

75th Session of the General Assembly

Sixth Committee

**Agenda Item 78: Report of the United Nations Commission on International
Trade Law on the work of its fifty-third session**

Statement by Ms. Laura Katholnig

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New York, 10 November 2020

Mr. Chair,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and I would like to convey the following remarks in our national capacity.

I wish to express Austria's appreciation to the Chair of the 53rd session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, Eric Anderson Machado of Peru, who very ably guided the Commission's work in these challenging circumstances. We also sincerely thank the Secretariat of the Commission, based in Vienna, Austria, for its professional and efficient work as well as its tireless efforts to advance the Commission's work to the extent possible despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of my country's commitment to international law and the rule of law, it is a source of great pride to host the Commission and its Secretariat in Vienna. My delegation very much values and commends the Commission for its work in the past session.

This year, the Commission completed the Legal Guide to Uniform Legal Instruments in the Area of International Commercial Contracts (with a focus on sales) prepared by the secretariat of the Commission in coordination with the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law. Austria also notes with interest the decisions of the Commission as regards its planned work in the areas of warehouse receipts, railway consignment notes and legal issues of the digital economy. We also note that two proposals were made at the last session for future work by the Commission in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which proves the importance and relevance of the Commission's work in light of new challenges.

With regard to economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, we would also like to highlight that several legislative tools that UNCITRAL has developed can play an important role in assisting States to mitigate the effects of the measures required to control the pandemic, as well as in their economic recovery efforts.

Mr. Chair,

Austria is very pleased to again serve as coordinator for the UNCITRAL resolution in the 6th Committee. This year's draft resolution on this agenda item has been circulated to Member States on October 29th and is based on last year's Omnibus resolution (A/RES/74/182) with updates from the report of the Commission.

Informal consultations have taken place last week and based on the consultations with Member States, I am hopeful that the 6th Committee will soon be in a position to agree on a draft text for this resolution. I encourage delegations to cosponsor the resolution to show their support for the valuable work of UNCITRAL and I would like to thank those that have already done so.

I thank you.