STATEMENT
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
work of its fifty-sixth session
78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
16 October 2023
UN Headquarters New York

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Commission for its report on its 56th Session (A/78/17) and express
appreciation for the efforts of UNCITRAL Secretary Anna Joubin-Bret and the Chair of the 56th
Session of UNCITRAL which the Philippines attended as an observer, in moving forward the
work of the Commission.

We laud the work of the Commission in facilitating fair, stable and predictable legal
frameworks during the relevant period covered by the report, including the finalization and
adoption of texts related to investor-State dispute settlement reform, inter alia:

• the UNCITRAL Model Provisions on Mediation for International Investment Disputes;
• the UNCITRAL Guidelines on Mediation for International Investment Disputes;
• the UNCITRAL Code of Conduct for Arbitrators in International Investment Dispute
  Resolution; and
• the UNCITRAL Code of Conduct for Judges in International Investment Dispute
  Resolution

We thank the Chairperson and the Rapporteur, Mr. Shane Spelliscy (Canada) and Natalie
Yu-Lin Morris-Sharma (Singapore), respectively, for their valuable roles in steering the Working
Group III, in their personal capacity.

We welcome the finalization and adoption of the recommendations on access to credit
for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the approval in principle of the
commentary to the recommendations.

We also note the satisfactory progress of the various Working Groups.

We are particularly pleased on the conduct of the UNCITRAL Colloquium on Climate
Change and International Trade Law took place this year to consider areas in which
international trade law can effectively support the achievement of climate action goals set by
the international community, the scope and value of legal harmonization in those areas and
the need for international guidance for legislators, policymakers, courts and dispute resolution
bodies.

Further, the further expansion of engagement with academic partners, targeted at young
researchers and practitioners in international trade law, including through, inter alia, the
UNCITRAL Asia-Pacific Days, is a welcome development that must be sustained.

We express our appreciation to UNCITRAL’s Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific
and to the Republic of Korea for its support for the Center. The Center has been instrumental
in building capacity in our region on international trade law and to in raising awareness of the
UNCITRAL.

We are open to the suggestion from the Commission for an intersessional consultative
process among States Members of the United Nations with a view to developing guidelines on
streamlining and simplifying the text of future draft omnibus resolutions to be adopted by the
General Assembly.

Finally, the Philippines stands ready to support Austria and co-facilitators Singapore
(resolution I), Croatia (resolution II), and El Salvador (resolution IV), in their work on the
resolutions on this agenda item. END