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## Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 80

### Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session

#### Report of the Sixth Committee

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Ana L. Villalobos (Costa Rica)

## I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session” and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.
2. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 11th, 12th, 26th, 27th and 29th meetings, on 18 October and on 4, 9 and 18 November 2021. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session ([A/76/17](#)).
4. At the 11th meeting, on 18 October, the Chair of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law at its fifty-fourth session introduced the report of the Commission on the work of its fifty-fourth session.

## II. Consideration of proposals

### A. Draft resolution [A/C.6/76/L.10](#)

5. At the 29th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Austria, also on behalf of Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg,

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<sup>1</sup> [A/C.6/76/SR.11](#), [A/C.6/76/SR.12](#), [A/C.6/76/SR.26](#), [A/C.6/76/SR.27](#) and [A/C.6/76/SR.29](#).



Malta, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session” (A/C.6/76/L.10), and announced that Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Israel, Montenegro, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. The Committee also had before it a statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly concerning the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/76/L.10 (A/C.6/76/L.18).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/76/L.10 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

#### **B. Draft resolution A/C.6/76/L.3**

7. At the 26th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Mediation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law” (A/C.6/76/L.3).

8. At its 27th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/76/L.3 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

#### **C. Draft resolution A/C.6/76/L.4**

9. At the 26th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Expedited Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law” (A/C.6/76/L.4).

10. At its 27th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/76/L.4 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution III).

#### **D. Draft resolution A/C.6/76/L.5**

11. At the 26th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Enlargement of the membership of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law” (A/C.6/76/L.5).

12. At its 27th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/76/L.5 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution IV).

### III. Recommendations of the Sixth Committee

13. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I**

#### **Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [2205 \(XXI\)](#) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

*Reaffirming its belief* that the progressive modernization and harmonization of international trade law, in reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade, especially those affecting developing countries, would contribute significantly to universal economic cooperation among all States on a basis of equality, equity, common interest and respect for the rule of law, to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to peace, stability and the well-being of all peoples,

*Having considered* the report of the Commission,<sup>1</sup>

*Reiterating its concern* that activities undertaken by other bodies in the field of international trade law without adequate coordination with the Commission might lead to undesirable duplication of efforts and would not be in keeping with the aim of promoting efficiency, consistency and coherence in the unification and harmonization of international trade law,

*Reaffirming* the mandate of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, to coordinate legal activities in this field, in particular to avoid duplication of efforts, including among organizations formulating rules of international trade, and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the modernization and harmonization of international trade law, and to continue, through its secretariat, to maintain close cooperation with other international organs and organizations, including regional organizations, active in the field of international trade law,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;

2. *Commends* the Commission for the finalization and adoption of the Legislative Guide on Limited Liability Enterprises,<sup>2</sup> the Legislative Recommendations on Insolvency of Micro- and Small Enterprises,<sup>3</sup> the Mediation Rules,<sup>4</sup> the Notes on Mediation<sup>5</sup> and the Guide to Enactment and Use of the Model Law on International

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/76/17).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. IV, sect. C, and annex I.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. V, sect. G, and annex II.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. VI, sect. B.2, and annex III.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. VI, sect. C.2.

Commercial Mediation and International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (2018),<sup>6</sup> and the Expedited Arbitration Rules;<sup>7</sup>

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to operate, through the secretariat of the Commission, the repository of published information in accordance with article 8 of the Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration,<sup>8</sup> as a continuation of the project until the end of 2023, to be funded entirely by voluntary contributions, notes with satisfaction the contributions by the European Union, Germany and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development in this regard,<sup>9</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of developments regarding the funding and budgetary situation of the transparency repository;

4. *Notes with interest* the progress made by the Commission in its work in the areas of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, dispute settlement, investor-State dispute settlement reform, electronic commerce, insolvency law and the judicial sale of ships,<sup>10</sup> and encourages the Commission to continue to move forward efficiently to achieve tangible work outcomes in those areas;

5. *Takes note with interest* of the decisions of the Commission as regards the progress of preparatory work in the areas of warehouse receipts, negotiable multimodal transport documents and legal issues related to the digital economy (including dispute resolution), as well as its exploratory work on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on international trade law;<sup>11</sup>

6. *Welcomes* the decision by the Commission to take stock of developments in dispute resolution in the digital economy, expresses its appreciation to Japan for its willingness to contribute the financial resources necessary to implement the project in its entirety, and welcomes contributions from other Governments;<sup>12</sup>

7. *Takes note* of the request by the Commission to the secretariat to organize a colloquium during the seventy-fifth session of Working Group II on legal issues related to dispute resolution in the digital economy, such as model provisions that could be employed in the context of technology-related disputes;

8. *Notes* the interest of the Commission in holding a colloquium during the seventy-fifth session of Working Group II to discuss the desirability and feasibility of future work on adjudication by the Commission;

9. *Notes with interest* the upcoming consideration by the Commission's working groups of early dismissal of claims in international arbitration, the use of artificial intelligence and automation in contracting and issues concerning civil asset tracing and recovery as well as applicable law in insolvency proceedings;<sup>13</sup>

10. *Takes note* of the proposal for future consideration by the Commission on the facilitation of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience goals in the implementation of existing Commission texts or through the development of new texts;<sup>14</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., sect. D.2.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., chap. VII, sect. D, and annex IV.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/68/17)*, annex I.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/76/17)*, chap. XV, sect. D.1.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., chaps. IV–XI.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., chap. XII, sects. B.2–B.5.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., sect. B.4 (b).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., sects. B.1, B.4 (c) and C.1 (a).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., sect. C.2.

11. *Notes* the endorsement by the Commission of the Unidroit Principles of International Commercial Contracts 2016;<sup>15</sup>

12. *Endorses* the efforts and initiatives of the Commission, 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, including on legal issues relating to the digital economy as reaffirmed by the Commission at its fifty-third session,<sup>16</sup> and at promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in this field, and in this regard appeals to relevant international and regional organizations to coordinate their activities with those of the Commission, to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the modernization and harmonization of international trade law;

13. *Reaffirms* the importance, in particular for developing countries, of the work of the Commission concerned with technical cooperation and assistance in the field of international trade law reform and development, and in this connection:

(a) Welcomes the initiatives of the Commission towards expanding, through its secretariat, its technical cooperation and assistance programme, in that respect encourages the Secretary-General to seek partnerships with State and non-State actors to increase awareness about the work of the Commission and facilitate the effective implementation of legal standards resulting from its work, and notes with appreciation the organization by the secretariat of the UNCITRAL Day events, in partnership with Governments and regional universities in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, aimed at promoting awareness and encouraging the study and discussion of Commission texts, as well as the call by the Chair of the Commission during the African forum, held as a side event to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, for Member States to host an inaugural series of UNCITRAL Africa Day in 2022, in partnership with the secretariat;<sup>17</sup>

(b) Expresses its appreciation to the Commission for carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities and for providing assistance with legislative drafting in the field of international trade law, and draws the attention of the Secretary-General to the limited resources that are made available in this field;

(c) Expresses its appreciation to the Governments whose contributions enabled the technical cooperation and assistance activities to take place, and appeals to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law trust fund for symposiums and, where appropriate, for the financing of special projects and otherwise to assist the secretariat of the Commission in carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities, in particular in developing countries;

(d) Reiterates its appeal to the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies responsible for development assistance, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as to Governments in their bilateral aid programmes, to support the technical cooperation and assistance programme of the Commission and to cooperate with the Commission and coordinate their activities with those of the Commission in the light of the relevance and importance of the work and programmes of the Commission for the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels and for the implementation of the international

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., chap. XIII.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/75/17)*, part two, chap. X, sect. C.4.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/76/17)*, chap. XV, sect. B.1 (b).

development agenda, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>18</sup>

(e) Recalls its resolutions stressing the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building, and welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure greater coordination and coherence among United Nations entities and with donors and recipients;

14. *Recalls* the importance of adherence to the rules of procedure and methods of work of the Commission, including transparent and inclusive deliberations, taking into account the summary of conclusions as reproduced in annex III to the report on the work of its forty-third session,<sup>19</sup> requests the Secretariat to issue, prior to meetings of the Commission and of its working groups, a reminder of those rules of procedure and methods of work with a view to ensuring the high quality of the work of the Commission and encouraging the assessment of its instruments, and recalls in this regard its previous resolutions related to this matter;

15. *Decides* to allocate one additional one-week session per year for a single period of four years from 2022 to 2025 and additional support to the Commission to allow its Working Group III to continue to implement its work with respect to investor-State dispute settlement reform, on the condition that the Commission would during its annual session re-evaluate and, if needed, revisit its decision concerning the need for allocating an additional one-week session to Working Group III and related support based on its annual report on the use of its resources;<sup>20</sup>

16. *Commends* the Commission for the continued temporary adjustments it has made in its methods of work in order to advance its work to the extent possible in the light of prevailing travel restrictions owing to the COVID-19 pandemic on the participation of delegations at sessions of the Commission and its working groups, which demonstrates the adaptability and resilience of the Commission and its secretariat in such exceptional circumstances as well as the fruitful efforts to preserve transparency, inclusiveness, flexibility, multilingualism, effectiveness and equality in carrying out its work;

17. *Welcomes* the activities of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, in the Republic of Korea, towards providing capacity-building and technical assistance services to States in the Asia-Pacific region, including to international and regional organizations, expresses its appreciation to the Republic of Korea and China, whose contributions enabled continuing operation of the Regional Centre, notes that the continuation of the regional presence relies entirely on extrabudgetary resources, including but not limited to voluntary contributions from States, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of developments regarding the establishment of regional centres, in particular their funding and budgetary situation;

18. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established to provide travel assistance to developing countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General, in order to enable renewal of the provision of that assistance and to increase expert representation from developing countries at sessions of the Commission and its working groups, necessary to build local expertise and capacities in those countries

<sup>18</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>19</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/65/17)*.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/76/17)*, chap. XII, sect. E.

to put in place a regulatory and enabling environment for business, trade and investment;

19. *Decides*, in order to ensure full participation of all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to continue, in the competent Main Committee during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, its consideration of granting travel assistance to the least developed countries, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General, and notes the contributions from France, Germany and the European Union to the trust fund, which would facilitate the participation of representatives of developing States in the deliberations of Working Group III;<sup>21</sup>

20. *Takes note* of the decision by the Commission to recommend the enlargement of its membership, which was based on informal consultations facilitated by Japan and reflects a collective compromise with broad support;<sup>22</sup>

21. *Endorses* the conviction of the Commission that the implementation and effective use of modern private law standards in international trade are essential for advancing good governance, sustained economic development and the eradication of poverty and hunger and that the promotion of the rule of law in commercial relations should be an integral part of the broader agenda of the United Nations to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, supported by the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General;

22. *Notes* the role of the Commission in promoting the rule of law, respective discussions in the Commission at its fifty-fourth session and the comments transmitted by the Commission, pursuant to paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution [75/141](#) of 15 December 2020, highlighting the relevance of its current work to the promotion of the rule of law and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>23</sup>

23. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in paragraph 8 of the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, adopted by consensus as resolution [67/1](#) of 24 September 2012, Member States recognized the importance of fair, stable and predictable legal frameworks for generating inclusive, sustainable and equitable development, economic growth and employment, generating investment and facilitating entrepreneurship and, in this regard, commended the work of the Commission in modernizing and harmonizing international trade law and that, in paragraph 7 of the declaration, Member States expressed their conviction that the rule of law and development were strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing;

24. *Also notes with satisfaction* that, in paragraph 89 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, adopted by the General Assembly by consensus as resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015, States endorsed the efforts and initiatives of the Commission, 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;

25. *Recalls* that the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation

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<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. IX.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. XX, sect. A.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. XVIII.

was convened from 2 to 4 June 2021 pursuant to its resolution 74/276 of 1 June 2020 and its decision 74/568 of 31 August 2020, and notes that the contribution by the Commission was brought to the attention of the Assembly at its special session and that, while that contribution is not referenced directly in the political declaration of the special session, it is underscored, under the section of the declaration related to anti-corruption as an enabler for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that the anti-corruption work of the United Nations should be strongly linked and coordinated with measures and programmes contributing to strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels;<sup>24</sup>

26. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, in conformity with resolutions of the General Assembly on documentation-related matters,<sup>25</sup> which, in particular, emphasize that any invitation to limit, where appropriate, the length of documents should not adversely affect either the quality of the presentation or the substance of the documents, to bear in mind the particular characteristics of the mandate and functions of the Commission in the progressive development and codification of international trade law when implementing page limits with respect to the documentation of the Commission;<sup>26</sup>

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the publication of Commission standards and the provision of summary records of the meetings of the Commission, including committees of the whole established by the Commission for the duration of its annual session, relating to the formulation of normative texts;

28. *Recalls* paragraph 48 of its resolution 66/246 of 24 December 2011 regarding the rotation scheme of meetings between Vienna and New York;

29. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the use of texts emanating from the work of the Commission for the global unification and harmonization of international trade law, and to this end urges States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to conventions, enacting model laws and encouraging the use of other relevant texts;

30. *Commends* the Commission for holding online panels during its fifty-fourth session to convene an African forum, to discuss technical assistance activities organized by its secretariat focusing on the recovery of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises from the COVID-19 economic shock, to celebrate UNCITRAL Day events and to launch online training modules entitled “Introduction to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law”;<sup>27</sup>

31. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Secretariat on the system for the collection and dissemination of case law on Commission texts in the six official languages of the United Nations (the CLOUT system), notes the resource-intensive nature of the system, acknowledges the need for further resources to sustain and expand it, in this regard welcomes the renewed efforts by the Commission and its secretariat towards building partnerships with interested institutions, and appeals to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to assist the secretariat of the Commission in raising awareness as to the availability and usefulness of the CLOUT system in professional, academic and judiciary circles and in securing the funding required for the

<sup>24</sup> See resolution S-32/1, para. 63; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17, (A/76/17)*, chap. XVIII, sect. A.

<sup>25</sup> Resolutions 52/214, sect. B, 57/283 B, sect. III, and 58/250, sect. III.

<sup>26</sup> See resolutions 59/39, para. 9, and 65/21, para. 18; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/59/17)*, paras. 124–128.

<sup>27</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/76/17)*, chap. XV, sect. B.

coordination and expansion of the system and the establishment, within the secretariat of the Commission, of a pillar focused on the promotion of ways and means of interpreting Commission texts in a uniform manner;

32. *Welcomes* the continuing work of the Secretariat on digests of case law related to Commission texts, including their wide dissemination, as well as the continuing increase in the number of abstracts available through the CLOUT system, in view of the role of the digests and the CLOUT system as important tools for the promotion of the uniform interpretation of international trade law, in particular by building local capacity of judges, arbitrators and other legal practitioners to interpret those standards in the light of their international character and the need to promote uniformity in their application and the observance of good faith in international trade, and notes the satisfaction of the Commission with the performance of the New York Convention website<sup>28</sup> and the successful coordination between that website and the CLOUT system;

33. *Recalls* its resolutions affirming the importance of high-quality, user-friendly and cost-effective United Nations websites and the need for their multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment,<sup>29</sup> commends the fact that the website of the Commission has been migrated to a mobile-device-friendly platform and that it continues to be published simultaneously in the six official languages of the United Nations, and welcomes the continuous efforts of the Commission to maintain and improve its website and to enhance the visibility of its work by utilizing social media features in accordance with the applicable guidelines.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> [www.newyorkconvention1958.org](http://www.newyorkconvention1958.org).

<sup>29</sup> Resolutions 52/214, sect. C, para. 3; 55/222, sect. III, para. 12; 56/64 B, sect. X; 57/130 B, sect. X; 58/101 B, sect. V, paras. 61–76; 59/126 B, sect. V, paras. 76–95; 60/109 B, sect. IV, paras. 66–80; and 61/121 B, sect. IV, paras. 65–77.

<sup>30</sup> See resolution 63/120, para. 20.

## Draft resolution II Mediation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

*Recalling also* the resolutions on instruments on dispute settlement methods referred to by expressions such as mediation, conciliation and expressions of similar import, namely resolution 35/52 of 4 December 1980 on the Conciliation Rules of the Commission,<sup>1</sup> and resolutions 73/198 and 73/199 of 20 December 2018 on the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation<sup>2</sup> and the Model Law on International Commercial Mediation and International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation of the Commission,<sup>3</sup> respectively,

*Mindful* of the value of such dispute settlement methods as a means of amicably settling disputes arising in the context of international commercial relations, and of the fact that such dispute settlement methods are increasingly used in international and domestic commercial practice as an alternative to litigation, to reach a final resolution of the dispute in a cost- and time-effective manner,

*Aware* that the use of such dispute settlement methods results in significant benefits, such as reducing the instances where a dispute leads to the termination of a commercial relationship, facilitating the administration of international transactions by commercial parties and producing savings in the administration of justice by States,

*Recognizing* the developments in such dispute settlement methods since the adoption of the Conciliation Rules,

*Noting* that the preparation of the UNCITRAL Mediation Rules benefited greatly from consultations with Governments and interested intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations,

*Noting also* that the UNCITRAL Mediation Rules were adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law at its fifty-fourth session, after due deliberations,<sup>4</sup>

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for having formulated and adopted the Mediation Rules, the text of which is contained in annex III to the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session;<sup>5</sup>

2. *Recommends* the use of the UNCITRAL Mediation Rules in the settlement of disputes arising in the context of international commercial relations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure that the UNCITRAL Mediation Rules become generally known and available.

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/35/17)*, para. 106.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/73/17)*, annex I.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/76/17)*, chap. VI, sect. B.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, annex III.

### **Draft resolution III**

## **Expedited Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

*Recalling also* its resolution 31/98 of 15 December 1976 recommending the use of the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law<sup>1</sup> and its resolution 65/22 of 6 December 2010 recommending the use of the Arbitration Rules as revised in 2010,<sup>2</sup>

*Mindful* of the value of arbitration as a method of settling disputes that may arise in the context of international commercial relations,

*Noting* the value of expedited arbitration as a streamlined and simplified procedure for settling disputes that arise in the context of international commercial relations within a shortened time frame, and its increased use in international and domestic commercial practice for parties to reach a final resolution of the dispute in a cost- and time-effective manner,

*Aware* of the need to balance the efficiency of the arbitral proceedings and the rights of the disputing parties to due process and fair treatment,

*Noting* that the preparation of the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules and the accompanying explanatory note benefited greatly from consultations with Governments and interested intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations,

*Noting also* that the Expedited Arbitration Rules were adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law at its fifty-fourth session, after due deliberations,<sup>3</sup>

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for having formulated and adopted the Expedited Arbitration Rules, the text of which is contained in annex IV to the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session<sup>4</sup> and which came into effect on 19 September 2021;

2. *Recommends* the use of the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules in the settlement of disputes arising in the context of international commercial relations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all efforts to ensure that the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules become generally known and available.

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/31/17)*, chap. V, sect. C.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/65/17)*, annex I.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/76/17)*, chap. VII.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, annex IV.

## **Draft resolution IV Enlargement of the membership of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [2205 \(XXI\)](#) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

*Recalling also* its resolution [3108 \(XXVIII\)](#) of 12 December 1973, by which it increased the membership of the Commission from 29 to 36 States, and its resolution [57/20](#) of 19 November 2002, by which it increased the membership of the Commission from 36 to 60 States,

*Being satisfied* with the practice of the Commission of inviting States not members of the Commission and relevant intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to participate as observers in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups and to take part in the formulation of texts by the Commission, as well as with the practice of reaching decisions by consensus without a formal vote,

*Observing* that the considerable number of States that have participated as observers and made valuable contributions to the work of the Commission indicates that there exists an interest in active participation in the Commission beyond the current 60 member States, and noting that there is an interest by a significant number of current member States of the Commission to continue their roles as members and from other States to become new members,

*Convinced* that wider participation of States in the work of the Commission would further the progress of its work and that an increase in the membership of the Commission would stimulate interest in its work,

*Recognizing* that the Commission should continue to strive towards the achievement of increased and active participation, and that increased membership could be a contributing factor in this regard,

*Recognizing also* the importance of the promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the Commission,

*Acknowledging* that member States of the Commission consulted with each other and other interested States on the proposal to enlarge the membership of the Commission,

1. *Takes note* of the fact that the impact of an increase in the membership of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the secretariat services required to properly facilitate the work of the Commission would not be material enough to quantify and that the increase would therefore have no financial implications;

2. *Decides* to increase the membership of the Commission from 60 to 70 States, bearing in mind that the Commission is a technical body; the regional representation resulting from this increase in membership shall not be a precedent for the enlargement of other bodies in the United Nations system;

3. *Also decides* that the 10 additional members of the Commission shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of six years in accordance with the following rules:

(a) In electing the additional members, the General Assembly shall observe the following distribution of seats:

- (i) Two from African States;
- (ii) Two from Asia-Pacific States;
- (iii) Two from Eastern European States;
- (iv) Two from Latin American and Caribbean States;
- (v) Two from Western European and other States;

(b) Of the 10 additional members, five, that is, one from each regional group, shall be elected at the election to be held during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly;

(c) The additional members elected in accordance with subparagraph (b) shall take office from the first day of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission in 2022;

(d) The remaining five additional members, that is, one from each regional group, shall be elected at the election to be held during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly;

(e) The additional members elected in accordance with subparagraph (d) shall take office from the first day of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission in 2025;

(f) The provisions of section II, paragraphs 4 and 5, of General Assembly resolution [2205 \(XXI\)](#) shall also apply to the additional members;

4. *Further decides* that, when electing members of the Commission, Member States shall take into account the voluntary pledges of the candidates which outline the concrete commitments of the candidates to the work of the Commission;

5. *Appeals* to Member States, the relevant United Nations organs, organizations, institutions and individuals, in order to ensure full participation by the Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to consider making voluntary contributions to the trust funds established to provide travel assistance to developing countries that are members of the Commission, as well as technical assistance, capacity-building and other forms of support as appropriate, at their request and in consultation with the secretariat;

6. *Calls upon* member States of the Commission to make efforts to achieve increased and active participation in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, which serve as an important forum for strategy and decision-making of the work of the United Nations in the field of international trade law, while giving due regard to the need to facilitate the participation of developing countries, and stresses the need to explore all appropriate means to achieve that objective;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to periodically provide to the Commission data on the attendance of member States of the Commission and observer States at the sessions of the Commission and its working groups;

8. *Requests* the Commission to discuss and consider at its session in 2030, and subsequent sessions if necessary, issues in relation to the present resolution, including ways to promote equitable geographical representation of regional groups as well as to increase the effective participation of representatives of all Member States, while giving due regard to the adequate representation of the principal economic and legal systems of the world, and of developed and developing countries, with a view to taking further actions as necessary, including on the basis of the above-mentioned criteria.