



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT  
BY  
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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE**

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> COMMITTEE 78<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**THE REPORT OF THE 56<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW**

**16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

**NEW YORK**

*[Please check against delivery]*

**STATEMENT ON THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION”**

***Mr. Chairperson,***

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the delegation of Uganda.

My delegation would like to thank the Chair of the Commission of the 56<sup>th</sup> session, H.E Kathryn Sabo for her leadership in conducting the work of the session, as well as for introducing the report on the work of the Commission contained in document A/78/17. My delegation also commends the secretariat led by Anna Joubin-Bret for leading the secretariat with stellar leadership of the commission.

***Mr. Chairperson,***

My delegation would like to congratulate the commission on the adoption of the six legislative guidelines including the adoption of the UNCITRAL Model Provisions on Mediation, the UNCITRAL Guidelines on Mediation for International Investment Disputes, the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators, and the Code of Conduct for Judges which have come after several years of preparation by and discussions at UNCITRAL [Working Group III](#), which was entrusted in 2017 with a broad mandate to work on the possible reform of Investment State Dispute Settlement.

My delegation welcomes *the* adoption of the UNCITRAL Model Provisions on Mediation for International Investment Disputes, as they appear in annex I to the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-sixth session, we strongly recommend that States and other relevant stakeholders involved in the negotiation of international investment instruments consider including the UNCITRAL Model Provisions on Mediation for International Investment Disputes into their respective national laws; We *request* the Secretary-General to publish the UNCITRAL Model Provisions on Mediation for International Investment Disputes, including electronically, in the six official languages of the United Nations, and to disseminate them broadly to Governments and other interested bodies.”

***Madam. Chairperson,***

We are very appreciative and grateful for the Legal guide on the use of distributed ledger systems. The preparation of the new section of the legal taxonomy on

distributed ledger systems had identified the need for legal guidance on the operation of distributed ledger systems (described in the taxonomy as the “infrastructure layer”) and on contracting for the provision of distributed ledger technology-enabled services (described in the taxonomy as the “application layer”).

Our delegation appreciates that the proposed guidance document could provide explanations useful to commercial operators, especially MSMEs and operators located in developing countries like Uganda, in assessing whether distributed ledger technology-enabled services addressed their needs, and the impact of the use of such services on their business. Suffice to note, the raising awareness of those legal issues could promote greater security and sustainability in digital transformation efforts, including within the United Nations system.

***Madam. Chairperson,***

On Dispute settlement our delegation would like to commend the commission for the progress made by Working Group II, in particular its finalization of the explanatory note to the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules. We would also like to express our appreciation to the secretariat for presenting the legislative options with regard to early dismissal and preliminary determination, based on the deliberations of the Working Group and to further consideration of future work in the area of dispute settlement which will go a long way in saving states like Uganda the protracted cost of litigation.

***Mr. Chairperson,***

With regard to Investor-State dispute settlement reform, would like to commend and appreciate the progress being made by Working Group III in the third phase of its mandate, which was to develop concrete reform elements to be recommended to the Commission. We also commend the Working Group for completing the first reading of the draft code of conduct and for considering the selection and appointment of Investor-State dispute settlement tribunal members to a standing multilateral mechanism during those sessions.

Our delegation further expresses its appreciation to the secretariat for closely cooperating with the secretariat of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes on the code of conduct and with the secretariat of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on shareholder claims and reflective loss.

***Madam. Chair,***

Uganda endorses the further expansion of the Commission’s engagement with academic partners, through the Secretariat, geared towards young researchers

and practitioners in international trade law, including the UNCITRAL Asia-Pacific Days, the UNCITRAL Latin American and Caribbean Days and the UNCITRAL Days in Africa. My delegation welcomes the launch of the inaugural UNCITRAL Days in Africa series which took place in 2022. The inaugural session provided an opportunity to introduce the concept of the UNCITRAL Days to all participants, while providing information to institutions of higher learning that might host activities. The inaugural session also provided a forum for all participants to explore thematic areas relevant to UNCITRAL's work and to themselves, through interactive discussions.

The digital revolution is an incredible opportunity for African countries, accompanied by a need for African States to develop legal infrastructure which will allow them to benefit from the digital economy. Areas of particular resonance for my delegation include the need for the establishment of a harmonized legal framework for a fair and efficient settlement of international investment disputes; and transparency, accountability and good governance in the international commercial law framework. many African countries.

***Madam. Chair,***

My delegation once again commends the Members of the UNCITRAL Commission, *and* the UNCITRAL secretariat for the tremendous work in preparing this report and enabling members to participate in the meetings of the commission. My delegation looks forward to supporting the work of the United Nations International Trade Law Commission (UNCITRAL) in the coming sessions. **I thank you.**