

VI. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General: current activities of international organizations related to the harmonization and unification of international trade law (A/CN.9/192 and Add.1 and 2)*

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* 22 May and 6 and 11 June 1980.

INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), at its third session, requested the Secretary-General "to submit reports to the annual sessions of the Commission on the current work of international organizations in matters included in the programme of work of the Commission".¹

2. In accordance with the above decision, reports were submitted to the Commission at the fourth session in 1971 (A/CN.9/59), at the fifth session in 1972 (A/CN.9/71), at the sixth session in 1973 (A/CN.9/82),* at the seventh session in 1974 (A/CN.9/94 and Add. 1 and 2),** at the eighth session in 1975 (A/CN.9/106),*** at the ninth session in 1976 (A/CN.9/119),**** at the tenth session in 1977 (A/CN.9/129 and Add. 1),† at the eleventh session in 1978 (A/CN.9/151)†† and at the twelfth session in 1979 (A/CN.9/175).†††

3. This report, prepared for the thirteenth session (1980), is based on information submitted by international and other organizations concerning their current work. In some cases, this report includes information on progress with respect to projects for which background material is included in earlier reports.² The current activities of the following international organizations are described in this report:

(a) *United Nations bodies and specialized agencies:* United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (paras. 17–18); United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (paras. 9, 15–16, 27, 30–31, 34–36, 58, 60); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (paras. 11, 13, 57); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (para. 17); Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) (paras. 28–29); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) (para. 33); and International Trade Centre (ITC) (para. 59);

(b) *Other international organizations:* Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) (paras. 8, 10, 37, 48); Council of Europe (CE) (paras. 23–24, 46–47, 51, 52); Hague Conference on Private International Law (paras. 6, 39, 41–45); and International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) (paras. 5, 7, 32, 49–50, 53–55);

(c) *International non-governmental organizations:* International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

* Reproduced in Yearbook ... 1973, part two, V.

** Reproduced in Yearbook ... 1974, part two, V.

*** Reproduced in Yearbook ... 1975, part two, VIII.

**** Reproduced in Yearbook ... 1976, part two, VI.

† Reproduced in Yearbook ... 1977, part two, VI, A and B.

†† Reproduced in Yearbook ... 1978, part two, V.

††† Reproduced in Yearbook ... 1979, part two, VI.

¹ Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its third session, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/8017)*, para. 172 (Yearbook ... 1968–1970, part two, III, A).

² Background material may be found in the reports referred to in para. 2 above and in the *Digest of legal activities of international organizations and other international institutions*, published under the auspices of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).

(paras. 20–23, 25–26, 37–38, 40); and International Maritime Committee (CMI) (para. 37);

(d) *Other organizations:* Centre for Research on the New International Economic Order (para. 19).

4. This report is arranged according to major subjects in international trade law. Under each subject the relevant activities of the international organizations are discussed in turn.

I. INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTS

A. *Law governing international contracts*

5. UNIDROIT received in early 1977 a preliminary report on quality control in the international sale of goods prepared by Dr. Jelena Vilus of the Belgrade Institute of Comparative Law. The report was subsequently transmitted to the Governments of the member States of UNIDROIT with a request for observations on the desirability of preparing uniform rules on the subject. Replies were received from a number of States and an analysis of them was submitted to the Governing Council at its fifty-ninth session in May 1980.

6. The Hague Conference on Private International Law will include in the agenda of its fourteenth session the revision of the Hague Convention of 1955 on the law applicable to the international sale of goods, taking into account the work undertaken by UNCITRAL.

7. The first session of the UNIDROIT Study Group on the progressive codification of international trade law was held from 10 to 14 September 1979. The principal item on the agenda was the examination of the two drafts relating respectively to the formation and interpretation of contracts in general. The Group decided to postpone discussion on formation of contracts in general until the outcome of the UNCITRAL draft Convention on the international sale of goods was known. On the problem of the validity of contracts in general, the Group stated that specific rules on the validity of general conditions and standard forms of contract should be added to a future Code. On the proposed chapters on performance and non-performance of contracts, the Group requested UNIDROIT to set up special sub-committees with interested institutions, such as the Centre de droit des obligations de Louvain, the Max-Planck-Institut of Hamburg, the Institut für Rechtsvergleichung of Potsdam-Babelsberg, and the Institute for comparative civil law of the University of Warsaw.

B. *General conditions for international contracts*

8. In April 1979 the CMEA Standing Commission on Foreign Trade adopted a decision supplementing and amending the General Conditions of Delivery of Goods between Organizations of CMEA Member Countries and entitling this document as "General Conditions of Delivery of Goods between Organizations of CMEA Member Countries (OUP SEV 1968/1975, 1979 Version)".

9. Within ECE, the Group of Experts on International Contract Practices in Industry considered the General Conditions of Sale of Potatoes. The final text of this document was agreed at the twenty-third session of the Group of Experts on International Trade Practices in

Industry relating to Agricultural Produce (29–31 January 1979) and adopted by the thirty-fifth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce (3–6 July 1979). It appears as document ECE/AGI/42.

10. During 1979 the Conference of Chartering and Shipowning Organizations of member countries of CMEA drafted and approved the following documents:

A provision containing the text of the "Basic Conditions" for chartering between chartering and shipowning organizations of CMEA member countries

A reservation to the "Baltim Constanta—78" charter, concerning liability for maritime pollution, to be used for supplementary agreement between parties when concluding carriage-by-sea transactions

A "Bunker Price Fluctuation Clause 1980"

11. The International Trade Division of ESCAP is carrying out a study for the development of standard contracts and general conditions to be used in the tropical timber trade in the region.

C. *International trade terms*

12. ICC completed the revision of INCOTERMS which came into force on 15 March 1980 (publication No. 350).

D. *Model contracts and clauses*

13. The Member Countries of the Pepper Community sought the assistance from ESCAP for the project on "Formulation of a common sales contract" for pepper and pepper products. The project is likely to be implemented in 1980.

14. ICC is engaged in the preparation of model clauses relating to *force majeure* and hardship. This work is motivated by the fact that market instability, primarily due to inflation and the increasing cost of raw materials, poses serious difficulties in the performance of long-term contracts. These difficulties relate, *inter alia*, to the adaptation of such contracts to changing economic circumstances and to the computation of damages for breach of contract.

II. INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTS

15. Within ECE, the Group of Experts on International Contract Practices in Industry, at its fifteenth session, held from 26 to 28 November 1979, agreed that the future document on engineering should comprise consulting engineering only and that the document should closely resemble the format of a guide on drawing up international contracts in this field. A draft guide was completed in March 1980. After revision by the Secretariat it will be sent to two rapporteurs for their consideration.

16. The ECE Committee on the Development of Trade and the Senior Advisers to the ECE Governments on Science and Technology have jointly prepared a "Manual on licensing procedures and related aspects of technology transfer", containing twenty country chapters. It will be published in late 1980 by Clark Boardman Publishing House, New York.

III. NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

A. *Industrial collaboration*

17. An *Ad Hoc* UNCTAD/UNIDO Group of Experts on Trade and Trade-related aspects of Industrial Collaboration Arrangements met from 22 to 26 October 1979. The terms of reference of the *Ad Hoc* Group include an examination of the trade-related aspects of industrial collaboration which would be of benefit to developing countries in relation to international co-operation in the industrial development of developing countries. They will also bear in mind the role of governments in supporting such enterprise-to-enterprise arrangements, including the possible role of intergovernmental and other framework agreements or arrangements for promoting industrial collaboration bilaterally, trilaterally or multilaterally. In their deliberations, the experts would take into account the sectoral consultations in UNIDO referred to in paragraph 10 in section II, D of UNCTAD Conference resolution 96 (IV).

The following documents are available:

"Industrial collaboration arrangements": report by the UNCTAD Secretariat (TD/B/C.2/179)

"Industrial co-operation and collaboration arrangements in the context of industrial restructuring": report by the UNCTAD Secretariat (TD/185/Supp.3)

"Intergovernmental agreements as an instrument of industrial co-operation": note by the UNIDO Secretariat (ID/B/C.3/68)

"Report of the *Ad Hoc* UNCTAD, UNIDO Group of Experts on Trade and Trade-related Aspects of Industrial Collaboration Arrangements" (TD/B/774)

B. *Code of conduct on transfer of technology*

18. UNCTAD drafted an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology for submission to a United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology. The Conference met for the first time in October/November 1978. A third session of the Conference was held from 21 April to 6 May 1980. The draft Code of Conduct before the third session of the Conference can be found in document TD/CODE TOT/20.

C. *Research*

19. The Centre for Research on the New International Economic Order has published a study on *Law and Policy in Petroleum Development—Changing Relations between Transnationals and Governments* (1979). Another project entitled *Legal Aspects of a New International Economic Order* will be published some time in 1980.

IV. INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS

A. *Model forms on international payments*

20. ICC is engaged in preparing a standard application form for use by applicants for documentary credits. It is anticipated that the form will be ready by mid-1981. Also, a group has been established to recommend modifications to Uniform Customs and Practice.

21. ICC has set up a working group to draw up standard forms for use by banks relating to rules applicable to international collection operations. These forms will be based on the ECE layout key. It is anticipated that the forms will be finalized by mid-1981.

22. With regard to contract guarantees ICC has set up a Working Party to devise model forms for the issuing of contract guarantees subject to the Uniform Rules for Contract Guarantees. It is anticipated that the forms will be ready by the end of 1981. ICC has also set up a Working Party to undertake research in regard to problems which may arise with regard to simple demand guarantees.

B. *Convention on bearer securities*

23. The Convention relating to stops on bearer securities in international circulation, done at The Hague on 28 May 1970, has been ratified by Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria and France. It entered into force on 11 February 1979. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe designated the "Office National des valeurs mobilières" in Brussels to assume the functions of the Central Office as provided in the Convention. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe published a first list of securities in international circulation in December 1978 and a revised list in March 1979 containing the names of securities which must appear on the list.

C. *Uniform rules on security interests*

24. Within the Council of Europe, the Committee of Experts on the Rights of Creditors is considering drawing up an instrument (Convention or Recommendation) on retention of ownership clauses. A Working Party met from 28 to 31 January 1980 and examined questions relating to reservation of title. The report of the Working Party was examined by the Committee at its meeting from 21 to 25 April 1980.

25. ICC is establishing standard provisions for inclusion in international contracts of sale providing that title of goods sold shall not pass until payment of the seller in full or other collateral security interest clauses protecting the seller are concluded.

D. *Rules for foreign exchange contracts*

26. ICC, in co-operation with the Group of Ten Central Banks, is engaged in the preparation of Rules for Foreign Exchange Contracts. Draft Rules have been drawn up by a working party and consultations on the basis of the draft are in progress. It is anticipated that the Rules will be finalized by mid-1981.

V. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

A. *Transport by sea*

27. Within ECE, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport considered questions related to the resumption of work on the draft Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMN) within UNIDROIT. The Working Party requested UNIDROIT to prepare a revised text of the draft CMN. The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine and the

UNIDROIT Committee for Governmental Experts on CMN will be reconvened with a view to a fourth session being held in either 1980 or 1981.

28. The long-term work programme of IMCO includes the revision of the 1910 Convention on Assistance and Salvage. It is envisaged that particular attention will be given to the salvage contract between the ship and the salvors.

29. It is expected that a diplomatic conference will be convened by IMCO in 1982 to consider the adoption of a convention on liability and compensation in connexion with the carriage of noxious and hazardous substances by sea. The Legal Committee of the Organization is currently elaborating draft articles for such a convention.

B. *Transport over land*

30. The Group of Experts on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs, a subsidiary body of the Inland Transport Committee of ECE, is continuing its work to amend the technical annexes to the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the special equipment to be used for such carriage.

31. The Group of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, a subsidiary body of the Inland Transport Committee of ECE, is considering the amendment of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and its technical annexes.

32. UNIDROIT has prepared a preliminary study on the feasibility of preparing an international Convention relating to liability and compensation for damage caused during the carriage over land of hazardous substances. This study was submitted to the UNIDROIT Governing Council at its fifty-ninth session in May 1980.

C. *Transport by air*

33. The general work programme established by the Legal Committee of ICAO in May 1979, and approved by the Council on 13 June 1979, is as follows:

Study of the legal status of the aircraft commander

Study of liability of air traffic control agencies

Study of aerial collisions

Consideration of the problem of liability for damage caused by noise and sonic boom

Study of the status of the instruments of the "Warsaw System"

Study of a possible consolidation of international rules contained in the Convention on Damage Caused by Foreign Aircraft to Third Parties on the Surface (Rome, 1952), the Draft Convention on Aerial Collisions and the subject of liability of air traffic control agencies

Proposed simplification of convention-making procedures to speed up the entry into force of the instruments relating to the suppression of unlawful interference with international civil aviation

Study of lease, charter and interchange of aircraft in international operations (Resolution B of the Guadalajara Conference)—problems with respect to the Tokyo Convention

D. Customs

34. Within ECE, the Group of Experts on Customs Questions affecting Transport continued, in 1979, the study of various aspects of extending the territorial application of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), including the possibility of establishing a link between the different existing systems of customs transit. Study of these questions will continue in 1980.

35. The above Group of Experts and other subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee made a study of the question of harmonization of conditions for exercising customs and other controls undertaken at frontiers (phytosanitary, health, veterinary and quality control, application of standards, public safety controls) and the elaboration of a draft international convention on that subject. The draft convention is being circulated for comments to ECE Governments and international organizations concerned. A special session of the Group of Experts has been convened from 20 to 24 October 1980 with the participation of experts from other competent services, as well as the international organizations concerned.

E. Status of agreements and conventions of interest to countries of the ECE region

36. The situation at 31 December 1979 with regard to signatures, ratifications and accessions to certain transport agreements and conventions of interest to countries of the ECE region, concluded under United Nations auspices is contained in document TRANS/R.101.

VI. INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

A. Activities concerning specialized types of arbitration

37. The following areas are being considered by ICC: A Working Party within ICC is preparing draft additional rules to ICC Arbitration Rules, to be applied in multi-party arbitration. The research project on multi-party business disputes was the theme submitted to the Institute of International Business Law and Practice recently created by the ICC (November 1979);

A Working Party within ICC on arbitration and competition law is engaged in studying the relationships between arbitration and national and the European Economic Community legislation concerning competition. It considered the principal features of national laws affecting arbitration and competition law in a number of leading countries, approved a series of guiding principles and is currently examining a detailed outline of the draft study. The study is scheduled to be completed in late 1981;

Negotiations continued with a view to facilitating acceptance by CMEA parties of the ICC clause and by non-CMEA parties of arbitration by centres in CMEA countries. These negotiations are conducted in the framework of the *ad hoc* Working Party on Arbitration of the Commission of the ICC and the Chambers of Commerce of Socialist Countries for the development of East-West trade and Economic Co-operation;

ICC has set up in close co-operation with CMI a joint international maritime organization entitled the International Maritime Arbitration Organization (IMAO) in order to consider the needs of maritime interests for a viable alternative to costly litigation.

B. Information on arbitration law and practice

38. ICC has prepared a guide to arbitration law in European countries for publication in 1980. This guide will consist of a series of standardized articles summarizing the principal features of relevant legislation in seventeen European countries.

VII. PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

A. International contracts

39. A commission set up by The Hague Conference on Private International Law will recommend to the fourteenth session to include the topic of the law applicable to contractual obligations on the agenda of the Conference.

40. ICC has set up a Working Party which has established draft guidelines for the determination of conflict of law rules applicable to international commercial relationships. Work is expected to be completed at the end of 1981.

B. Consumer sales

41. Under the auspices of The Hague Conference on Private International Law, a special commission met from 25 to 29 June 1979, and a preliminary draft of a convention on the law applicable to certain consumer sales was prepared.

C. International payments

42. The Hague Conference of Private International Law will include in the agenda to its fourteenth session the revision of the Convention for the Settlement of Certain Conflicts of Laws in connexion with Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes (Geneva, 7 June 1930) and the Convention for the Settlement of Certain Conflicts of Laws in connexion with Cheques (Geneva, 19 March 1931).

43. The Hague Conference on Private International Law will consider at its fourteenth session problems posed by bankruptcy.

D. Legal aid

44. The Hague Conference on Private International Law will consider the question of legal aid and the revision of Chapters III to VI of The Hague Convention on Civil Procedure.

E. Licensing agreements and know-how

45. The Hague Conference on Private International Law has decided to keep the topic of the law applicable to licence and know-how agreements on the list of future work and to deal with it in close co-operation with other international organizations.

VIII. DATA PROCESSING

A. *Automatic processing of personal data*

46. Within the Council of Europe, a Committee has completed a draft Convention for the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data and a draft Recommendation on regulations for automated medical data banks. Both drafts will shortly be examined by the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ). In addition in December 1979 a Working Party of the Committee started to prepare recommendations concerning the ethics of data processing.

B. *Research*

47. Within the Council of Europe, a Committee of experts on legal data processing is concerned with keeping the state of research and development in the field of legal data processing in Europe under review and to propose such harmonization measures as may be desirable in the light of future developments. The Committee has prepared a draft recommendation on teaching, research and training in the field of computers and law. It is also considering query languages in computerised legal retrieval systems and guidelines on the protection of uses of legal data processing systems and of drawing up, if appropriate, a suitable legal instrument concerning civil liability of legal data processing centres. A register of legal data available in machine-readable form is to be published soon. The sixth symposium on legal data processing will be held in Thessaloniki in 1981 on the theme "Intelligence and linguistic problems in legal data processing systems".

IX. INDUSTRIAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

48. During 1979 the Conference of Heads of Patent Offices of Member Countries of CMEA continued work on the preparation of draft intergovernmental agreements concerning a single instrument for the protection of CMEA Member States' inventions and the reciprocal legal protection of indications of provenance and designations of products.

X. OTHER TOPICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

A. *Law of agency*

49. Under the auspices of UNIDROIT, a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the draft Convention providing a Uniform Law on Agency of an International Character in the Sale and Purchase of Goods was held in Bucharest from 28 May to 13 June 1979. The Conference adopted a series of articles corresponding to those contained in the former Chapter I (Sphere of application and definitions) and Chapter II (Establishment and scope of agency), and proceeded to an exchange of views on certain articles of the former Chapter IV (Legal effects of an act carried out by the agent on behalf of the principal). The Governing Council of the Institute decided at its fifty-ninth session in May 1980 to suspend work on this subject until a decision is taken at the sixtieth session after consultations by the Secretariat with a committee.

50. A preliminary report on the desirability and feasibility of preparing uniform rules governing the validity of

powers of attorney to be exercised abroad was considered by the UNIDROIT Governing Council at its fifty-ninth session in May 1980.

B. *Consumer protection*

51. Within the Council of Europe, a Committee of experts on the legal protection of consumers is examining measures permitting public and private agencies to ensure the legal protection of the collective interests of consumers. A questionnaire on measures permitting agencies or associations to ensure the legal protection of the collective interests of consumers was adopted and will be published by the Council during the first half of 1980. A Working Party of the Committee has prepared a draft Recommendation containing a number of principles concerning consumer agencies. This text will be examined by the Committee at its next meeting in July 1980.

C. *Law of evidence*

52. Within CE, a Committee of experts on reproduction and recording of documents is studying the consequences on the law of evidence of new document reproduction procedures and other methods of recording on data carriers with a view to the preparation of one or several international instruments. The Committee has finalized a draft recommendation dealing with:

The harmonization of the laws of Member States concerning the requirements of written proof for certain transactions

The evidential value of document reproduction procedures by microfilming and techniques of registration of information on computers

The period of compulsory preservation of documents and the harmonization of these time-limits

D. *Factoring*

53. The UNIDROIT Study Group for the preparation of uniform rules on the factoring contract met from 5 to 6 February 1979. The Secretariat has, on the basis of the conclusions reached by the Study Group, prepared a preliminary set of draft rules on the factoring contract for consideration by the Study Group at its second session.

E. *Financial leasing*

54. The UNIDROIT Study Group for the preparation of uniform rules on "financial leasing" had its second session from 1 to 2 February 1979 to consider the tentative draft set of uniform rules prepared by the Secretariat with the assistance of the Chairman of the Group in the light of the discussions of the Group at its first session. A third and probably final session of the Study Group is contemplated some time in September/October 1980.

F. *Warehousing*

55. A preliminary draft Convention on the Liability of International Terminal Operations was approved by the UNIDROIT Study Group on the warehousing contract at its second session from 23 to 26 January 1979. The Governing Council at its fifty-eighth session in September 1979

endorsed the recommendations of the Study Group and, pursuant to the instructions of the Council, the Secretariat has transmitted the preliminary draft Convention to Governments and interested organizations with a request for their observations.

XI. FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

A. Co-operation for expansion of international trade

56. On 2 November 1979 the Conference of Representatives of CMEA Member Countries on Legal Questions approved a draft model agreement concerning scientific-technical co-operation.

57. To assist ESCAP Member Countries in updating existing maritime legislation and to further its uniformity in the region, the ESCAP Secretariat, with the assistance of the Netherlands Government and the CMI, has made the necessary arrangements for undertaking a survey of existing maritime legislation in the region during 1980.

B. Facilitation of international trade procedures

58. The various working groups within ECE made progress on the following topics:

- (i) Data elements and documentary functions—the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures is expected to authorize publication of a Trade Data Elements Directory in the autumn of 1980. The terms included in the Directory will cover data elements in trade documents belonging to the following areas: maritime and multimodal transport, customs procedures, air, road and rail transport, forwarding, payments and some commercial documents. The Directory will be computer assisted. It will appear in the joint series of information documents, issued by the Working Party and UNCTAD's Special Programme in Trade Facilitation (FALPRO);
- (ii) Coding of terms of payment—the preparatory work on this subject is still continuing;
- (iii) Recommendation on measures to facilitate maritime transport document procedures—the Recommendation deals with the problem created by the speedier movement of goods, resulting from developments in transport technology and the continued use of the traditional negotiable transport documents. This Recommendation (No. 12) was adopted by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures in March 1979. The text has been published as document TRADE/WP.4/INF.61: TD/B/FAL/INF.61;
- (iv) Recommendation on authentication of trade documents by means other than signature—this Recommendation (No. 14) concerns the requirement for signature which is tied to the use of paper documents. It was adopted by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures in March 1979. The text has been published as document TRADE/WP.4/INF.63: TD/B/FAL/INF.63;
- (v) Recommendation on facilitation of identified legal problems in import clearance procedures—this Recommendation (No. 13) seeks to encourage customs authorities to grant special facilities for the expeditious clearance of goods. This Recommendation was adopted by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures in March 1979. The text has been published as document TRADE/WP.4/INF.62: TD/B/FAL/INF.62;
- (vi) Recommendation on simpler shipping marks—this Recommendation (No. 15) is inspired by the urgent need for concerted action to harmonize shipping marks. It was adopted by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures in September 1979. The text has been published as document TRADE/WP.4/INF.65: TD/B/FAL/INF.65.

C. Information on international trade law developments

59. The International Trade Centre (ITC) is concerned with international trade law to the extent of bringing established rules and practices to the attention of exporters and trade officials in developing countries. Their advisory services include replying to *ad hoc* requests for trade information.

60. A list of primary sources of information for a future system of notification of laws and regulations concerning foreign trade and changes therein (MUNOSYST) in 18 ECE countries has been published and submitted to the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on the Development of Trade (3–7 December 1979).

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (Addendum 1)

I. UNCTAD*

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LEGISLATION

A. Charter-parties

1. The UNCTAD Working Group on International Shipping Legislation, at its fourth session held from 27 January to 7 February 1975, considered a report prepared by the UNCTAD Secretariat entitled "Charter-Parties" (ID/C/C.4/ISL/13) and requested the UNCTAD Secretariat to carry out additional studies involving a comparative analysis of the principal clauses in voyage and time charter-parties. Pursuant to this request, the UNCTAD Secretariat embarked upon studies on the main clauses in voyage and time charter-parties that may be amenable to standardization, harmonization and improvement, and areas in chartering activities that may be suitable for international legislative action. Work is still in progress. The Working Group is scheduled to meet in 1981 to consider the new studies which are expected to be completed by then.

B. Marine insurance

2. The UNCTAD Secretariat issued a report entitled "Legal and documentary aspects of the marine insurance contract" (TD/B/C.4/ISL/27 and Add. 1) which was submitted to the sixth session of the

* See also A/CN.9/192, III. New International Economic Order, A. Industrial collaboration; B. Code of conduct on transfer of technology.