

ISRAEL

SIXTH COMMITTEE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by
Amit Heumann
Legal Counsellor

Report of the United Nations Commission on International
Trade Law on the work of its fiftieth session

Agenda Item 79

9 October 2017

United Nations, New York

PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
800 Second Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Tel: 212-499-5510
Fax: 212-499-5515
info-un@newyork.mfa.gov.il
<http://israel-un.mfa.gov.il>

Mr. Chairman,

Israel would like to begin by expressing its gratitude to the Secretariat of the Commission for its hard work and professionalism. We believe that the Secretariat's work, together with that of UNCITRAL's working groups, have enabled UNCITRAL to make meaningful contributions to the field of international trade law during the past year.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to briefly highlight some of the progress accomplished at UNCITRAL over the past year.

Firstly, Israel notes with appreciation the discussions in Working Group I regarding the creation of an enabling legal environment for small and medium enterprises, and we look forward to participating in the Group's upcoming deliberations. This is also the case with respect to the upcoming work of Working Group VI on a practice guide for secured transactions.

Turning to Working Group II, which is currently working on the enforcement of international commercial settlement agreements resulting from conciliation, we endorse the decision to allow work on an international convention to continue. Israel believes that such an instrument will not only promote the use of conciliation when cross-border transactions disputes arise, but also provide member states with the guidance needed to properly deal with such agreements. Further, we would like to thank the participants of the working group for their attentiveness and willingness to compromise which enabled the Working Group to move forward.

Israel looks forward to participating in the newly created working group in the field of investor-state dispute settlement reform. We emphasize, however, that our support for continued work in this area does not necessarily imply support for the idea of a permanent court or an appellate mechanism, nor does it mean that Israel will join a Convention on this issue if such a Convention is finalized.

Working Group IV has also embarked on a new path, delving in the fields of identity management and cloud computing. These matters are crucial for the digital economy, and UNCITRAL should continue to position itself in these areas. On that point, we are aware that the Working Group will be developing a “checklist” for cloud service contracts - we believe that this should be seen as a first step, and that the Working Group should eventually broaden its work in this area.

The Israeli delegation is proud to inform the Commission that we are currently in the final stages of adopting UNCITRAL's model law on cross border insolvency, developed by Working Group V. We are immensely pleased with the progress made in the meetings on the current projects being discussed in the group and look forward to our continued involvement in its important endeavors.

On a general note, and to build on the success achieved thus far, we believe that there is room for continued innovation and improvement in terms of efficiency in UNCITRAL – as with every organization. We note that some positive changes have occurred in the last few years, and we would like to encourage other UNCITRAL members and the Secretariat to remain engaged on that path on the basis of a constructive dialogue, with the aim of enhancing the participation of member states in the work of UNCITRAL and in particular the annual meetings of the UNCITRAL Commission, which Israel views as key in UNCITRAL's decision-making process.

Finally, Israel would like to thank the UNCITRAL Secretariat and all members of UNCITRAL for their commitment and collaboration. We look forward to another successful year at UNCITRAL with our peers from across the world.