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**69th Session of the
General Assembly**

**AGENDA ITEM 78
Report of the United Nations Commission
on International Trade Law
on the work of its forty-seventh session**

**Statement by
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Representative of Austria**

New York, 13 October 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Before discussing the Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-seventh session (held in New York, from 7 to 18 July 2014), we wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Choong-hee HAHN of the Republic of Korea, who very ably guided the Commission's work during the last session. We also sincerely thank the Secretariat of the Commission for its professional and efficient work under the able leadership of Mr. Renaud Sorieul.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me briefly highlight the work UNCITRAL has accomplished this year. Among the most important achievements was the adoption of the draft United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration. The draft Convention is intended to give those States that wished to make the Rules on Transparency applicable to their existing investment treaties an efficient mechanism to do so, without creating any expectation that other States would use the mechanism offered by the convention. We believe that the adoption of the convention constitutes an important contribution to the development of harmonious international economic relations and to the continuous strengthening of the rule of law. My delegation also commends the Commission for the progress made in other areas of work.

Mr. Chairman,

Last week, the Sixth Committee discussed the topic of the Rule of law at the national and international levels. UNCITRAL plays a key role in this regard. The Commission has a more than 40-year track record of contributions to the strengthening of the rule of law in the field of international trade law and in its forty-seventh session held a rule of law briefing and the rule of law panel discussion. My delegation would like to thank the Commission and its Secretariat for their efforts and reiterates its call to continue and further intensify the important work of UNCITRAL in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

Before closing, I would like to inform other delegations that this year Austria will again serve as coordinator for the UNCITRAL resolutions. Two draft resolutions have been circulated last week to the Permanent Missions via Unishare. First, the annual Omnibus Resolution on the Report of UNCITRAL; and second, a draft resolution on the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration. Delegations wishing to co-sponsor the Omnibus Resolution will have the opportunity to sign their names on the list at the Austrian desk. As in the past, the other resolution will be submitted by the Bureau (no co-sponsoring).

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by stressing that Austria continues to attach the highest importance to the work of UNCITRAL. We will continue to support the Commission and its Vienna-based Secretariat and look forward to contributing actively to their work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.