



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GAVIRIA (Colombia)

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AGENDA ITEM 113: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS TENTH SESSION (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 113: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS TENTH SESSION (continued) (A/32/17)

1. Mrs. OYEKUNLE (Nigeria) said that the rules on the international sale of goods should be issued in the form of a binding international convention, in order to give them universal efficacy. It would be anomalous to label such important rules as optional while the ancillary matter of limitation of action was covered by the affirmative rules set out in the Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods. At the United Nations Conference on Prescription in the International Sale of Goods the view had been expressed that the effective functioning of a uniform law on prescription depended to a large extent on the unification of other substantive laws such as the Uniform Law on the International Sale of Goods. Financial considerations would undeniably affect the question whether the rules on the International Sale of Goods should be embodied in a convention rather than issued as optional rules. However, to give way on that score amounted to a conscious abdication of one of the principles on which the Commission had been established, namely the absolute necessity of devising ways and means of correcting the imbalance which had progressively widened the gap between developed and developing countries in their international commercial relations. A conference of plenipotentiaries would give a wide spectrum of commercial interests and many countries which had not participated in the work of the Commission an opportunity to state their views. Her delegation therefore supported the proposal to recommend to the General Assembly that the rules on the international sale of goods should be adopted in the form of a convention.

2. Her delegation was also particularly interested in the question of training and assistance in the field of international trade law. It was regrettable that the second symposium, which was to have been held in connexion with the tenth session of the Commission, had been cancelled for lack of funds. The provision of opportunities for training of personnel, particularly from developing countries, had become an indispensable condition for the consistent development of international law. For example, the themes of the symposium, "Transport and financing documents used in international trade" and "UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules", had been chosen to enable people who were likely to disseminate and apply such important rules to understand them better and to bring such people together with experts conversant with those matters. The importance of such training opportunities could not be over-emphasized, and her delegation fully supported the recommendation that the General Assembly should consider the possibility of funding the Commission's symposia on international trade law from the United Nations budget.

3. In conclusion her delegation wished to place on record its appreciation of the efforts made by the secretariat of the Commission to further the progressive development of international trade law.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.