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Statement

by

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**before the Sixth Committee
of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

Agenda Item 78:

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

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Mr. Chair,

My delegation wishes to begin by congratulating Mr. Eric Anderson Machado, as Chair of the fifty-third session of UNCITRAL, on the successful conclusion of the virtual meetings of the fifty-third session in July and September 2020. We also appreciate Professor Wisit Wisitsora-at, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, the previous Chair of UNCITRAL, for his efforts and pre-session arrangements to ensure the smooth organization of the fifty-third session, and thank Madam Secretary, Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, and her team for their hard work as well as for the comprehensive report of the UNCITRAL fifty-third session as contained in document A/75/17.

Thailand commends the UNCITRAL Secretariat for the organization of “UNCITRAL Texts and COVID-19” webinar during the first part of the fifty-third session. This event emphasised the importance and relevance of UNCITRAL works even in extraordinary circumstances, such as in the time of pandemic, as well as allowed Member States to share their best practices in how to address legal issues related to international trade that arises from the COVID-19. The organisation of similar activities should be encouraged in order to address future developments in international trade in a timely manner. In this regard, Thailand supports the use of digital technology to facilitate the work of UNCITRAL, while at the same time the principles of transparency, efficiency and equity should be ensured.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand supports in principle the initiative to enlarge the membership of UNCITRAL. The enlargement would not only increase more experts to participate in UNCITRAL activities, but also increase awareness, visibility and acceptability towards UNCITRAL and its works. Nevertheless, we would like to highlight that the efficiency of UNCITRAL should remain unaffected by the enlargement and the new geographical distribution should address the concern regards the underrepresentation of specific regions in the Commission.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand would like to congratulate the entry into force of Singapore Convention on 12 September 2020 and the 40th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), both of which Thailand is considering becoming party in the near future.

Thailand attaches great importance to the reform of investor-state dispute settlement, especially, the establishment of an advisory centre on International Investment Law, which can enhance the legitimacy of investor-state dispute settlement system by strengthening the capacity of under-resourced developing countries so that they are in a position to defend themselves adequately. Additionally, we wish to underscore our previous observation that many of the reform options currently being discussed in Working Group III, such as the code of ethics for arbitrators and rules on third-party funding, can serve as "building blocks" for incremental yet immediate changes to the regime. As such, a flexible approach for implementation of its work products is needed, so that reform tools which are simpler to achieve can be implemented at an earlier stage.

We are of the view that the UNCITRAL Technical Notes on Online Dispute Resolution adopted in 2016 should be revised to address challenges of the online dispute resolution, especially procedural issues in the time of pandemic and current developments of digital economy, including

the use of artificial intelligence in dispute resolution, as well as the enforcement of the result from the online dispute resolution in domestic courts.

Mr. Chair,

Having been an active member of UNCITRAL since 1992, Thailand wishes to reaffirm our unwavering support to the work of UNCITRAL. We are confident in UNCITRAL's capacity and its role as a major international mechanism for advancing the harmonization and development of international trade law in all dimensions. With our strong conviction and firm belief in UNCITRAL, we look forward to receiving valuable support from the Member States for Thailand's candidature so that we can continue to serve in UNCITRAL at the next elections.

Thank you.