



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement**

**by**

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First Secretary  
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**before the Sixth Committee  
of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 80:  
Report of the United Nations Commission  
on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-first session  
New York, 16 October 2018**

**Check against delivery**

Mr. Chair,

Thailand wishes to begin by congratulating Her Excellency Madam Beate Czerwenka, Chairman of the fifty-first session of UNCITRAL on the successful conclusion of the session in New York a few months ago. My delegation wishes to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for the comprehensive report on the progress made by the working groups over the past year.

We would also like to congratulate Madam Anna Joubin-Bret on her appointment as Secretary of UNCITRAL and to express our appreciation for her contribution to the work of the Commission. The new UNCITRAL website just launched and the various briefings organized by the Secretariat on the activities of the Commission are testament to her vision, dedication and commitment to promoting greater engagement with Member States and other stakeholders.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand is a long-standing member of UNCITRAL, presently serving our 6<sup>th</sup> term for the years 2016-2022. We recognize the important role which UNCITRAL plays in the harmonization and unification of international trade law, which helps promote international trade and investment. This is why we have actively and continuously participated in the Commission's sessions and all its Working Groups and will continue to do so with the same commitment.

UNCITRAL has made a lot of progress in the past year. Thailand is particularly pleased with the finalization of the convention on international settlement agreements resulting from mediation, or the Singapore Convention on Mediation, which will make it easier for businesses to enforce mediated settlement agreements and improve cross-border trade.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand takes a keen interest in the work of Working Group III. In this regard, we welcome the initiative of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific in organizing the first Inter-sessional Regional Meeting on Investor-State Dispute Settlement reform in Incheon, Korea, last month. The meeting provided a forum for high-level government officials and other relevant stakeholders in the region to discuss issues being deliberated by Working Group III.

On a more substantive note, we would like to draw your attention to the submission we made at the thirty-fifth session of the Working Group in April this year on “Procedural Concerns Regarding Investor-State Dispute Settlement”. We shared our concerns from a developing country’s perspective, highlighting the various challenges faced by developing countries in ISDS proceedings. We are pleased that many of our concerns are reflected in the working papers prepared by the Secretariat over the summer and we look forward to discussing the issues raised in these papers at the next session of the Working Group in Vienna later this month.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair,

Thailand believes that UNCITRAL has the capacity to shape the development of international trade law for the benefit of all. To be successful, however, it needs to continue engaging with all relevant stakeholders and work closely with other UN agencies in mainstreaming Sustainable Development Goals into its agendas and activities. At the same time, it needs participation and support from all countries. In this regard, Thailand will continue to support and contribute to UNCITRAL for all its current and future work.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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