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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)]

79/117. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-seventh 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,

Reiterating the importance of coordinating the activities of bodies active in the field of international trade law, a core element of the mandate of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, as a means of avoiding duplication of efforts and promoting efficiency, consistency and coherence in the harmonization, unification and modernization 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 harmonization, unification and modernization 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,

Having considered the report of the Commission,¹

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

I

Legislative activities

2. *Commends* the Commission for the finalization and adoption of:

(a) In the area of access to credit, the UNCITRAL-UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts;²

(b) In the area of dispute settlement, the Model Clauses on Specialized Express Dispute Resolution;³

(c) In the area of electronic commerce, the Model Law on Automated Contracting;⁴

3. *Also commends* the Commission for adopting in principle the statute of the Advisory Centre on International Investment Dispute Resolution⁵ as one of the elements of investor-State dispute settlement reform, and notes that the Advisory Centre aims to provide training, support and assistance with regard to international investment dispute resolution and enhance the capacity of States and regional economic integration organizations to prevent and handle international investment disputes, in particular least developed countries and developing countries;

4. *Notes* that the establishment and operationalization of the Advisory Centre on International Investment Dispute Resolution would require further preparatory work on issues identified by the Commission,⁶ and recommends that Governments and regional economic integration organizations interested in the operationalization of the Advisory Centre actively take part in the process as agreed and initiated by the Commission for that purpose;⁷

5. *Notes with interest* the progress made by the Commission in its work in the areas of investor-State dispute settlement reform, electronic commerce, insolvency law and negotiable cargo documents,⁸ and encourages the Commission to continue to move forward efficiently to achieve tangible work outcomes in those areas;

6. *Takes note with interest* of the decision of the Commission to mandate Working Group II to work on the recognition and enforcement of electronic arbitral awards and, subsequently, on electronic notices of arbitration, on the basis of the findings of the project on the stocktaking of developments in dispute resolution in the digital economy;⁹

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/79/17).*

² *Ibid.*, chap. IV, sect. D, and annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, chap. V, sect. C, and annex II.

⁴ *Ibid.*, chap. VII, sect. D, and annex IV.

⁵ *Ibid.*, chap. VI, sect. B.2, and annex III.

⁶ *Ibid.*, sect. B.1.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*, chaps. VIII–XI.

⁹ *Ibid.*, chap. XII, sects. A and B.2.

7. *Welcomes* the decision by the Commission to request its secretariat:

- (a) To continue with the exploratory work on the aspects of international trade law related to voluntary carbon credits by compiling comments from all States Members of the United Nations on the UNCITRAL-UNIDROIT study on the legal nature of voluntary carbon credits and to organize a colloquium with a focus on the relevance of Commission instruments to climate action;¹⁰
- (b) To continue to implement the project on the stocktaking of developments in dispute resolution in the digital economy to further monitor and explore relevant topics such as those in relation to artificial intelligence and platform-based dispute resolution;¹¹
- (c) To continue and finalize its work on a guidance document on legal issues relating to the use of distributed ledger systems in trade as agreed;¹²
- (d) To conduct a stocktaking exercise to examine all Commission texts that refer to electronic aspects, including a survey of the incorporation by States of Commission texts on electronic commerce into their domestic legislation and the inclusion of such texts in international commitments concerning paperless trade;¹³
- (e) To organize a colloquium on secured transactions using new types of assets and their treatment under the Model Law on Secured Transactions of the Commission;¹⁴
- (f) To hold the first part of the fifty-first session of Working Group III on 17 and 18 February 2025¹⁵ and the colloquium on secured transactions mentioned in subparagraph (e) from 19 to 21 February 2025;¹⁶

II

Rules of procedure and methods of work

8. *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,¹⁷ 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, recalls in this regard its previous resolutions related to this matter, and also recalls the agreement reached by the Commission on the conditions that should be met with regard to informal meetings of the working groups between formal sessions;¹⁸

III

Rotation scheme

9. *Recalls* paragraph 48 of its resolution [66/246](#) of 24 December 2011 regarding the rotation scheme of meetings between Vienna and New York;

¹⁰ Ibid., sect. B.1.

¹¹ Ibid., sect. B.2.

¹² Ibid., sect. B.3.

¹³ Ibid., sect. C.2.

¹⁴ Ibid., sect. C.1.

¹⁵ Ibid., chap. VI, sect. B.1.

¹⁶ Ibid., chap. XII, sect. C.1.

¹⁷ Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17* ([A/65/17](#)).

¹⁸ Ibid., *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17* ([A/78/17](#)), chap. XII, sect. C.

IV**Travel assistance**

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

11. *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-ninth 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, the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to the trust fund, which would facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries in the deliberations of Working Group III;¹⁹

V**Transparency repository**

12. *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,²⁰ as a continuation of the project until the end of 2027, 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, and also requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of developments regarding the funding and budgetary situation of the transparency repository;²¹

VI**Coordination and cooperation**

13. *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,²² 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;

VII**Technical assistance and capacity-building**

14. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the use of texts emanating from the work of the Commission for the global unification and harmonization of international

¹⁹ Ibid., *Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/79/17)*, chap. VIII.

²⁰ Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/68/17)*, annex I.

²¹ Ibid., *Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/79/17)*, chap. XIV, sect. E.

²² Ibid., *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/75/17)*, part two, chap. X, sect. C.4.

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;

15. *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, and 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 United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Day events in partnership with Governments and regional universities in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, aimed at promoting awareness and encouraging the study and discussion of Commission texts;²³

(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 development agenda, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;²⁴

(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;

16. *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

²³ Ibid., *Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/79/17)*, chap. XIV, sect. A.

²⁴ Resolution [70/1](#).

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;

VIII

Uniform interpretation and application of Commission texts

17. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Secretariat on the system for the collection and dissemination of case law on Commission texts (the CLOUT system) in the six official languages of the United Nations, notes the resource-intensive nature of the system, acknowledges the need for further resources to sustain and expand it, notes with interest the progress towards a rejuvenation of the CLOUT system, and its focus on developing a more active and productive network of CLOUT system contributors and covering an expanded range of Commission texts, 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 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;

18. *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 website²⁵ and the successful coordination between that website and the CLOUT system;

IX

Documentation, publication and dissemination

19. *Recalls* that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are both the official and the working languages of the General Assembly, including its committees and subcommittees, and also recalls paragraph 64 of its resolution [78/330](#) of 6 September 2024 on multilingualism as applicable also to the documentation, publications and meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;

20. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, in conformity with resolutions of the General Assembly on documentation-related matters,²⁶ 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

²⁵ <https://newyorkconvention1958.org/>.

²⁶ Resolutions [52/214](#), sect. B, [57/283](#) B, sect. III, and [58/250](#), sect. III.

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;²⁷

21. *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;

22. *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,²⁸ 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;²⁹

X

Role of the Commission in achieving the broader agenda of the United Nations

23. *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;

24. *Notes* the role of the Commission in promoting the rule of law, the respective discussions in the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, and the comments transmitted by the Commission, pursuant to paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 78/112 of 7 December 2023, highlighting the relevance of its current work to the promotion of the rule of law and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;³⁰

25. *Recalls 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;

26. *Also recalls with satisfaction* that, in paragraph 89 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ See resolution 63/120, para. 20.

³⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/79/17)*, chap. XVII.

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;

XI

Streamlining efforts

27. *Takes note* of the ongoing development of guiding principles on streamlining and simplifying the text of future General Assembly resolutions on the work of the Commission, some of which have been reflected in the present resolution.³¹

*47th plenary meeting
4 December 2024*

³¹ Ibid., chap. XII, sect. D (b).