9/905](#), para. 27).

Insolvency (Working Group V)

15. At its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions (Vienna, 12-16 December 2016; New York, 10-19 May 2017, respectively), the Working Group continued its deliberations on (a) a draft legislative text to facilitate the cross-border insolvency of multinational enterprise groups; and (b) a draft model law on the recognition and enforcement of insolvency-related judgments. A draft commentary and recommendations on the obligations of directors of enterprise group companies in the period approaching insolvency is well-developed, but finalization depends upon progress with topic (a), as the solutions developed with respect to the conduct of enterprise group insolvencies will have an impact upon the nature of the obligations of directors of relevant group members and the steps that might be required to discharge those obligations. Work on the insolvency of MSMEs commenced at the fifty-first session, with a preliminary discussion of how the work should be approached (see [A/CN.9/903](#)).

Security Interests (Working Group VI)

16. At its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions (Vienna, 5-9 December 2016, and New York, 13-17 February 2017, respectively), the Working Group adopted the draft Guide to Enactment of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions ([A/CN.9/899](#) and [A/CN.9/904](#)), and, at its thirty-first session, decided to submit it to the Commission for consideration and adoption at its fiftieth session ([A/CN.9/904](#), para. 135). At that session, the Working Group also noted with appreciation the draft programme of the Fourth International Colloquium on Secured Transactions, which was scheduled to take place in Vienna from 15 to 17 March 2017 and that a report of the Colloquium would be submitted to the Commission for its consideration of future work in the area of secured transactions and related topics at its fiftieth session ([A/CN.9/904](#), para. 136).

2. Future legislative programme

17. At its forty-sixth session, the Commission underscored the importance of a strategic approach to the allocation of resources inter alia to legislative development, in the light of the increasing number of topics referred to UNCITRAL for consideration ([A/68/17](#), paras. 294-295). The Commission has emphasized the benefit of UNCITRAL's primary working method — that is, legislative development through formal negotiations in a working group ([A/69/17](#), para. 249).

18. The Commission has also reaffirmed that it retained the authority and responsibility for setting UNCITRAL's workplan, especially as regards the mandates of Working Groups, though the role of Working Groups in identifying possible future work and the need for flexibility to allow a Working Group to decide on the type of legislative text to be produced were also recalled (*ibid.*).⁵

19. Table 2 below sets out proposals for future work by the Commission, annotated to show whether the work is mandated or possible future work. "Mandated future work" is planned legislative development, i.e. work in respect of which the Commission has provided a mandate to a Working Group. Items denoted as "possible future work" are topics proposed to the Commission, which the Commission may wish to consider. The final column of the table identifies areas in which a proposal may involve issues of another subject area relevant to UNCITRAL.

20. The Commission may wish to consider the items set out in Table 2, the more detailed descriptions in the paragraphs following that table and the other documents referred to in this section when setting its work programme for the year to the Commission session in 2018. The Commission may also recall that further proposals seeking legislative mandates for other subject areas may be made at the current session, by States and/or international organizations.

⁵ At its forty-sixth session in 2013, the Commission confirmed that it would consider whether to refer proposals for future work to a Working Group by reference to four considerations: first, whether the Commission is satisfied that the topic is likely to be amenable to harmonization and the consensual development of a legislative text; second, whether the scope of a possible future text and the policy issues for deliberation are clear; third, whether there exists a sufficient likelihood that a proposed legislative text would enhance the law of international trade; and, fourth, whether proposed work would duplicate work undertaken by other law reform bodies. [A/68/17](#), paras. 303 and 304.

Table 2
Summary of mandated and possible future legislative activity

<i>Subject area</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Document reference</i>	<i>Mandated/possible future work</i>	<i>Other relevant subject areas</i>
Dispute Settlement (WG II)	Concurrent proceedings in the field of investment arbitration	Paras. 21-22 below A/CN.9/881	Possible	—
	Code of ethics in international arbitration	Paras. 23-24 below A/CN.9/880	Possible	
	Possible reform of investor-State dispute settlement	Para. 25-26 below A/CN.9/880	Possible	
Electronic commerce (WG IV)	Mobile commerce	Para. 27 below A/70/17 , para. 358	Possible	MSMEs
Security Interests (WG VI)	Contractual Guide on Secured Transactions	Para. 32 below A/71/17 ,	Mandated	Arbitration, MSMEs
	Uniform law text on intellectual property licensing	paras. 124-125		
	Finance to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)			
	Contractual issues of concern to MSMEs			
	Warehouse receipt financing			
	Secured transactions and alternative dispute resolution			

Dispute settlement

Concurrent proceedings

21. At its forty-sixth session, in 2013, the Commission identified that the subject of concurrent proceedings was increasingly important particularly in the field of investment arbitration and might warrant further consideration.⁶ At its forty-seventh session, in 2014, the Commission agreed that the Secretariat should explore the matter further, in close cooperation with experts and other organizations working actively in that area and that that work should focus on treaty-based investor-State arbitration, without disregarding the issue in the context of international commercial arbitration.⁷ At its forty-eighth session, in 2015, the Commission requested the Secretariat to report to the Commission, outlining the issues at stake and identifying work that UNCITRAL might usefully undertake in the area.⁸ At its forty-ninth session, in 2016, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat outlining the causes and impact of concurrent proceedings, existing principles and mechanisms to address concurrent proceedings in international arbitration and possible future work in that area ([A/CN.9/881](#)).⁹ After discussion, the

⁶ Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17* ([A/68/17](#)), paras. 131-133 and 311.

⁷ Ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17* ([A/69/17](#)), paras. 126-127 and 130.

⁸ Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 17* ([A/70/17](#)), paras. 143-147.

⁹ Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 17* ([A/71/17](#)), paras. 175-181.

Commission agreed that the Secretariat should continue to further develop possible work that could be undertaken with regard to concurrent proceedings as mentioned in section IV of document [A/CN.9/881](#), for consideration by the Commission at a future session.¹⁰

22. Accordingly, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the topic ([A/CN.9/915](#)).

Code of ethics

23. At its forty-eighth session, in 2015, the Commission had before it a proposal for future work on a code of ethics for arbitrators in investment arbitration ([A/CN.9/855](#)), which suggested that work on the topic could relate to conduct of arbitrators, their relationship with those involved in the arbitration process, and the values that they were expected to share and convey. There was general interest in the topic, which could be explored taking into account the wide range of issues and approaches.¹¹ At its forty-ninth session, in 2016, the Commission considered a note by the Secretariat, which outlined the concept of ethics in international arbitration as well as existing legal frameworks on ethics and posed some questions to be considered before possibly engaging in future work in that area ([A/CN.9/880](#)). After discussion, the Commission requested the Secretariat to continue exploring the topic in a broad manner, in close cooperation with experts including those from other organizations working actively in that area, and to report to the Commission at a future session on the various possible approaches.¹²

24. Accordingly, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the topic further exploring the concept of ethics in international arbitration, identifying existing legal frameworks, and raising questions with regard to the topic as an item for possible future work by the Commission ([A/CN.9/916](#)).

Possible reform of investor-State dispute settlement

25. At its forty-eighth session, in 2015, in relation to investor-State arbitration, the Commission noted that the current circumstances posed a number of challenges and proposals for reforms had been formulated by a number of organizations. In that context, the Commission was further informed that the Secretariat was conducting a study on whether the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (“Mauritius Convention on Transparency”) could provide a useful model for possible reforms in the field of investor-State arbitration, in conjunction with interested organizations, including the Centre for International Dispute Settlement (CIDS) of the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. In that light, the Secretariat was requested to report to the Commission at a future session with an update on that matter. At its forty-ninth session, in 2016, the Commission considered a note providing a short overview of a research study on whether the Mauritius Convention on Transparency could provide a useful model for possible reforms in the field of investor-State dispute settlement, conducted within the framework of a research project of CIDS ([A/CN.9/890](#)). After discussion, the Commission requested the Secretariat to review how the project described in document [A/CN.9/890](#) might be best carried forward, if approved as a topic of future work at the forthcoming session of the Commission, taking into consideration the views of all States and other stakeholders, including how this project might interact with other initiatives in this area and which format and processes should be used. In so doing, the Secretariat was requested to conduct broad consultations.

26. Accordingly, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat resulting from the consultations ([A/CN.9/917](#)) and compilation of comment from governments ([A/CN.9/918](#) and addenda). The Commission will also have before it

¹⁰ Ibid., para. 181.

¹¹ Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 17* ([A/70/17](#)), paras. 148-151.

¹² Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 17* ([A/71/17](#)), paras. 182-186.

an additional report from CIDS, addressing the selection and appointment of members of international courts and assignment of individual cases to members.

Electronic commerce

27. At its forty-eighth session, in 2015, the Commission instructed the Secretariat to conduct preparatory work on identity management and trust services, cloud computing and mobile commerce, including through the organization of colloquiums and expert group meetings, for future discussion at the Working Group level following the current work on electronic transferable records. Working Group IV at its fifty-fifth session (New York, 24-28 April 2017) has started considering legal issues related to identity management and trust services as well as contractual aspects of cloud computing (see above, para. 13).

Procurement and infrastructure development

28. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission considered possible future work on the topics of suspension and debarment in public procurement and of public-private partnerships (PPPs) respectively. As regards suspension and debarment, the Commission at its forty-ninth session instructed the Secretariat to continue to monitor developments on the topic and to report periodically thereon to the Commission.¹³

29. As regards PPPs, the Commission decided at its forty-ninth session that the Secretariat should consider updating, where necessary, all or parts of the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Privately Financed Infrastructure Projects,¹⁴ involving experts, and report thereon.¹⁵

30. A Note by the Secretariat on legal developments in the area of procurement and infrastructure development provides the requested reports ([A/CN.9/912](#)).

Security Interests

31. As table 1 indicates, a draft Guide to Enactment of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions was completed and submitted by Working Group VI to the Commission for consideration and adoption at the present session. (As to the possible future legislative work on security interests and related matters, see document [A/CN.9/913](#).)

32. As to the topics of a contractual guide on secured transactions, a uniform law text on intellectual property licensing, finance to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), contractual issues of concern to MSMEs, warehouse receipt financing and secured transactions and alternative dispute resolution, the Commission may wish to consider them in the context of its consideration of document [A/CN.9/913](#) on the possible future legislative work on security interests and related matters.

B. Current and possible future activities to support the adoption and use of UNCITRAL texts

33. The reports available to this fiftieth session of the Commission describing UNCITRAL's current activities in the provision of technical assistance, promoting ways to ensure a uniform interpretation and application of UNCITRAL texts; identifying the status of and work of other bodies in promoting its texts, coordination and cooperation with other relevant bodies and promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels ("support activities") are listed in paragraph 4(c) above. At this fiftieth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on status of conventions and model laws ([A/CN.9/909](#)).

¹³ [A/71/17](#), para. 361.

¹⁴ [A/71/17](#), para. 362.

¹⁵ [A/71/17](#), paras. 359-360 and 362.

34. The Commission has emphasized the importance of support activities and the need to encourage such activities at the global and regional levels through the Secretariat, through the expertise available in the Working Groups and Commission, through member States and through partnering arrangements with relevant international organizations, as well as promoting increased awareness of UNCITRAL's texts in these organizations and within the United Nations system (A/69/17, paras. 263-265). It has requested the Secretariat to continue with those activities to the extent that its resources permit (A/70/17, para. 365). At this fiftieth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on activities of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (A/CN.9/910).

35. As regards technical assistance activities, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on technical cooperation and assistance (A/CN.9/905), a Note by the Secretariat on promotion of ways and means of ensuring a uniform interpretation and application of UNCITRAL legal texts (A/CN.9/906) and a Bibliography of recent writings related to UNCITRAL's work (A/CN.9/907).

III. Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UNCITRAL

36. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission recalled its instruction to the Secretariat to commence preparations for a Congress to commemorate UNCITRAL's fiftieth anniversary. The Congress will take place during the first week of this fiftieth session, from 4-6 July 2017.

37. The Congress is entitled "Modernizing International Trade Law to Support Innovation and Sustainable Development". The Commission may recall that, in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, States endorsed "the efforts and initiatives of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, aimed at increasing coordination of and cooperation on legal activities of international and regional organizations active in the field of international trade law and at promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in this field."¹⁶ The Congress will examine how trade law reform and innovation based on UNCITRAL's modern, fair and harmonized rules, can contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will emphasize the value of development-supporting work in a technical, non-politicized forum, and will examine the potential of UNCITRAL to propose legislative solutions to obstacles to cross-border commerce.

38. Information about the Congress, including the draft programme as it is developed, is available on the UNCITRAL website, at www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/commission/colloquia/50th-anniversary.html.

39. The Secretariat will provide an oral report on the proceedings at the Congress at this session of the Commission, and written proceedings will be published at a later date. The Secretariat will bring to the attention of the Commission for its eventual consideration any proposals for future work in UNCITRAL arising as a result of the Congress.

¹⁶ Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), A/RES/69/313.