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

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 2024

[on the report of the Sixth Committee ([A/79/467](#), para. 11)]

79/119. Model Law on Automated Contracting

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 [60/21](#) of 23 November 2005, by which it adopted the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts and called upon all Governments to consider becoming party to the Convention, and its resolutions [51/162](#) of 16 December 1996, [56/80](#) of 12 December 2001, [72/114](#) of 7 December 2017 and [77/101](#) of 7 December 2022, in which it recommended that all States give favourable consideration to the Model Law on Electronic Commerce, the Model Law on Electronic Signatures, the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records and the Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services of the Commission, respectively,

Mindful that the Convention, the Model Law on Electronic Commerce, the Model Law on Electronic Signatures, the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records and the Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services are of significant assistance to States in enabling and facilitating electronic commerce in international trade,

Mindful also of the importance of providing a legal foundation to promote confidence in electronic commerce, including across borders, and of the increasing relevance of automation in contracting, including through the deployment of artificial intelligence systems,



Considering that uncertainty as to the legal effect of automation in contracting can create an obstacle to harnessing the full potential of digital trade,

Convinced that legal certainty and commercial predictability in electronic commerce, including across borders, will be enhanced by the harmonization of certain rules on the use of automation in contracting on a technologically neutral basis,

Recalling that the Commission placed the topic of automated contracting on its work programme at its fifty-fourth session, in 2021,¹ and referred the topic to its Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce) at its fifty-fifth session, in 2022,²

Noting that the Working Group devoted three sessions, in 2022 and 2023, to that work, and that the Commission considered at its fifty-seventh session, in 2024, draft provisions on automated contracting prepared at the request of the Working Group,³

Believing that a model law on automated contracting will constitute a useful addition to existing Commission texts in the area of electronic commerce by assisting States in enhancing their legislation governing the use of automation in contracting, or in formulating such legislation where none exists,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for completing and adopting the Model Law on Automated Contracting;⁴

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to publish the Model Law together with a guide to the enactment thereof, including electronically, in the six official languages of the United Nations, and to disseminate it broadly to Governments and other interested bodies;

3. *Recommends* that all States give favourable consideration to the Model Law when revising or adopting legislation on electronic commerce, and invites States that have used the Model Law to advise the Commission accordingly;

4. *Also recommends* that States continue to consider becoming parties to the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts⁵ and to give favourable consideration to the Model Law on Electronic Commerce,⁶ the Model Law on Electronic Signatures,⁷ the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records⁸ and the Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services⁹ when revising or adopting legislation on electronic commerce;

5. *Appeals* to the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations to coordinate their legal activities in the area of electronic commerce with those of the Commission, to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the modernization and harmonization of legislation on electronic commerce.

*47th plenary meeting
4 December 2024*

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/76/17)*, paras. 25 (e) and 236.

² *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/77/17)*, para. 22 (d).

³ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/79/17)*, chap. VII.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex IV.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2898, No. 50525.

⁶ Resolution 51/162, annex.

⁷ Resolution 56/80, annex.

⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/72/17)*, annex I.

⁹ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/77/17)*, annex II.