



General Assembly

Distr.: General  
27 February 2024

Original: English

United Nations Commission on  
International Trade Law  
Fifty-seventh session  
New York, 24 June–12 July 2024

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## I. Internship programme

1. From January to December 2023,<sup>1</sup> 19 interns (9 female and 10 male) from 16 jurisdictions undertook an internship with the UNCITRAL secretariat in Vienna (18 in person and 1 remotely) and a total of 23 interns from 13 jurisdictions (15 female and 8 male) did so in the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (15 in a hybrid form and 8 remotely).

2. The internship programme is designed to give law students the opportunity to become familiar with the work of UNCITRAL and to increase their knowledge of specific areas in the field of international trade law. Interns are assigned a variety of tasks, such as legal research, collection and systematization of information and materials, in particular the status pages of UNCITRAL texts on the UNCITRAL website, and other assistance to the secretariat, such as preparing comparative studies and background papers, abstracts for CLOUT and materials for technical cooperation and assistance activities. The experience of the UNCITRAL secretariat with the internship programme has been very positive, and interns have highlighted the usefulness of their experience in feedback provided.

3. Interns are chosen by the UNCITRAL secretariat from a pool of candidates who have submitted applications in response to job openings posted on the United Nations career portal (careers.un.org). The secretariat, in selecting interns, keeps in mind the needs of UNCITRAL and its secretariat at any given period of time, in particular the need to maintain the UNCITRAL website in the six official languages of the United Nations. In addition, the secretariat aims to balance gender and geographical representation, paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries.

4. Internships are unpaid. Where applicable, interns are responsible for covering their travel, accommodation, and related expenses. The flexibility to choose between remote and in-person internship or the combination of both forms of internship (hybrid) has proven to be appealing to a wide range of eligible and qualified candidates, including those from underrepresented countries, regions, and language groups. In addition, while the internship programme's demographic pattern still shows a slight underrepresentation of candidates from African and Latin American States, and of candidates with proficient Arabic language skills, remote internships improved geographical diversity and allowed interns from traditionally underrepresented regions to join the internship programme.

## II. International commercial law moot competitions<sup>2</sup>

5. The moot competitions sponsored by the Commission play a crucial role in raising awareness about UNCITRAL's instruments, as students are required to analyse and intensively engage with a case built on one or more of those instruments, which provides them a learning experience with applying UNCITRAL's instruments in practice.

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<sup>1</sup> Unlike other parts of the secretariat's report on non-legislative activities before the Commission at its fifty-seventh session (A/CN.9/1174), this part refers to activities for the whole year of 2023, notwithstanding the period from January to March 2023 already covered in the previous report (A/CN.9/1139, paras. 86–92). This deviation was necessary to ensure and facilitate the secretariat's monitoring, assessment and reporting on an annual basis from 2024 on.

<sup>2</sup> UNCITRAL-related moots typically commence in the second half of a year and conduct oral arguments and the final phase in the first half of a year. Due to adjustments made in the reporting period this year, this note does not include information about the results of the moots that will be completed in 2024, which will be presented to the Commission in 2025. For information regarding the results of the moots completed in 2023, see A/CN.9/1139, paras. 51–63.

## **A. Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot**

6. The secretariat supported the organization of the 31st Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vis Moot). The Vis Moot continues to respond to the need to promote cultural and gender diversity to increase the credibility and acceptance of international arbitration generally. Around 400 teams have registered for the 2024 Moot (more than 2,400 students and 1,200 coaches) with around 50 per cent of the registered participants being female, which helps to maintain a stable pool of talented women for future counsels and arbitrators. Participating teams are expected to address legal issues arising from the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG).

7. For the 21st Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vis East Moot), which is the sister competition of the Vis Moot, 149 teams have registered.

## **B. Additional moot competitions**

### **1. IBA-VIAC Consensual Dispute Resolution Competition (CDRC)**

8. From 7 to 10 July 2023, the International Bar Association (IBA) and the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC) collaborated to organize the 8th edition of the IBA-VIAC Consensual Dispute Resolution Competition (CDRC Vienna). After two consecutive years of conducting the competition online, the event in 2023 adopted a hybrid format, allowing in-person and online participation. Additionally, the CDRC Vienna was for the first time preceded by the CDRC Vienna Pre-Moot Conference, during which over 100 experts and participants engaged in discussions on key issues related to the integration of arbitration and mediation from institutional, investment, and business perspectives.

9. The CDRC Vienna is based on the problem elaborated for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. Its primary objective is to raise awareness and understanding of the broader spectrum of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) tools, especially in the field of mediation and negotiation. In 2023, the CDRC brought together a diverse mix of more than 120 students from 17 States (from Africa, North and South America, Australia, East and Central Asia, and Europe). These participants formed 12 Mediator Teams and 24 Negotiator Teams. The teams received evaluations and feedback from around 90 leading international experts from 33 States, who also used the event for discussions on the development of ADR among peers.

### **2. Madrid Moot – International Commercial Arbitration Competition**

10. The Carlos III University of Madrid will organize the 2024/2025 XVI Competición Internacional de Arbitraje y Derecho Mercantil (International Commercial Arbitration Competition). Legal issues to be addressed by the teams relate to the international sale of goods, where the CISG, the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (MAL) will be applicable. Thirty-seven teams from 11 jurisdictions have registered.

### **3. Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot**

11. The 15th edition of the Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot took place in person in Frankfurt, Germany from 27 to 30 June 2023. It addressed the UNCITRAL Transparency Standards. Eighty-four teams participated in pre-moots and in the national rounds, leading to the participation of 32 teams from 19 jurisdictions in the oral arguments. The Symbiosis Law School, Pune, won the competition.

**4. The International Investment Moot**

12. The XI International Investment Moot is a collaborative effort between the American University College of Law (AUWCL), the Research Group on Contracts and International Dispute Settlement (CYRCI), and the Universidad Externado de Colombia. The moot problem incorporates the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (the Transparency Rules). As at 27 February 2024, 14 teams from 7 jurisdictions had registered for participation in the Moot.

**5. The International Investment Moot (CIARB)**

13. The International Investment Moot (CIARB) was collaboratively organized by the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina and the Universidad del Rosario in Colombia. The orals were held from 28 September to 2 October 2023. The moot problem focused on the MAL. In that edition, 50 teams, comprising 500 students, were assessed by 150 arbitrators from 10 countries spanning Europe and Latin America. The winning team was from the Universidad San Marco in Peru.

**6. The Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot (FDI Moot)**

14. The 2023 FDI Moot, organized by the Center for International Legal Studies (CILS), was conducted virtually from 27 to 28 October 2023, and in person at the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, India, from 2 to 5 November 2023. Teams addressed legal issues related to the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and the Transparency Rules. The students were evaluated by 183 arbitrators.

15. A total of 150 teams, with 1054 students and coaches from around the world, participated in the event. Fifty-five teams advanced from the national to the global rounds, with 14 participating online and 41 in person. The highest-ranked team in the competition was from NALSAR University of Law, India.

**7. Annual Arabic Moot Competition**

16. The 5th Annual Arabic Moot competition of the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA) will be conducted by the Commercial Law Development Program of the United States Department of Commerce (CLDP) and SCCA. The moot will focus on legal issues associated with the international sale of goods, wherein the CISG and the MAL are applicable. A total of 134 teams, comprising over 900 students and academics, have registered for the competition in 2024.

**8. Ian Fletcher International Insolvency Law Moot Competition**

17. The Insolvency Moot, also known as the Fletcher Moot, provides an opportunity for students to learn about UNCITRAL insolvency texts. The final round of the 2024 Fletcher Moot will take place in February 2024, i.e. outside the reporting period, and hence its results will be reported to the Commission at its next session, in 2025. Thirty-two teams entered the written rounds, with 16 teams having advanced into the oral rounds.

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