

74th Session of the General Assembly

Sixth Committee

**Agenda Item 77: Report of the UN Commission on International Trade Law on the Work of
its fifty-second session**

Statement by Ms. Nadia Kalb

Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations

New York, 21 October 2019

Mr. Chair,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

I wish to express Austria's appreciation to the Chair of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, Wisit Wisitsora-at from Thailand, who very ably guided the Commission's work. We also sincerely thank the Secretariat of the Commission, based in Vienna, Austria, for its professional and efficient work.

In light of my country's commitment to international law and the rule of law, it is a source of pride to host the Commission and its Secretariat in Vienna. My delegation attaches great value to the work of the Commission and commends the Commission for its achievements in harmonizing and modernizing the legal framework for the facilitation of international trade and investment.

This year, the Commission finalized and adopted Model Legislative Provisions on Public-Private Partnerships with an accompanying legislative guide, the Model Law on Enterprise Group Insolvency and its Guide to Enactment, as well as other texts. We would like to express appreciation to Singapore for hosting the successful signing ceremony for the Singapore Convention in August.

Austria commends the Commission for progress also in other important areas of work, in particular in its work on the reform of investor-State dispute settlement system, including through regional meetings. Austria attaches great importance to this topic and, as a member state of the EU, Austria supports this process in the framework of UNCITRAL, which has time and time again proven to be a transparent and open forum to meaningfully address challenges and concerns in a consensual manner.

During the past year, we also note that good progress has been made by the Working Group on electronic commerce and note the strengthening of the Micro- Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises work program. Austria also wishes to commend the Commission and its secretariat for revamping the Case Law of Uncitral Texts (CLOUT) program, particularly in light of the impact of CLOUT for structuring technical assistance and capacity-building.

Mr. Chair,

Austria welcomes discussions on enhancing the efficiency of the work of the Commission, and commends the Commission for new arrangements concerning the duration of its sessions, in order to make the best use of the time available to the Commission and its Working Groups.

Austria reaffirms that strengthening the rule of law through the efforts of UNCITRAL and its Secretariat is essential for achieving the Goals and targets of the Agenda 2030. Austria therefore strongly supports the work of the Commission concerned with technical cooperation and assistance in the field of international trade law reform and development.

Austria is very pleased to again serve as coordinator for the UNCITRAL resolutions in the 6th Committee. Informal consultations will take place this afternoon, and the draft resolutions have been circulated to Member States. I encourage delegations to cosponsor the omnibus resolution to show their support for the valuable work of UNCITRAL.

Thank you.