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UNCITRAL regional presence

Note by the Secretariat

Activities of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific

1. Since the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, the Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific has carried out its activities in accordance with the priority lines of action identified in the strategic framework for technical assistance of the UNCITRAL secretariat ([A/66/17](#), para. 255 and [A/CN.9/724](#), paras. 10–48), as well as with the specific mandate identified for the Regional Centre. Those lines of action are to (a) support public, private and civil society initiatives to enhance international trade and development by promoting certainty in international commercial transactions through the dissemination of international trade norms and standards, in particular those elaborated by UNCITRAL; (b) provide capacity-building and technical assistance services to States in the region, including to international and regional organizations, and development banks; (c) build and participate in regionally-based international trade law partnerships and alliances, including with other appropriate United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies; (d) strengthen information, knowledge and statistics through briefings, workshops, seminars, publications, social media and information and communication technologies, including in regional languages; and (e) function as a channel of communication between States and UNCITRAL for non-legislative activities of the Commission during the reporting period between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

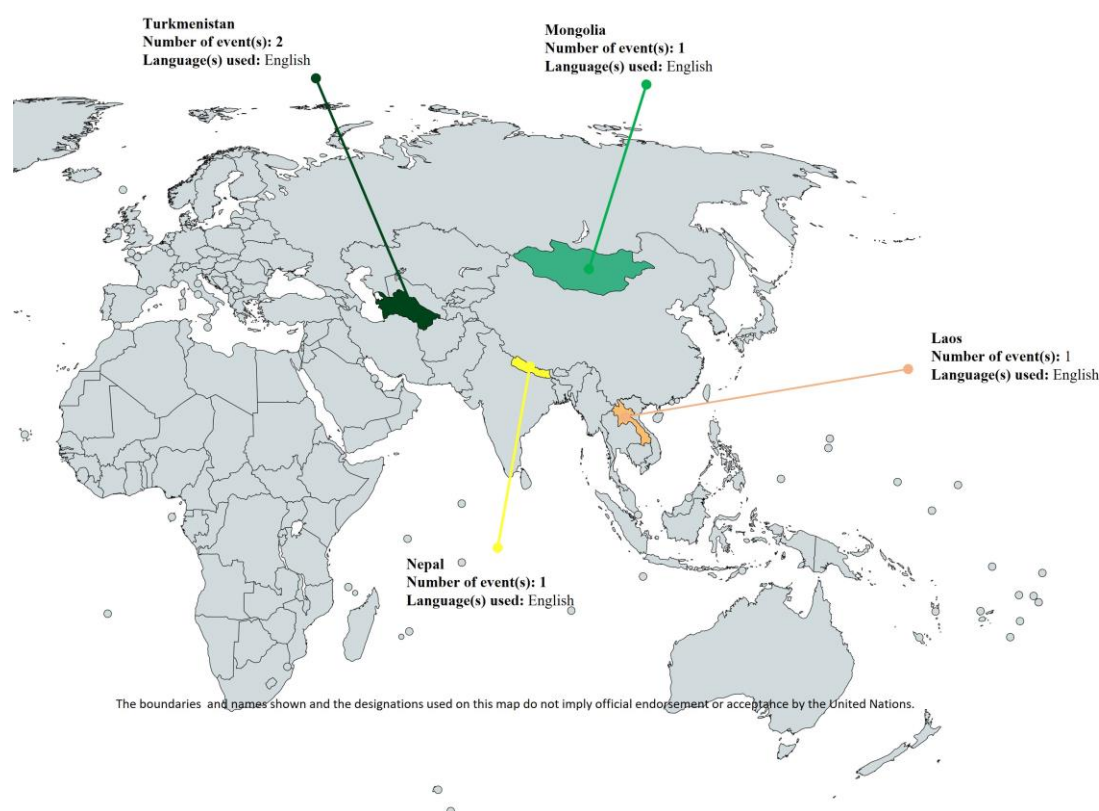
2. Throughout the reporting period, the Regional Centre carried out virtual, hybrid, and in-person technical assistance, capacity-building, and awareness-raising activities anchored in 22 jurisdictions throughout the Asia-Pacific including 4 landlocked developing countries (Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, and Turkmenistan).



Activities carried out between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022

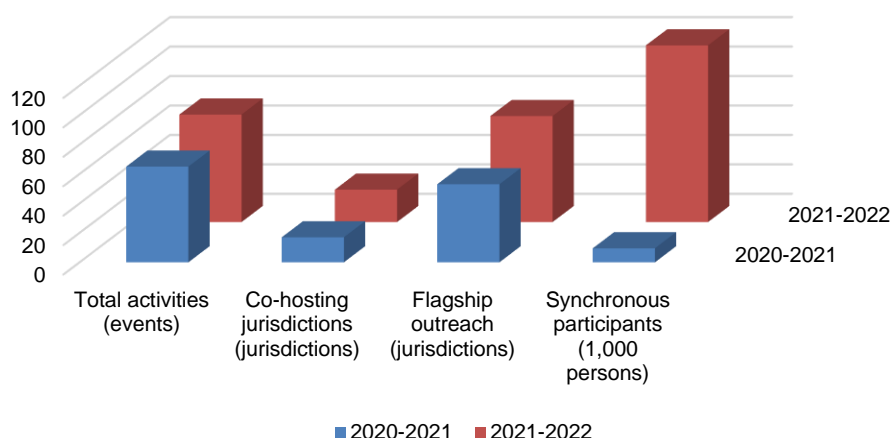


Activities carried out with landlocked developing countries



3. The activities carried out by the Regional Centre during the reporting period resulted in broader and deeper stakeholder engagement in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. To illustrate: the number of technical assistance and capacity-building activities increased by 12 per cent from the previous reporting period (from 65 activities between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 to 73 activities between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022); jurisdictions co-hosting activities with the Regional Centre increased by 29 per cent (from 17 to 22 jurisdictions); geographical outreach of flagship activity participants increased by 36 per cent (from 53 to 72 jurisdictions); and participation increased by 1,200 per cent (from 9,500 to approximately 120,000 synchronous participants).

A Glimpse of Activities



Promotion of the universal adoption of UNCITRAL instruments

Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17

4. Despite the ongoing impacts of measures taken to address the coronavirus disease (“COVID-19”) pandemic including travel and organizational restrictions imposed across the region since the last reporting period, the Regional Centre has continued to deliver and also expand the reach and virtual accessibility of its flagship activities during the reporting period. These activities have the objective of raising awareness and promoting effective understanding, adoption and use of UNCITRAL texts and establishing regular opportunities for substantive regional contributions to support the present and possible future legislative work of UNCITRAL:

Incheon Law and Business Forum

(a) The 2021 Incheon Law and Business Forum (second edition) (“the Forum”) (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 6–7 September 2021), co-organized with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and Incheon Metropolitan City and supported by Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and KCAB INTERNATIONAL, was held with the theme “Navigating the Storm: Helping MSMEs Set Sail with Legal Harmonization”. The Forum comprised five panels and one round table: (1) “MSME Formation: Business Registration” on the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Key Principles of a Business Registry and other ways to overcome legal obstacles to integration into the mainstream economy by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); (2) “MSME Formation: Limited Liability Enterprises (LLEs)” on the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on LLEs and different countries’ legislative initiatives on simplified business forms; (3) “MSMEs in the Digital Age,” an exploratory session on the MSME experience with digitalization and how UNCITRAL may alleviate related legal issues; (4) “MSE Insolvency: a Simplified Regime” focusing on the new UNCITRAL Legislative Recommendations on Insolvency of Micro- and Small Enterprises (2021); (5) “Resolving Disputes Involving MSMEs” on the benefits of different alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, including the newly adopted UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules (2021); (6) round-table discussion on MSME access to credit including challenges and solutions around traditional funding methods available to MSMEs and existing policy initiatives and legal measures at the national and international levels. Approximately 434 stakeholders from business and legal sectors, international organizations and government representatives from 72 jurisdictions across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, including Africa, the Americas and Europe, participated.

UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit

(b) The UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit (fourth edition) (“the Summit”) (Hong Kong, China, 1–2 November 2021), jointly hosted with the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, China and supported by the Asian Academy of International Law, was held with the theme “Sustainably Adapting to a New Normal” in hybrid format. The Summit, a biennial flagship event of the Regional Centre, brought together judges, officials, practitioners, academics and other professionals in the region to discuss topical legal issues. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, this year the Summit focused on the legal issues pertaining to adapting to this new normal. The Summit comprises a Judicial Conference public session and an exclusive Judicial Roundtable which aim to provide capacity-building to judges and judicial personnel in the region. The Asian Development Bank (“ADB”) supported interpretation to facilitate judges from Armenia to engage and participate in the Summit. Topics discussed during the Summit included access to credit to kickstart the global economy; addressing supply chain trade disputes caused by disruptions from the pandemic and the application of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (Vienna, 1980) (“CISG”); the digital economy and dispute resolution; and insolvency and restructuring. Approximately 800 participants from 38 jurisdictions attended the Summit virtually or in person, including lawyers, professors and judges from, among other jurisdictions, Armenia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

UNCITRAL Special Session

(c) The UNCITRAL Special Session (Seoul, 2–3 November 2021), an annual flagship event, co-organized with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and supported by KCAB INTERNATIONAL and Seoul International Dispute Resolution Center (“Seoul IDRC”), provided capacity-building to government and international organization officials on UNCITRAL alternative dispute resolution texts, inter alia, the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York, 1958) (“New York Convention”), UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (1985), with amendments as adopted in 2006 (“UNCITRAL Model Arbitration Law”), the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules (2021), the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (New York, 2018) (“Singapore Convention on Mediation”), UNCITRAL Model Law on International Mediation and International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (2018) (“UNCITRAL Model Law on International Mediation”), the UNCITRAL Mediation Rules (2021), UNCITRAL Notes on Mediation (2021) and UNCITRAL Technical Notes on Online Dispute Resolution (2016). Participants shared experiences and updates from their respective jurisdictions on dispute resolution, dispute resolution in the digital economy and investor-State dispute settlement (“ISDS”). The hybrid event was attended by representatives from 17 jurisdictions, i.e., Australia, China, Hong Kong, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam, and representatives from development banks and international organizations in the Asia Pacific, including from the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Lao people’s Democratic Republic.

Asia Pacific ADR Conference

(d) The Asia Pacific ADR Conference (tenth edition) (Seoul, 4–5 November 2021), an annual regional conference co-organized with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea, KCAB International, Seoul IDRC and the International Chamber of Commerce (“ICC”) International Court of Arbitration was held virtually. Under the theme “Innovating the Future of Dispute Resolution Beyond 2021: The Journey Continues”, the conference discussed current reform proposals in ISDS, how to make

arbitration more user-friendly and innovative suggestions for virtual and remote hearings. Over 115,000 people from 61 jurisdictions watched the conference on live stream.

UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day

(e) The UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day (eighth edition) held during the last quarter of 2021 aimed at promoting awareness and encouraging the study of UNCITRAL texts by legal scholars and students.¹ Universities from across the region were invited to join the celebrations by hosting academic events ranging from brown-bag lunches to multi-day international conferences. Despite the continued complications arising from COVID-19, a ground-breaking total of 40 partner institutions co-hosted 21 events in virtual or hybrid format in [14] jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region, i.e., Australia, China, including the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao, India, Japan, Maldives, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkmenistan, and Viet Nam, reaching a synchronous audience of over 1,300 participants. This year, MSMEs were the main focus of the events. Other UNCITRAL topics covered include dispute settlement, online dispute resolution, ISDS, CISG, insolvency, simplified business formation and registration, security interests and electronic commerce.

Events were held with the following academic partners and institutions:

- (i) Chung-Ang University (Seoul, 13 October 2021);
- (ii) Inha University (Seoul, 14 October 2021);
- (iii) Renmin University and ICC (Beijing, 22 October 2021);
- (iv) Seoul National University (Seoul, 26 October 2021);
- (v) Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and ICC (Shanghai, China, 5 November 2021);
- (vi) University of Hong Kong in collaboration with the Hong Kong Mediation Centre and the International Dispute Resolution Risk Management Institute (Hong Kong, China, 10 November 2021);
- (vii) Thammasat University (Bangkok, 12 November 2021);
- (viii) Shanghai University of International Business and Economics in collaboration with the ICC and World Trade Organization Law Research Society of China Law Society (Shanghai, China, 15 November 2021);
- (ix) Beijing Normal University (Beijing, 16 November 2021);
- (x) International University of Humanities and Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (Ashgabat, 16 November 2021);
- (xi) Kathmandu University School of Law and Nepal International ADR Centre (Kathmandu, 19 November 2021);
- (xii) Wuhan University and the ICC (Wuhan, China, 4 December 2021);
- (xiii) Far Eastern Federal University (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 13 December 2021);
- (xiv) Maldives National University, Villa College, Avid College and Maldives Moot Court Society (Malé, 14 December 2021);
- (xv) Nagoya University (Nagoya, Japan, 15 December 2021);
- (xvi) University of Western Australia in collaboration with UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for Australia (Perth, Australia, 17 December 2021);

¹ See further, UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day 2021 Report, viewable at: XXX.

- (xvii) University of Macau (Macao, China, 17 December 2021);
- (xviii) Foreign Trade University (Hanoi, 20 December 2021);
- (xix) Shanghai University of Political Science and Law and the ICC (Shanghai, China, 28 December 2021);
- (xx) Sri Lanka Law College and the Moot Court Bench (Colombo, 10 January 2022);
- (xxi) Gujarat National Law University's Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law, Tamil Nadu National Law University, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Gujarat, India, 3 February 2022).

5. In addition, the Regional Centre has delivered, supported or participated in the following events and initiatives aimed at raising awareness and promoting effective understanding, adoption and use of UNCITRAL texts, and thus legal certainty in international commercial transactions:

- (a) On the mandate of UNCITRAL generally or with a **cross-topic** focus:
 - (i) Co-organized the UNCITRAL RCAP-LAWASIA Webinar and presented on the mandate of UNCITRAL, its legislative work and legal developments, UNCITRAL non-legislative work with a focus on the Asia Pacific region, the UNCITRAL arbitration and mediation framework and the current work of working groups II and III (Sydney, Australia, 14 April 2021);
 - (ii) Presented on the Singapore Convention on Mediation and judicial sale of ships at the Maritime Silk Road (Quanzhou) International Forum on Judicial Cooperation hosted by the Supreme People's Court of China (Beijing, 26–27 October 2021);
 - (iii) Presented on UNCITRAL work on MSMEs and the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules at a joint event co-hosted by the Regional Centre, Shanghai Arbitration Commission and ICC Shanghai Representative Office as part of the Fourth China International Import Expo (Shanghai, China, 9 November 2021);
 - (iv) Presented on the work of UNCITRAL and the Regional Centre, the UNCITRAL Legislative Recommendations on Insolvency of Micro- and Small Enterprises (2021) and the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules (2021) at a conference addressing the practical challenges and obstacles encountered in the process of implementing private law reform and the best practices and experience from different jurisdictions and international organizations hosted by the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar, 16 December 2021).
- (b) In the area of **dispute settlement**, the Regional Centre has:
 - (i) Co-organized and presented at a virtual webinar with Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (“BIAC”) highlighting how UNCITRAL ADR Instruments facilitate doing business in the Asia Pacific (Dhaka, 8 April 2021);
 - (ii) Provided remarks for a webinar series on “Introduction to Executive Order No. 78, series of 2012 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and Arbitration Procedure” and on “Mediation Procedure”, organized by the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) and the Department of Justice of the Philippines (Manila, 30 April 2021);
 - (iii) Delivered an overview of the Singapore Convention on Mediation for a virtual International Online Mediation Conference organized by Bangalore International Mediation, Arbitration, and Conciliation Centre (Bangalore, India, 9–10 July 2021);
 - (iv) Lectured on the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration as a precursor event for the China Arbitration Summit 2021 organized by China

International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (Beijing, 13 September 2021);

(v) Participated in the roundtable at the XIII American Bar Association (“ABA”) Conference on the Resolution of CIS-Related Business Disputes on investment treaties and disputes with a focus on disputes related to the Commonwealth of Independent States (“CIS”) organized by ABA International Law Section and Russian Arbitration Association (Moscow, 22 September 2021);

(vi) Presented on the Singapore Convention on Mediation in the International Scientific and Practical Conference of Asia-Pacific Mediators and VI Pacific Law Forum organized by the Association of Mediators and Intermediaries of the Asia-Pacific Region, Far Eastern Federal University School of Law, Korea International Mediation Centre (“KIMC”) and the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports of Primorsky Krai (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 8 October 2021);

(vii) Delivered a presentation on overseas legislative trends regarding the Singapore Convention on Mediation and Commercial Mediation during the VI Asia Pacific Mediation Conference organized by the Korean Society of Mediation Studies, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Legislation Research Institute (Seoul, 15 November 2021);

(viii) Provided an overview on ISDS reform to the LAWASIA 2021 Virtual Annual Conference (Sydney, Australia, 17 November 2021);

(ix) Presented on the UNCITRAL Technical Notes on Online Dispute Resolution (2016) and work on dispute resolution in the digital economy at the 2nd online National Alternative Dispute Resolution Convention organized by the OADR of the Department of Justice of the Philippines (Manila, 1–3 December 2021);

(x) Provided support for and presented on the Singapore Convention on Mediation and regional developments at the 2021 International Seminar of Korea International Mediation Centre hosted by KIMC (Seoul, 3 December 2021);

(xi) Discussed the draft mediation bill of India and key features of the Singapore Convention on Mediation at a virtual round table organized by the Indian Institute of Arbitration & Mediation (Delhi, India, 15 December 2021);

(xii) Presented on the UNCITRAL mediation framework at the precursor event of the International Investor-State Mediation Competition Colombo organized by the Moot Court Bench with the support of the Ministry of Justice of Sri Lanka (Colombo, 10 January 2022);

(xiii) Provided institutional support for the Asian International Arbitration Centre (“AIAC”) and AIAC Young Practitioners Group Virtual Conference 2022 (Kuala Lumpur, 17 March 2022).

(c) In the area of **electronic commerce**, the Regional Centre:

(i) Supported the virtual Pacific-Based Development Agencies and Development Banks – Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Suva, 28 April 2021);

(ii) Presented on UNCITRAL e-commerce texts and draft Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services at a virtual knowledge-sharing event co-hosted with the Electronic Transactions Development Agency of Thailand (Bangkok, 2 June 2021).

(d) In the area of **insolvency**, the Regional Centre:

(i) Presented an overview of UNCITRAL future work on civil asset tracing and recovery at the Virtual LAWASIA Webinar on UNCITRAL and Enhanced

Asset Tracing and Recovery in the Digital Age (Sydney, Australia, 17 August 2021).

(e) In the area of **international sale of goods**, the Regional Centre:

(i) Co-organized a webinar on “Alternative Dispute Resolution and International Sale of Goods: Time to Benefit from CISG?” with Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) (Dhaka, 10 March 2022);

(ii) Provided institutional support for and presented on recent developments on the CISG in the Asia Pacific (including the extension of the CISG to Hong Kong, China) at the 2022 CISG Conference “The CISG, 40 Years and Beyond: What the Past Will Bring to the Future” (Hong Kong, China, 27 March 2022);

So as to support inclusivity in its activities, the Regional Centre has supported virtual attendance of government officials from developing, landlocked and small island developing States at various activities, including from Armenia, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand Timor-Leste, Tonga and Turkmenistan.

Technical assistance and capacity-building²

Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 9, 10 and 16

6. In line with its specific mandate, the Regional Centre has also provided technical assistance and capacity-building services to States in the Asia-Pacific region, including to international and regional organizations and development banks:

Activities led by the Regional Centre

(a) In the area of **dispute settlement**:

(i) Presented at a virtual roundtable capacity-building workshop on ISDS reform for stakeholders from Viet Nam organized by Australian National University and supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (Hanoi, 10 December 2021);

(ii) Delivered presentations on UNCITRAL texts on mediation at the Asia-Pacific Region Mediation Legislation Improvement Seminar co-organized with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Justice of Cambodia (Seoul, 20 December 2021).

(b) In the area of **international sale of goods**:

(i) Delivered “The Benefits of Legal Harmonization for Turkmenistan: An UNCITRAL Overview of the CISG and the New York Convention” with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and International University of Humanities and Development (Ashgabat, 16 November 2021);

(ii) Presented on the CISG and technical assistance from the Regional Centre at the virtual webinar co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Indonesia in Vienna and the Transnational Business Law Department, Universitas Padjadjaran (West Java, Indonesia, 19 November 2021);

(iii) Delivered a Consultation Workshop on Implementation of CISG in Lao People’s Democratic Republic with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and USAID-Laos Business Environment Project (Vientiane, 7 March 2022).

(c) In the area of **electronic commerce**:

² These activities are undertaken upon request.

- (i) Presented on UNCITRAL work on electronic commerce in a hybrid Inter-Agency Meeting on the Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in Electronic Contracts, organized by the Department of Trade and Industry Philippines (Manila, 15 April 2021);
- (ii) Presented at and co-hosted a virtual knowledge-sharing event on UNCITRAL e-commerce texts and ongoing work with the Electronic Transactions Development Agency of Thailand (Bangkok, 2 June 2021) as per paragraph 5(c)(ii) *supra*;
- (iii) Hosted a virtual capacity-building seminar for government officials of Turkmenistan on electronic commerce and the digital economy (Ashgabat, 10 June 2021).
- (d) In the area of **insolvency**:
 - (i) Presented on the UNCITRAL Legislative Recommendations on Insolvency of Micro- and Small Enterprises (2021) at a conference hosted by the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia as per paragraph 5(a)(iv) *supra* (Ulaanbaatar, 16 December 2021).

Activities reported in A/CN.9/10xx, supported by the Regional Centre³

- (e) 2021 International Online Colloquium on Public-Private Partnership Best Practices: Securing Quality Development along the Belt and Road Initiative in collaboration with the Central University of Finance and Economics and supported by the China Public Private Partnerships Center (Ministry of Finance of China), the Department of Treaties and Laws (Ministry of Commerce of China) and the Asian Academy of International Law (“AAIL”) (Beijing, 8–9 April 2021);
- (f) UNCITRAL Working Group III Intersessional Meeting on Procedural Rules Reform (virtual) (Seoul, 2–3 September 2021);
- (g) UNCITRAL Working Group III Intersessional Meeting on the Use of Mediation in ISDS in collaboration with the Department of Justice Hong Kong, China and AAIL (Hong Kong, China, 28–29 October 2021);
- (h) Second Meeting of the Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform on Online Dispute Resolution in collaboration with the Department of Justice Hong Kong, China (Hong Kong, China, 24 November 2021);
- (i) 2021 Tokyo Forum on Dispute Resolution on “Enhancing the Principles of Dispute Resolution in the Digital Economy” in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice of Japan and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (Tokyo, 7–8 December 2021);
- (j) Reviewed draft arbitration and mediation legislation for certain jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region.

Activities undertaken jointly or in cooperation with other agencies

Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17

7. To further its coordination and cooperation with regionally-based international trade law partnerships and alliances, including with other appropriate United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, the Regional Centre has continued systematic efforts with institutions active in trade law reforms, such as the ADB, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (“APEC”), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (“UNCTAD”), United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and United Nations organizations operating in the Republic of Korea under the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

³ See further, Section II.A, A/CN.9/xxxx.

Pacific, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building. In particular, the Regional Centre:

(a) Co-organized capacity-building workshops and seminars with various international institutions on topics of dispute settlement, sale of goods and electronic commerce as mentioned in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 *supra*;

(b) Collaborated with the ICC Representative Office, Shanghai and ICC Arbitration and ADR, North Asia in organizing UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day events with universities in China in paragraph 4(e) *supra*;

(c) In partnership with the ADB, provided technical assistance and capacity-building for stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, including the International Legal Forum “Tashkent Law Spring” organized by the Uzbekistan Ministry of Justice and ADB (Tashkent, 22–23 April 2021) and the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit (fourth edition) as per paragraph 4(b) *supra*;

(d) Participated in the Asia-Pacific Workshop on UNCTAD’s Phase 3 of International Investment Agreement Reform: Improving Investment Policy Coherence and Synergies (Bangkok, 28–30 April 2021);

(e) Participated in workshops and webinars organized under APEC, including APEC Ease of Doing Business Workshop: Resolving Insolvency in APEC Economies (United States of America, 10 June 2021), the webinar on “Issues Affecting Implementation of Secured Lending Reform and Access to Credit during the COVID-19 Pandemic in APEC Economies” (United States of America, 10 December 2021), and the Virtual Workshop on Launching the APEC ODR Collaborative Framework (Japan, 16–17 February 2022);

(f) Participated in the United Nations Joint Steering Committee for the transition from the Lao People’s Democratic Republic – United Nations Partnership Framework 2017–2021 to the new Lao People’s Democratic Republic – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022–2026 (Vientiane, 13 July 2021), and provided capacity-building to representatives from the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Lao People’s Democratic Republic as mentioned in paragraph 4(c) *supra*;

(g) Co-organized a special panel discussion on key challenges to sustainable development and the role of the Republic of Korea in shaping the future of multilateralism in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Republic of Korea joining the United Nations with United Nations organizations, funds and programmes operating in the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Association of Korea (Republic of Korea, 24 October 2021);

(h) Collaborated with the UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for Australia in co-hosting an UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day flagship event as per paragraph 4(e)(xvi) *supra*.

8. The Regional Centre has also served as a channel of communication for technical cooperation and assistance activities of the Commission with States in the region, setting up contact points within governments in the region and engaging in regular consultations with government officials.

New treaty actions and enactment of model laws

Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 9, 10 and 16

9. In the reporting period, the following UNCITRAL texts have been adopted in the region:⁴

⁴ See, further, Status of conventions and model laws, Note by the Secretariat, A/CN.9/xxxx. This Note addresses actions in the Asia-Pacific and outcomes from activities of the Regional Centre,

- (a) In the area of **international arbitration**:
 - (i) New York Convention: Iraq (2021);
 - (ii) Mauritius Convention on Transparency: Benin (2021); Iraq (2021);
 - (iii) Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (1985), with amendments as adopted in 2006: Uzbekistan (2021).
- (b) In the area of **international commercial mediation**:
 - (i) Singapore Convention on Mediation: *ratification* – Turkey (2021); Georgia (2021); Honduras (2021); Turkey (2021); *signature* – Australia (2021).
- (c) In the area of **electronic commerce**:
 - (i) UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce (1996): Belize (2021); Kiribati (2021);
 - (ii) UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (2017): Belize (2021); Kiribati (2021).

Outreach

Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 4, 16 and 17

10. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre has served as a channel of communication between States and the UNCITRAL secretariat based in Vienna and continued to expand the reach of its mandate through its national and regional educational programmes to maintain regular dialogue with non-governmental organizations, local and national political stakeholders, other international organizations, development banks, academia, the media and the general public on various aspects of the work of the Regional Centre, to enhance cooperation and community support and increase awareness of UNCITRAL activities. In particular, the Regional Centre:

- (a) Participated in meetings with various government officials and stakeholders, including the host Government of the Republic of Korea, governments in the region, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, international legal societies, dispute resolution centres and institutions of higher learning;
- (b) Received a courtesy call from the Acting Ambassador of Ecuador to the Republic of Korea (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 23 June 2021);
- (c) Delivered remarks at the Launching Ceremony for the Secondment of Young Professionals from Hong Kong, China to International Law Organizations (Hong Kong, China, 8 September 2021);
- (d) Delivered congratulatory message for the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the BIAC (Dhaka, 30 October 2021);
- (e) Co-hosted a trilateral meeting with the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Korea and the Mayor of Incheon Metropolitan City (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 3 November 2021);
- (f) Participated in a documentary co-produced by Hong Kong Open TV and the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, China to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong, China, December 2021);
- (g) Fostered academic engagement by delivering virtual presentations to universities in the region as part of the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day flagship series;

as relevant. The Status Note addresses status of the conventions and model laws emanating from the work of the Commission as a whole.

(h) Supported mooting competitions to raise awareness of UNCITRAL instruments among students, including:

(i) The Foreign Direct Investment (“FDI”) International Arbitration Moot Shenzhen, organized by the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (Shenzhen, China, 31 July–1 August and 14–15 August 2021);

(ii) The virtual FDI Moot 2021 Global Rounds, with KCAB INTERNATIONAL and the Center for International Legal Studies and in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and Seoul IDRC (Seoul, 31 October–3 November 2021);

(iii) The International Investor-State Mediation Competition Colombo pre-event on UNCITRAL and the Path to ISDS in collaboration with the Moot Court Bench and Sri Lanka Law College (Colombo, 10 January 2022);

(iv) Virtual Pre-Moot for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot organized by AIAC (Kuala Lumpur, 18–20 March 2022);

(v) Moot Shanghai 2022, a virtual mediation moot concerning an international trade law dispute, in collaboration with the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law and the ICC (Shanghai, China, 24 March 2022);

(vi) Vis East Moot affiliated event on “Effectively Resolving Disputes with Chinese Parties under the CISG” organized by CIETAC Hong Kong Arbitration Center (Hong Kong, China, 31 March 2022).

(i) Disseminated information on UNCITRAL instruments and developments by publishing e-news and social media updates in regional and United Nations official languages.

Resources and Funding

11. The costs of the activities of the Regional Centre are not covered by the regular budget of the United Nations and are therefore contingent upon the availability of extrabudgetary funding. The Regional Centre relies on the annual financial contribution from the Incheon Metropolitan City to the UNCITRAL trust fund for symposiums to meet the cost of its operation and programme.

12. According to article 13.3 of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 18 November 2011, between the United Nations and the Ministry of Justice and Incheon Metropolitan City of the Republic of Korea, including the necessary amendments, the Incheon Metropolitan City extended its annual financial contribution of USD 450,000 over a five-year period (2022 to 2026) for the operation of the Regional Centre.

13. The Regional Centre is staffed with one professional, one programme assistant, one team assistant and two legal experts. Its core project budget also allows for the occasional employment of experts and consultants. During this reporting period 21 interns (13 female and 8 male) from 11 jurisdictions (Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China including Hong Kong, China and Macao, China, France, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain) undertook remote internships. In particular, the Regional Centre attracted applicants from all United Nations Regional Groups of Member States. It is also highly desirable that the Regional Centre be able to attract a wide range of applicants proficient in regional languages, including those originating from States underrepresented in the internship programme. It is therefore suggested that States and observer organizations bring the possibility of applying for an internship to the attention of interested persons who meet these specific requirements, and since internships are unpaid, may also consider granting scholarships for the purpose of attracting those most qualified for an internship at the Regional Centre.

14. In addition to the financial contribution noted above, the Regional Centre relies on the non-reimbursable loan of legal experts by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and by the Government of Hong Kong, China. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre welcomed a new legal expert in December 2021. It is expected that interest in UNCITRAL texts in the region will continue to grow with additional requests for technical assistance and as in-person activities gradually resume in the next reporting period. Such an increase will call for a corresponding increase in available resources in the form of additional contributions to the Regional Centre or its projects from Member States, or from interested private and public entities recommended by Member States.

15. The sustainability of the Regional Centre, the operation of which relies entirely on the contribution from one State, is at great risk. The Commission may once again wish to appeal to all States, relevant United Nations Agencies and bodies, international organizations and other interested entities to make contributions to the UNCITRAL trust fund for symposiums, in the form of multi-year contributions so as to support and build on the activities of the Regional Centre, as financing of special projects and otherwise to assist the UNCITRAL secretariat in carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities. The Commission may also wish to request Member States to assist the Secretariat in identifying sources of funding within their Governments.
