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Non-legislative activities

Activities of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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I. Introduction

1. The Commission may wish to recall that, at its forty-fourth session, in 2011, it approved the establishment of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific in Incheon, Republic of Korea (the “Regional Centre”)¹ and that the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/94, welcomed that decision. The Commission requested the secretariat to keep the Commission informed of developments regarding the operation of the Regional Centre.² This note is submitted pursuant to that request and provides a report of the activities of the Regional Centre during the reporting period (1 April–31 December 2023).³

II. Summary of activities of the Regional Centre during the reporting period

2. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre carried out its activities in accordance with the priority lines of action identified in the strategic framework for technical assistance of the UNCITRAL secretariat,⁴ as well as with the specific mandate identified for the Regional Centre. Those lines of action are to:

(a) Provide capacity building and technical assistance to States, upon their request, in the region, and support relevant activities of international and regional organizations active in the region;

(b) Build and participate in regionally-based international trade law partnerships and alliances, such as the Asian–African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), including with other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and the World Bank Group, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building;

(c) Strengthen information, knowledge and statistics through briefings, workshops, seminars, publications, social media and information and communication technologies, including in regional languages;

(d) Function 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; and

(e) 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.

3. The Regional Centre carried out virtual, hybrid, and in-person technical assistance, capacity-building, and awareness-raising activities in the United Nations official languages, particularly Chinese and English, and other languages including

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/66/17)*, paras. 267 and 269.

² See e.g. *ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/68/17)*, para. 266.

³ The reporting period of previous reports was 1 April to 31 March. The reporting period for the current note has been changed to 1 April to 31 December 2023. Going forward, the reporting period will be on a calendar year basis.

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/66/17)*, para. 255, and document [A/CN.9/724](#), paras. 10–48.

Korean and Thai. They were carried out in 18 jurisdictions throughout the Asia-Pacific region with participation by 37 least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), 18 of which were from the Asia-Pacific region.

Figure 1
Activities carried out between 1 April to 31 December 2023

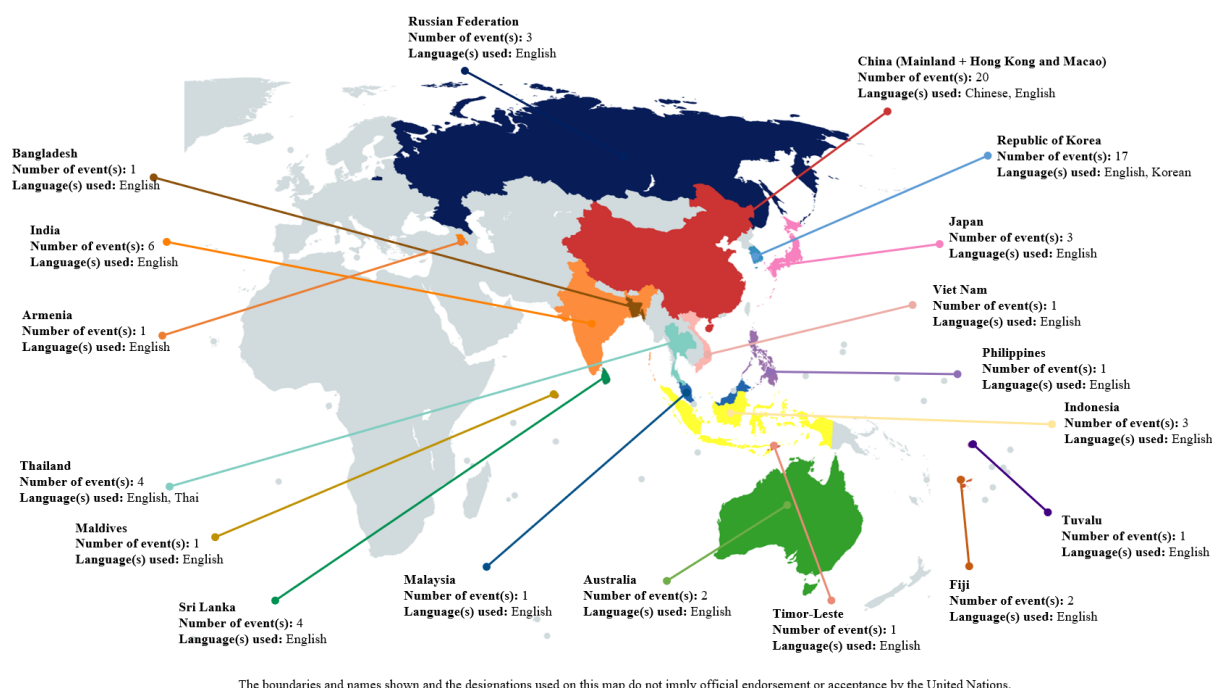
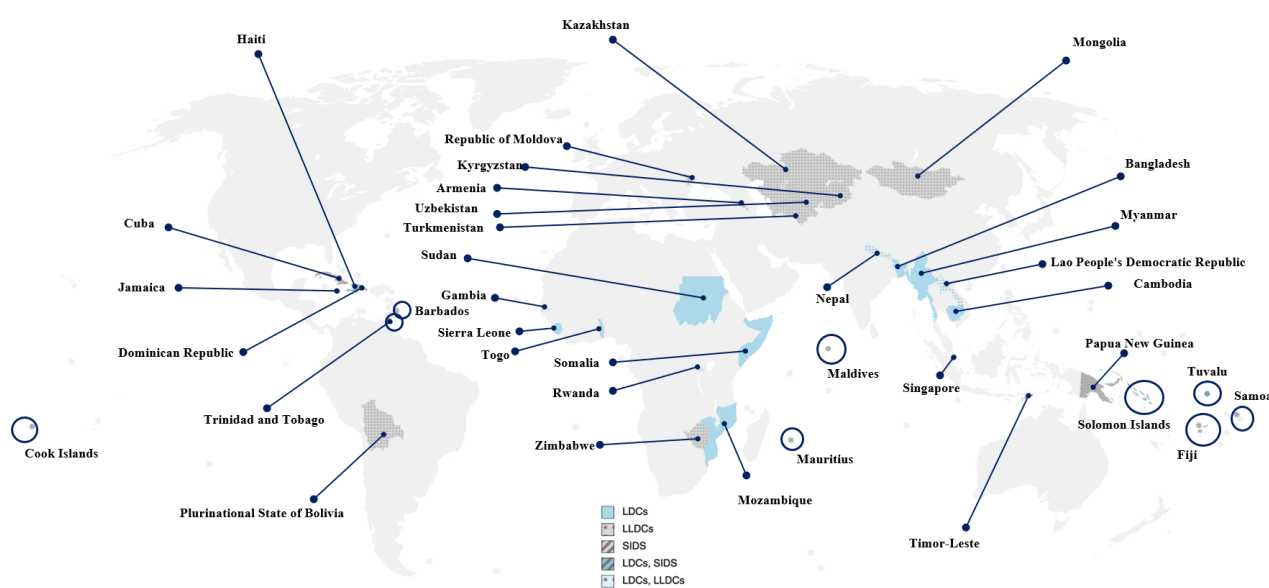


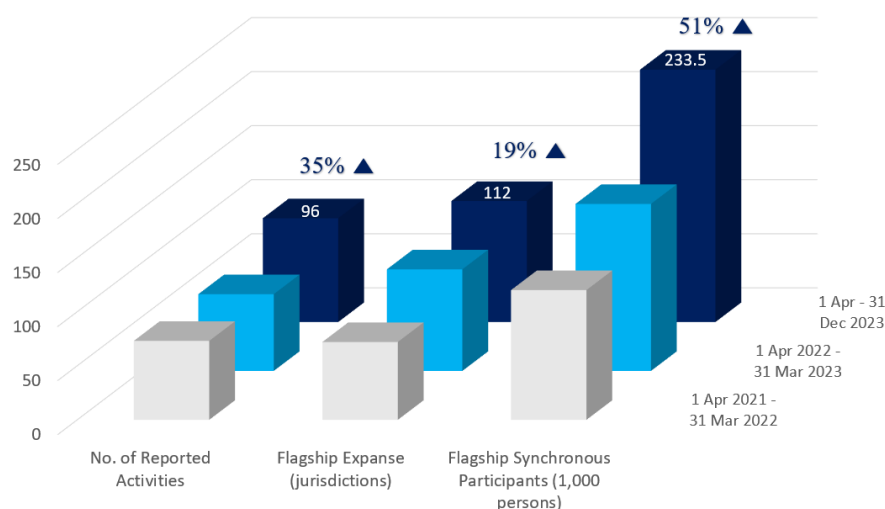
Figure 2
LDC, LLDC and SIDS participation in activities carried out between 1 April to 31 December 2023



4. The activities carried out by the Regional Centre during the reporting period resulted in broader stakeholder engagement in the Asia-Pacific region and other regions than the two previous reporting periods. In particular, despite the shorter reporting period, there were year-on-year increases in all key metrics. The total number of activities increased by 35 per cent (from 71 to 96 activities). For flagship

activities, the geographical expanse of participants increased by 19 per cent (from 94 to 112 jurisdictions), and the level of participation increased by 51 per cent (from approximately 154,500 to 233,500 synchronous participants).

Figure 3
A glimpse of activities



5. Activities carried out by the Regional Centre to promote certainty in international commercial transactions through the dissemination of international trade norms and standards, in particular those elaborated by UNCITRAL, and provide capacity-building and technical assistance to States, upon their request, in the region, and support relevant activities of international and regional organizations and public, private and civil society initiatives, have produced a positive impact on the uptake of UNCITRAL standards across the Asia-Pacific region. For example, since the establishment of the Regional Centre, a majority of jurisdictions covered by its activities have adopted at least one UNCITRAL text in areas such as dispute settlement, uniform sale of goods, electronic commerce, insolvency, public procurement and others. It is hoped that activities carried out during the reporting period and beyond would continue to produce a similar positive impact.

6. In the reporting period, the following actions with respect to UNCITRAL texts have emanated from the region:⁵

(a) In the area of **international commercial arbitration**: UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (1985), with amendments as adopted in 2006: *adoption* – Azerbaijan (2023), Japan (2023), Malaysia (2018) and Tonga (2020);

(b) In the area of **international commercial mediation**: United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation: *accession* – Japan;

(c) In the area of **international sale of goods**: United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (“CISG”): *accession* – Saudi Arabia;

(d) In the area of **international transport of goods**: United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships (the “Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships”): *signature* – China, Kiribati, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Syrian Arab Republic.

⁵ See, further, document [A/CN.9/1172](#) for the status of the conventions and model laws emanating from the work of the Commission.

III. Events and activities of the Regional Centre during the reporting period

A. Flagship events

7. As measures taken to address the pandemic have fully eased across the region, the Regional Centre has resumed in-person activities. Among them are flagship events co-organized by the Regional Centre listed below. These events 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.

8. So as to enhance inclusivity of those events, the Regional Centre has supported in-person attendance at its flagship events of officials from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Egypt, Indonesia, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Viet Nam, some of which are LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The Regional Centre also continued to support delivery of flagship and other activities in a hybrid or virtual format as much as practicable, further facilitating participation from LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and other States and interested stakeholders.

9. In addition, the Regional Centre contributed to flagship events by undertaking with co-organizers, as needed and agreed: (a) the development of event programmes; (b) identification and invitation of additional institutional collaborators, speakers and experts; (c) on-site and virtual event management; (d) preparation and delivery of presentations on UNCITRAL topics including by the UNCITRAL secretariat based in Vienna; and (e) promotion of events through UNCITRAL social media. In preparing event programmes for the reporting period, special attention was given to raising awareness of the Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships that opened for signature on 5 September 2023.⁶

1. The 3rd Incheon Law & Business Forum

10. The 3rd Incheon Law & Business Forum (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 11–12 September 2023), co-organized with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and Incheon Metropolitan City and supported by Incheon Tourism Organization, POSCO INTERNATIONAL, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Korea Trade Network, PKULaw,⁷ ICC Digital Standards Initiative (ICC DSI), China Association of Warehousing and Distribution, and China Academy of Arbitration Law, was held in hybrid format and themed “From Documents to Data: Legal and Commercial Solutions for Digital Trade”. Regional and global legal and business experts showcased how UNCITRAL instruments – especially the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (2017) (“MLETR”) – fuel digital transformation, and highlighted the relevance of the current work of UNCITRAL Working Group IV on establishing legal certainty in data transactions. The concluding Regional Workshop, co-organized with ESCAP and ADB, invited nine governments and eight intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations including the ASEAN secretariat to discuss promoting digital trade law reform. The event was broadcast in English with artificial intelligence-powered captioned interpretation in Chinese, with over 4,500 in-person and virtual viewers from 75 jurisdictions.

⁶ See <https://uncitral.un.org/en/judicialsaleofships> for more details on the Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships.

⁷ An electronic legal database jointly launched by Chinalawinfo Co. Ltd. and the Legal Information Center of the Peking University. For more information, please visit: www.pkulaw.com/english.

2. 2023 UNCITRAL South Asia Conference

11. The 2023 UNCITRAL South Asia Conference (New Delhi, 14–16 September 2023) was co-organized with the Ministry of External Affairs and the UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee of India. Global and regional legal and judicial experts discussed key commercial law topics, including digital trade, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (“MSMEs”) and their access to credit, insolvency, investor-state dispute settlement (“ISDS”) reform, international commercial arbitration and mediation, international transport of goods, uniform sales law, Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (CLOUT) and more. This first in-person flagship organized by the Regional Centre in South Asia since the pandemic attracted over 1,800 in-person and virtual participants.

3. Asia Pacific ADR Conference

12. As noted in paragraph 16(r) of document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#), the Asia Pacific ADR Conference (twelfth edition) (Seoul, 1 November 2023), an annual regional conference co-organized with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea (KMOJ), KCAB INTERNATIONAL and ICC, was themed “New World, No Map”. The in-person conference discussed the latest trends in alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) including the digital ecosystem, the use of artificial intelligence, crypto finance, third-party funding, and ISDS reform. The conference attracted over 225,500 participants including online viewers from 41 jurisdictions.

4. KMOJ-UNCITRAL ADR Special Session

13. The KMOJ-UNCITRAL ADR Special Session (Seoul, 2 November 2023) is an annual flagship event co-organized with the KMOJ providing capacity-building to government and international organization officials on UNCITRAL ADR texts. This edition focused on ISDS reform and discussed the UNCITRAL model provisions and guidelines on mediation for international investment disputes, the UNCITRAL codes of conduct for arbitrators and judges, the advisory centre on international investment law, and dispute prevention and mitigation. The hybrid event, open to the public for the first time, attracted 339 participants from 73 jurisdictions, with nine government speakers, six of whom attended in-person (China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Republic of Korea and Thailand).

5. UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit

14. As noted in document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#), under the memorandum of understanding dated 4 November 2019 with the Department of Justice of the Government of Hong Kong, China (HKDOJ), the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit 2023 (fifth edition) (Hong Kong, China, 6–7 November 2023), was co-organized with HKDOJ and held in hybrid format.⁸ Themed “Post-pandemic Resilience, New Beginnings, and Innovations in International Trade Law and Dispute Resolution”, the biennial flagship gathered judges, officials, practitioners, academics and other professionals in the region to discuss topical legal issues. The Judicial Conference session, open to the public, explored the Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships, MSMEs, dispute resolution, and the digital economy, and drew over 800 in-person and virtual participants from 52 jurisdictions. The Judicial Roundtable session invited 43 judges and officials from 22 jurisdictions to discuss the UNCITRAL mediation framework, the use of technology in dispute resolution and court proceedings and CLOUT. The event was broadcast in Chinese, English, and in collaboration with ADB, Tetun.

⁸ See document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#), para. 9.

B. UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Days

1. Background

15. The Regional Centre established the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Days in 2014 as a flagship annual series co-hosted with partner institutions of higher learning in the region to promote the mandate and the work of UNCITRAL and to raise awareness of UNCITRAL texts in academic circles. Held throughout the year, the events are aimed at the future and new generations of legal practitioners, academics and policymakers, who might become essential participants in and proponents of the work of UNCITRAL. In addition, the events may serve to provide capacity-building to stakeholders and informally assist participating jurisdictions in their consideration of UNCITRAL texts.

16. The preparation of the events by the host institutions is coordinated with and supported by staff of the Regional Centre who deliver presentations, invite experts including the UNCITRAL secretariat in Vienna and provide institutional support. The success of the Asia Pacific Days has led to an extension of the series in 2020 to the Latin American and Caribbean region (LAC), in 2022 to Africa and in 2023, three events under the pilot UNCITRAL Days in Arab States were held.⁹

2. UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Days 2023

17. The UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Days (tenth edition) held during May to December 2023 aimed at promoting awareness and encouraging the study of UNCITRAL texts by legal scholars. A total of 32 partnering universities and institutions co-hosted 17 in-person, virtual or hybrid events in 11 jurisdictions, namely, China (including Hong Kong and Macao), India, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Sri Lanka, reaching a cumulative synchronous audience of 1,366 participants. The main theme was “Exploring the digital frontiers of cross-border trade”. Other topics included arbitration and mediation, uniform sales law, MSMEs and access to credit, insolvency and CLOUT.

18. Events were held with the following academic partners and institutions:

(a) The Centre for Transnational Commercial Law at National Law University; Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India; INSOL India; and Insolvency Law Academy (New Delhi, 6 May 2023);

(b) Transnational Business Law Department, Faculty of Law, Padjadjaran University (Bandung, Indonesia, 11 May 2023);

(c) Handong Institute for Arbitration and Reconciliation; Handong Global University School of Law; and Handong International Law School (Pohang, Republic of Korea, 22 May 2023);

(d) Shanghai University of Political Science and Law (Shanghai, China, 8 June 2023);

(e) Hanyang University School of Law (Seoul, 18 September 2023);

(f) Asia-Pacific Law Institute, Seoul National University School of Law (Seoul, 20 September 2023);

(g) Sri Lanka Law College; and The Moot Court Bench (Colombo, 21 September 2023);

(h) Jungseok Research Institute of International Logistics and Trade, Inha University (Seoul, 21 September 2023);

⁹ See document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#), part C. Informal reports on the UNCITRAL Days held in 2023, including the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Days 2023, are available at www.uncitral.un.org/en/commission (under the fifty-seventh Commission session).

- (i) Software-Information Asset Protection Talent Development Division, Chung-Ang University (Seoul, 10 October 2023);
- (j) Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, China, 7 November 2023);
- (k) Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Department of Justice, Philippines (Manila, 13 November 2023);
- (l) Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong; Hong Kong Mediation Centre; and International Dispute Resolution and Risk Management Institute (Hong Kong, China, 15 November 2023);
- (m) Peking University School of Transnational Law; Rede Chambers (Shenzhen, China, 18 November 2023);
- (n) Faculty of Law, University of Macau; World Trade Center Macau Arbitration Center; Shanghai Arbitration Commission; and CIETAC Hong Kong Arbitration Center (Macao, China, 1 and 12 December 2023);
- (o) The Maldives National University; Faculty of Shariah and Law, Villa College; and Maldives Moot Court Society (Malé, 14 December 2023);
- (p) School of Law, Far Eastern Federal University (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 20 December 2023); and
- (q) Nagoya University Graduate School of Law; and Asian Institute of International Financial Law, The University of Hong Kong (Nagoya, Japan, 20 December 2023).

C. Other events and activities

19. The Regional Centre has delivered, supported, or participated in other 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. Some of them related to UNCITRAL generally while others were subject-specific. Support from the Regional Centre ranged from the preparation and delivery of in-person and online presentations by staff of the Regional Centre in multiple United Nations official languages and regional languages, to identifying and inviting experts and speakers based in or with expertise in the region including from the UNCITRAL secretariat based in Vienna, institutional support and promotion of activities on UNCITRAL social media channels.

1. General

20. The Regional Centre contributed to and supported the following activities listed in paragraphs 9 and 42 (g) and (h) of document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#) on the mandate of UNCITRAL generally or with a cross-topic focus:

- (a) Prepared a presentation on UNCITRAL developments for a lecture to AALCO (New Delhi, 14 September 2023);
- (b) Prepared a presentation on UNCITRAL developments for a lecture to Indian Society of International Law (New Delhi, 14 September 2023);
- (c) Contributed a promotional clip for the Hong Kong Legal Week 2023 organized by HKDOJ (Hong Kong, China, 6–10 November 2023); and
- (d) Prepared materials for the 2023 Video Project on International Law commissioned by HKDOJ and Asian Academy of International Law (Hong Kong, China, 8 November 2023).

21. In addition, the Regional Centre:

(a) Presented on legal harmonization at the VII Pacific Law Forum organized by Far Eastern Federal University (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 13 October 2023);

(b) Supported a keynote speech on dispute resolution and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 for the Roundtable Series organized by the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong and International Dispute Resolution Academy (Hong Kong, China, 7 December 2023); and

(c) Presented on UNCITRAL and SDGs at the 2nd Global ESG Management Forum by Incheon Ilbo (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 7 December 2023).

2. Dispute settlement

22. The Regional Centre contributed to and supported the activities listed in paragraphs 10, 16 (a), (e) and (i), 17 (c) and 42 (c) of document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#) on dispute settlement and presented on UNCITRAL arbitration and mediation instruments during multiple Asia Pacific Days events (see section B above):

(a) Provided institutional and expert support to the Vietnam ADR Week 2023 co-hosted by Vietnam International Arbitration Centre and Vietnam Business Lawyers Club (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, 8–11 May 2023);

(b) Prepared a special address and presented on regional updates in the UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for Australia May Seminar 2023 celebrating the 65th anniversary of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the “New York Convention”) (Canberra, 26 May 2023);

(c) Presented on arbitration and provided expert support to the International Arbitration Observatory of Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (Shenzhen, China, 28 July 2023);

(d) Prepared the keynote speech and provided institutional and expert support to the Inaugural Armenia Arbitration Conference with ADB, the European Union, and other partners (Yerevan, 4 September 2023);

(e) Co-organized and participated in the 3rd meeting of the Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform on Online Dispute Resolution (iGLIP on ODR) with HKDOJ (Hong Kong, China, 8 November 2023); and

(f) Prepared the keynote address to the 2023 Belt and Road High-level Dialogue on International Commercial Arbitration, co-hosted by ICC China, China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), China Maritime Arbitration Commission, and ICC International Court of Arbitration (Xi’an, China, 7 December 2023).

23. In addition, the Regional Centre:

(a) Presented on arbitration and mediation instruments at the Asia Pacific Centre for Arbitration and Mediation Summit (New Delhi, 6–7 May 2023);

(b) Promoted the UNCITRAL online course on International Commercial Arbitration at, and provided institutional support to, the 2023 International Commercial Arbitration Program of the Moot Court Bench (Colombo, 10 June–26 September 2023);

(c) Presented on online dispute resolution in the Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building on the APEC Collaborative Framework on ODR to Improve Cross-Border Trade in Indonesia, hosted by APEC-Economic Committee Indonesia (Bali, Indonesia, 14–15 June 2023);

(d) Provided institutional and expert support to Colombo Arbitration Week 2023 (Colombo, 6–13 August 2023);

(e) Provided institutional support to Asia ADR Week 2023 by Asian International Arbitration Centre (Kuala Lumpur, 24–26 August 2023);

(f) Provided a congratulatory anniversary message to Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (Dhaka, 1–8 September 2023);

(g) Discussed how UNCITRAL instruments facilitate international commercial arbitration during the VIII Eastern Economic Forum (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 11 September 2023);

(h) Provided institutional support to the Australian Arbitration Week 2023 hosted by Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (Sydney, Australia, 9–13 October 2023);

(i) Promoted the 2023 Dispute Resolution in the Digital Economy Forum co-organized with Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration and South China International Arbitration Center (Hong Kong) (Hong Kong, China, 8 November 2023);

(j) Supported opening remarks for the 5th Shanghai International Arbitration Forum and Shanghai Arbitration Week 2023, co-hosted by Shanghai International Arbitration Center, Shanghai Arbitration Commission, and China Maritime Arbitration Commission Shanghai Headquarters (Shanghai, China, 8 November 2023); and

(k) Supported opening remarks for the APRAG Conference 2023 co-hosted by Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group, Beijing Arbitration Commission, and Beijing International Arbitration Center (Beijing, 14 November 2023).

3. Electronic commerce

24. In the area of electronic commerce, the Regional Centre contributed to and supported the activities listed in paragraphs 21 (a), (d) and (e) and 22 (a) of document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#):

(a) Presented on digital trade in the Second session of the Standing Committee and the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, organized by ESCAP (Bangkok, 22–23 June 2023);

(b) Financially supported participation of an expert at the Public Consultation on the Electronic Transactions Bill hosted by the Tuvalu Department of Trade (Funafuti, 5 July 2023);

(c) Presented on the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts (New York, 2005) in the public hearing of Thailand on its accession, co-hosted by the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, and the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (Bangkok, 18 August 2023); and

(d) Provided opening remarks in “Leveraging technologies for paperless trade in Least Developed Countries: Insights from Asia-Pacific” during the UNCTAD eWeek 2023 (Geneva, Switzerland, 6 December 2023).

25. In addition, the Regional Centre:

(a) Participated in the Second Virtual Validation Workshop: Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy and Implementation Roadmap, hosted by PIFS and the World Bank Group (Suva, 8 June 2023);

(b) Presented on MLETR in the “Roundtable – Accelerating Benefits of Digital Trade Connectivity” co-organized by Asia-Pacific Financial Forum, APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, ICC DSI, Joint Standing Committee on Industry Commerce and Banking, and Thai Bankers’ Association (Nonthaburi, Thailand, 27 June 2023);

(c) Presented on UNCITRAL texts on electronic commerce in the Workshop on Effective Legal Frameworks for Building the Digital Economy co-organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat, PIFS, ADB and UNCTAD (Suva, 19 October 2023);

(d) Managed a learning booth and presented on digital trade at the Forum on the Rule of Law at the 2nd Global Digital Trade Expo (Hangzhou, China, 23–24 November 2023);

(e) Presented on UNCITRAL texts on electronic commerce and digital trade at the 10th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Dialogue: Unpacking the Digital Economy Framework Agreement, hosted by the ASEAN Secretariat (Jakarta, 30 November 2023); and

(f) Participated in the 2nd Meeting of the Digital Trade Connect Network co-hosted by ABAC, ASEAN Business Advisory Council, and the Thai Bankers' Association (Bangkok, 1 December 2023).

4. Other topics

26. The Regional Centre also contributed to, participated in and supported otherwise activities on other issues covered by UNCITRAL texts. In particular, during the flagship events (see section A above) and the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Days events (see section B above), the Regional Centre presented on CISG and the Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships and delivered a special address at the 6th Arun Jaitley International Insolvency and Bankruptcy Moot Competition.

27. On the topic of insolvency law, the Regional Centre financially supported participation of a staff member of the UNCITRAL secretariat at the INSOL Annual Conference and the INSOL-UNCITRAL-WBG Judicial Round Table (Tokyo, 11–13 September 2023), as listed in paragraph 25 of document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#).

28. In the area of security interests and access to credit, the Regional Centre:

(a) Presented on the Guide on Access to Credit for MSMEs at the APEC Workshop on Secured Transaction Reform: Developing Tailored Approaches for Common Law and Civil Law Jurisdictions (Tokyo, 11 October 2023);

(b) Presented on security interests and the Guide on Access to Credit for MSMEs at the 2023 International Conference on Business Environment hosted by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea (Seoul, 28 November 2023); and

(c) Financially supported participation of a staff member of the UNCITRAL secretariat in a technical assistance mission to Timor-Leste on secured transactions reform in collaboration with IFC (Dili, 18–19 September 2023), as listed in paragraph 40(b) of document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#).

IV. Facilitation of communication and outreach between States in the region and the UNCITRAL secretariat based in Vienna

29. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre has also served as a channel of communication between States and the UNCITRAL secretariat based in Vienna. It maintained a regular dialogue with competent authorities and officials of the host country and other jurisdictions across the region as well as international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, the media and the general public on various aspects of the work of the Regional Centre. It also continued to expand its outreach through its national and regional educational programmes to enhance cooperation and increase awareness of UNCITRAL activities, including in regional languages. 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, development

banks, international legal societies, dispute resolution centres, and institutions of higher learning;

(b) Participated in the 56th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of ADB (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 2–5 May 2023);

(c) Participated in the Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony Proposal for Songdo Bilingual City Project (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 16 May 2023);

(d) Managed information booths at the Global Career Fair of the Incheon Metropolitan Government and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Incheon Global Citizenship Education Festival 2023 (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 5 July and 31 October–1 November 2023, respectively); and

(e) Provided institutional support to arbitration moot and mediation competitions, including:

(i) The 6th Arun Jaitley International Insolvency and Bankruptcy Moot Competition (New Delhi, 6 May 2023);

(ii) The 15th edition of the Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot Court – CIETAC Chinese (Mainland) National Rounds (Shanghai, China, 8–12 May 2023);

(iii) As noted in paragraph 42 (d) of document [A/CN.9/1174/Add.1](#), FDI Moot Shenzhen 2023 organized by Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (Shenzhen, China, 11–20 August 2023); and

(iv) International Investor-State Mediation Competition 2023 organized by the Moot Court Bench (Colombo, 21–27 August 2023).

30. In addition, the Regional Centre assisted the UNCITRAL secretariat based in Vienna with dissemination of information on UNCITRAL instruments and related developments through various means, including by:

(a) Presenting on CLOUT¹⁰ in flagship and other events and activities mentioned throughout this report;

(b) Preparing social media¹¹ updates in United Nations official and regional languages on UNCITRAL-related developments and related events, such as the e-Workshop on the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (Geneva, Switzerland, 17 April–12 May 2023); and

(c) Developing and supporting online courses on UNCITRAL texts in Chinese, English and Russian in various areas including arbitration, mediation and public-private partnerships.¹²

31. Other support of UNCITRAL work in the region included:

(a) Working Group IV-related research of regional initiatives on data provision contracts;

(b) Preparation of CLOUT abstracts on arbitration and insolvency; and

(c) Research of publications for inclusion in the UNCITRAL Law Library.¹³

¹⁰ https://uncitral.un.org/en/case_law. See also document A/CN.9/1174/Add.3.

¹¹ For more information on UNCITRAL social media platforms, please visit: <https://uncitral.un.org/en>.

¹² <https://uncitral.un.org/en/onlinecourses>. See also document A/CN.9/1174/Add.5.

¹³ <https://uncitral.un.org/en/library>.

V. Resources and funding

32. 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.

33. The budget of the Regional Centre for staff and its activities is not covered by the regular budget of the United Nations and therefore contingent upon the availability of extrabudgetary funding. The Regional Centre relies solely on the annual financial contribution from the Incheon Metropolitan City to the trust fund for UNCITRAL symposiums to meet the cost of its operation and programme. 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, as subsequently amended, 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.

34. In addition to that financial contribution, 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 continued to be supported by two legal experts.

35. During this reporting period, 17 interns (11 female and 6 male) from 10 jurisdictions (Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, United States of America and Uzbekistan) undertook in-person or remote internships. 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 languages in the region, 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.

36. It is expected that interest in UNCITRAL texts in the region will continue to grow with additional requests for technical assistance. Such an increase will call for a corresponding increase in available resources, which may come in the form of additional financial and in-kind contributions to the Regional Centre or its projects from Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other interested organizations, institutions and individuals.

37. The sustainability of the Regional Centre, the operation of which relies entirely on the contribution from two jurisdictions, is however at risk. The Commission may wish to express its appreciation to those jurisdictions and all concerned for providing support to the Regional Centre to facilitate implementation of its mandate and reiterate its appeal to all Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to make contributions to the trust fund for UNCITRAL symposiums, in the form of multi-year contributions so as to support the activities of the Regional Centre and, where appropriate, for the financing of special projects and otherwise to assist the Regional Centre in fulfilling its mandate, in particular in developing countries. The Commission may also wish to request Member States to assist the Secretariat in identifying sources of funding within their Governments to support the activities of the Regional Centre.