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## **Role of UNCITRAL in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels**

**Note by the Secretariat**

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## I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-first session, in 2018, the Commission considered the proposal to generate discussion within the Commission on agenda item “Role of UNCITRAL in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels” and to improve the way the Commission handled that agenda item. The Commission considered the possibility of broadening the discussion of its role in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels to a discussion of the way the work of UNCITRAL relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals, both with regard to the instruments developed by UNCITRAL and with regard to assistance to States in their achievement of the Goals. It was suggested that, in order for the Commission to achieve a more meaningful consideration of that agenda item, the Secretariat could prepare a paper outlining the way that the UNCITRAL instruments and texts relate to the Sustainable Development Goals and identifying concrete issues to be discussed by the Commission. It was further suggested that that paper could also take stock of the evolution of the agenda item relating to the rule of law over several Commission sessions and how the Commission could ensure that its work reflected the broader development agenda of the United Nations as a whole. It was further decided that a discussion would take place at the fifty-second session of the Commission, in 2019, on the basis of the report to be prepared by the Secretariat.<sup>1</sup>

2. At its fifty-second session, the Commission considered the report prepared by the Secretariat in response to that request ([A/CN.9/985](#)). The report: (a) took stock of the evolution of the agenda item relating to the rule of law over several Commission sessions; (b) informed the Commission about the most recent developments relating to the rule of law and broader development agenda of the United Nations of relevance to UNCITRAL; (c) assessed the expected impact of the texts considered by the Commission at the session for adoption or approval on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the rule of law-related target; and (d) suggested to the Commission ways of considering the agenda item at its fifty-second session. At the fifty-second session of the Commission, appreciation was expressed to the Secretariat for having taken into account, in the organization of the session, the improvements that were suggested by States at the fifty-first session of the Commission,<sup>2</sup> which included improvements to the way the rule of law agenda item was considered by the Commission.<sup>3</sup>

3. This note follows the model set during the fifty-second session by providing a report prepared by the Secretariat for the Commission to discuss. Chapter II sets out a summary of the most recent resolutions of the General Assembly and other developments relevant to the consideration of the role of UNCITRAL in the promotion of the rule of law. Chapter III outlines relevance of the texts that may be before the Commission for finalization and adoption at its fifty-third session, in 2020, to the promotion of the rule of law and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Chapter IV suggests actions by the Commission under this agenda item at its fifty-third session. (For an overview of the evolution of the consideration of this agenda item in previous sessions of the Commission, see [A/CN.9/985](#), annex).

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/73/17)*, paras. 264–267.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, para. 316.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/73/17)*, paras. 260(c) and 264–267.

## **II. Recent General Assembly resolutions highlighting UNCITRAL's role in promoting the rule of law and other relevant developments**

### **A. Resolution 74/191 on the rule of law at the national and international levels**

4. By paragraph 20 of its resolution 74/191 of 18 December 2019, adopted upon recommendation of the Sixth Committee (A/74/429), the General Assembly invited the International Court of Justice, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the International Law Commission to continue to comment, in their respective reports to the General Assembly, on their current roles in promoting the rule of law. By paragraph 23 of the same resolution, the General Assembly invited Member States to focus their comments during the upcoming Sixth Committee debate on the subtopic "Measures to prevent and combat corruption".

5. By other paragraphs of the same resolution, the General Assembly inter alia:

(a) Encouraged the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to accord high priority to rule of law activities and to systematically address, as appropriate, aspects of the rule of law in relevant activities, recognizing the importance of the rule of law to virtually all areas of United Nations engagement (paras. 4 and 14);

(b) Reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recalled that the goals and targets were integrated and indivisible and balanced the three dimensions of sustainable development (para. 7);

(c) Recognized the role of multilateral and bilateral treaties and treaty processes in advancing the rule of law and encouraged States to further consider the promotion of treaties in areas where international cooperation could benefit from treaties (para. 8);

(d) Stressed the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building and reiterated its call for greater evaluation of the effectiveness of such activities, including possible measures to improve the effectiveness of those capacity-building activities (paras. 11 and 12);

(e) Reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to ensure greater coordination and coherence among the United Nations entities and with donors and recipients (para. 12); and

(f) Encouraged further dialogue and the sharing of national practices and expertise in strengthening the rule of law through access to justice and in that regard recognized the role of knowledge and technology, including in judicial systems, and stressed the need to intensify the assistance extended to Governments upon their request (para. 18).

### **B. Resolution 74/182 on the report of UNCITRAL on the work of its fifty-second session**

6. By paragraph 17 of resolution 74/182, the General Assembly endorsed the conviction of the Commission that the implementation and effective use of modern private law standards in international trade are essential for advancing good governance, sustained economic development and the eradication of poverty and hunger and that the promotion of the rule of law in commercial relations should be an integral part of the broader agenda of the United Nations to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through the Rule of Law

Coordination and Resource Group, supported by the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

7. By paragraph 18 of the same resolution, the General Assembly also noted the role of the Commission in promoting the rule of law, discussions in the Commission at its fifty-second session<sup>4</sup> and the comments transmitted by the Commission, pursuant to paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 73/207 of 20 December 2018, highlighting the relevance of its current work and of the texts finalized and adopted at the fifty-second session of the Commission to the promotion of the rule of law and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>5</sup>

8. By paragraph 19 of the same resolution, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that, in paragraph 8 of the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, adopted by consensus as resolution 67/1 of 24 September 2012, Member States recognized the importance of fair, stable and predictable legal frameworks for generating inclusive, sustainable and equitable development, economic growth and employment, generating investment and facilitating entrepreneurship and, in this regard, commended the work of the Commission in modernizing and harmonizing international trade law and that, in paragraph 7 of the declaration, Member States expressed their conviction that the rule of law and development were strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

9. By paragraph 20 of the same resolution, the General Assembly also noted with satisfaction that, in paragraph 89 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, adopted by the General Assembly by consensus as resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, States endorsed the efforts and initiatives of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, aimed at increasing coordination of and cooperation on legal activities of international and regional organizations active in the field of international trade law and at promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in this field.

### C. Other relevant developments

10. The Commission may wish to take note of the following developments relevant to its discussion of the way the work of UNCITRAL relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) A global call for a decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 was issued by the Secretary-General and States at the September 2019 Sustainable Development Goals Summit,<sup>6</sup> which was the first United Nations Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals after the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in September 2015. The Summit resulted in the adoption of the political declaration “Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” (General Assembly resolution 74/4) that lists States’ commitments to accelerate steps towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The commitments outlined in paragraphs 27 (b), namely “Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing” and 27 (d) “Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions” are particularly relevant to the work of UNCITRAL:

(i) *Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing.* This commitment seeks to ensure, among others, that policies and actions aim at financial inclusion, and

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, paras. 295–302.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. XX.

<sup>6</sup> Remarks to High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, [www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2019-09-24/remarks-high-level-political-sustainable-development-forum](http://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2019-09-24/remarks-high-level-political-sustainable-development-forum). Decade of Action, [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/).

supporting the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (“MSMEs”). This has direct relevance for the Commission’s ongoing work on reducing legal obstacles faced by MSMEs throughout their life cycle. This commitment also addresses the non-financial means of implementation, including promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, recognizing that international trade is an engine for development. This is of relevance to the Commission’s broad mandate to further the progressive harmonization and modernization of the law of international trade through the preparation and promotion of legal instruments in the key areas of commercial law;

(ii) *Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions.* This commitment calls for proactively developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and ensuring more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes. It also equips domestic institutions to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets through a whole-of-government approach that can bring about transformative change in governance and public policy and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development. This is of direct relevance to the ongoing efforts to increase participation of developing countries in the work of UNCITRAL, in particular through provision of travel assistance as well as capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. The General Assembly and the Commission regularly emphasize the importance of achieving transparent and inclusive deliberations in UNCITRAL and full participation of States in sessions of the Commission and its working groups and welcome measures taken by States and the Secretariat to facilitate such deliberations and participation (see most recently, General Assembly resolution 74/182, paras. 11, 14 and 15);

(b) As the Commission was informed at the last session,<sup>7</sup> the programme budget planning and performance framework requires a close alignment of the programme of each United Nations entity with the Sustainable Development Goals. Recommendation 6, found in paragraph 80 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) (E/AC.51/2019/9), called for OLA to “more systematically review and assess whether it is fit for the purpose of supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and the different changes and mandates that will ensue as a result of the United Nations reforms”. The review and full integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the OLA workplan was identified as the indicator of achievement of the recommendation. In response to that recommendation, an OLA Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals was formed whose mandate is to ensure further integration of the Goals into the daily work of all OLA units, including the International Trade Law Division (ITLD, the UNCITRAL secretariat), and better reporting on actions taken to ensure a closer alignment of OLA work programmes with the Goals.<sup>8</sup> ITLD’s Sustainable Development Goals alignment strategy communicated to the Working Group referred to the past, ongoing and planned actions aimed at aligning ITLD’s core programme areas (legislative and non-legislative) with the Sustainable Development Goals.

<sup>7</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, para. 302.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, paras. 240 and 155.

### III. Relevance of texts that are expected to be considered by the Commission at its fifty-third session, in 2020, to the promotion of the rule of law and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

11. As the Commission was informed at past sessions,<sup>9</sup> the UNCITRAL website contains a web page that explains the role of UNCITRAL in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including its rule-of-law-related target.<sup>10</sup> The web page focuses on nine Goals most relevant to the work of UNCITRAL: Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16 and 17.

12. The Commission has consistently considered the impact of its work on economic development generally and in recent years has paid special attention to the interrelationship between the promotion of the rule of law in commercial relations and the Sustainable Development Goals. Such interrelationship is usually highlighted in Commission decisions adopting texts and subsequently in General Assembly resolutions on those texts. As noted in paragraph 8 above, such interrelationship was also highlighted in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels. The interrelationship was also outlined in paragraphs 12–32 of last year's report on the role of UNCITRAL in promoting the rule of law at the national and international level ([A/CN.9/985](#)).

13. At its fifty-third session, in 2020, the Commission is expected to have before it for finalization and adoption a number of texts that further demonstrate that interrelationship as explained below.

#### A. Draft legislative guide on a simplified limited liability business organization for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises

##### Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9.

14. The draft legislative guide on a simplified limited liability business organization for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs),<sup>11</sup> is part of UNCITRAL's broader work programme addressing the entire life cycle of MSMEs, with a particular focus on developing countries.<sup>12</sup> The draft legislative guide provides a simplified business form to support MSME formation and operation. Its domestic implementation would contribute to lowering barriers to entry into business, provide effective business organizational solutions and reduce transaction costs, thus increasing employment opportunities and economic growth rates.

15. Access to limited liability protection, in which the financial liability of an entrepreneur for the obligations of the business entity is limited to a fixed sum, usually the value of the entrepreneur's investment in a business entity, will encourage micro, small and medium-size entrepreneurs by offering them important advantages in doing business. Indeed, gaining access to risk-reducing limited liability protection offered by a limited liability organization will protect the personal assets of members in the event the business does not do well or becomes involved in legal disputes. At the same time, the draft legislative guide recognizes that the needs of those entrepreneurs must be balanced against the needs of the State, creditors and other third parties doing business with them. Lack of transparency about the operations could result in a lack

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/71/17)*, paras. 254 and 309; *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/72/17)*, para. 193; *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/73/17)*, para. 193; *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, para. 267.

<sup>10</sup> <https://uncitral.un.org/en/about/sdg>.

<sup>11</sup> The special limited liability business organization has been temporarily called UNCITRAL Limited Liability Organization (UNLLO) pending a Working Group's decision on this matter.

<sup>12</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, para. 182.

of legal certainty that would undermine the effectiveness of this new legal form. The draft legislative guide therefore contains a number of mandatory provisions that cannot be departed from by contract. The draft also addresses concerns about risks of misuse of a simplified legal form for money-laundering, terrorist financing and corruption by including minimum information requirements that meet international standards on disclosure of beneficial ownership.

16. The legislative guide, once finalized and adopted by the Commission, is thus expected to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9, in particular target 8.3 (Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services) and target 9.3 (Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets).

## **B. Legal Guide to Uniform Legal Instruments in the Area of International Commercial Contracts (with a focus on sales)**

### **Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9**

17. The Legal Guide to Uniform Legal Instruments in the Area of International Commercial Contracts (with a focus on sales) (the “Guide”), a tripartite guide jointly prepared by the Hague Conference on Private International Law, Unidroit and the UNCITRAL secretariats, which upon its approval for publication by the Commission, will supplement the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (Vienna, 1980) (CISG) and the United Nations Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods (New York, 1974, amended 1980). It also discusses UNCITRAL texts addressing contractual matters relating to the use of electronic information. The Guide is expected to support the implementation and uniform interpretation of the international trade texts of the three organizations by clarifying the relationship among the texts.

18. Parties to international commercial transactions face various legal risks that are difficult to anticipate in view of the diversity of domestic contract laws and the remedies they provide, for instance in case of frustrated performance or breach of contract. The unpredictable level of economic risk associated with those legal risks may discourage companies from tapping new foreign markets or joining international supply chains. Legal risks in international trade may represent a serious entry barrier for MSMEs without access to extensive legal advice on foreign law. The international community has developed various instruments to promote the harmonization and modernization of commercial contract law to promote predictability and reduce legal risks that sometimes may constitute practical obstacles to international trade. The publication of the Legal Guide to Uniform Legal Instruments in the Area of International Commercial Contracts (with a focus on sales) will promote better understanding of the relationship between the texts, and facilitate their use and uniform interpretation.

19. The Guide is expected to contribute also to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9, in particular target 8.3 (Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services) and target 9.3 (Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets).



## C. Texts in the area of international commercial mediation

### Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17

20. At the fifty-second session, in 2019 the Commission considered draft texts in the area of international commercial mediation: draft notes on organizing mediation proceedings; draft mediation rules; and a draft guide to enactment and use of the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Mediation and International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, 2018. The Commission was not in a position to adopt those texts during the session and agreed to consider them further at its fifty-third session in 2020.<sup>13</sup> The interrelationship of those texts to the Sustainable Development Goals was outlined in paragraphs 26–28 of last year’s report on the role of UNCITRAL in promoting the rule of law at the national and international level ([A/CN.9/985](#)).

## IV. Suggestions for consideration of the rule of law agenda item at the Commission’s fifty-third session, in 2020

### A. UNCITRAL work relevant to upcoming Sixth Committee debates on “Measures to prevent and combat corruption”

21. The Commission may wish to take note of the General Assembly resolutions referred to in chapter II above. In formulating and transmitting its comments to the General Assembly this year in response to the invitation contained in paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution [74/191](#), the Commission may wish to take into account that the upcoming debates of the Sixth Committee under the rule of law agenda item will focus on the sub-topic “Measures to prevent and combat corruption” (see para. 4 above). The Commission may wish to recall its consideration of issues relevant to that sub-topic at its sessions in 2010 and 2012 (see [A/CN.9/985](#), annex) and note in its comments to the General Assembly that the sub-topic is particularly relevant to the Commission’s work in the area of public procurement and infrastructure development and Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), in particular target 16.5 (Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms).

22. The UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement incorporates the mandatory minimum standards for procurement outlined in the United Nations Convention against Corruption particularly article 9 (1), requiring each State party to take the “necessary steps to establish appropriate systems of procurement, based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making, that are effective, inter alia, in preventing corruption”. The transparency requirements may be found throughout the Model Law, in particular in provisions on notifications, exhaustive record keeping and notices. They aim at ensuring traceability of all decisions and actions taken in the procurement process, providing proper oversight and accountability, and thereby reducing opportunities for corruption. Objectivity is ensured through provisions on formulation of tender documents, in particular eligibility, qualification, examination and evaluation requirements, and procedures throughout the procurement process. Competition is assured through the Model Law’s transparency and objectivity measures and additional safeguards against collusion and unjustified exceptions to open competition. Specific anti-corruption measures may be found in provisions on the exclusion of a supplier for bribery, unfair competitive advantage or conflicts of interest and on a code of conduct for procurement officials.

23. The anti-corruption provisions of the UNCITRAL Model Legislative Provisions on Public-Private Partnerships and the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on

<sup>13</sup> For the text of the Model Law, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/73/17)*, annex II. For the discussion of supplementary texts, see *ibid.*, paras. 67 and 254. *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, para. 123.



Public-Private Partnerships were revised to incorporate the relevant anti-corruption measures outlined in the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Model Legislative Provisions were revised to increase the transparency and the adequacy of the legal framework. Provisions relating to the contract award, use of criteria, information given to bidders and the public, the composition of the committee in charge of the contract award, and the appellate mechanism were revised to support those purposes. Section 17(b) of the Model Legislative Provisions also calls for the rejection of an initial proposal from bidders on the basis of past corruption, collusion or conflict of interest. Chapters I, III and VII of the Legislative Guide address issues of corruption. Chapter I states that the general principles of public-private partnership legislation should be toward public interest, transparency, proper management, integrity and accountability. Chapter III indicates the award procedure should be transparent and fully in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Chapter VII outlines necessary laws related to anti-corruption that help ensure a climate that is favourable to public-private partnerships.

24. The Commission may also wish to note that its secretariat regularly delivers training on anti-corruption in public procurement and infrastructure development at the International Anti-Corruption Academy (“IACA”). Upon endorsement of the Commission,<sup>14</sup> it has also worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (“UNODC”) to prepare for the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, with the goal of increasing awareness of the role of UNCITRAL standards and activities for the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (see para. 28 (b) below). The Commission may wish to highlight the need for expanded cooperation with IACA and UNODC, especially if the Commission decides to take up the subject of civil asset tracing and recovery.

25. In this regard, the Commission may wish to recall that on 6 December 2019, the Colloquium on Civil Asset Tracing and Recovery was held to clarify and refine aspects of the Commission’s possible work on civil asset tracing and recovery with a view to identifying a possible need for legislative guidance within the Commission’s mandate, in particular in the area of insolvency law. The Colloquium touched upon anti-corruption aspects as they related to asset tracing and recovery measures envisaged under the United Nations Convention against Corruption that explicitly recognizes asset recovery as a fundamental principle of the Convention. One conclusion of the Colloquium was that many parallel processes existed at the national, regional and international level that required States to cooperate and better coordinate their asset tracing and recovery efforts, and anti-corruption instruments were one type of instrument involved in this dynamic. (For the report of the Colloquium, see document A/CN.9/1008.)

## **B. Expected contribution of UNCITRAL’s programme to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**

26. Considering the developments highlighted in chapter II of this note, in particular calls for accelerated actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Commission may wish to consider ways of closer aligning its work programme with the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account however that the Goals are time-bound (until 2030). The Commission may wish to consider whether criteria that it uses for assessing feasibility and desirability of undertaking work on a new topic, such as the promotion of international trade law, legal feasibility, economic need and relevance to specific needs of developing countries, already encompasses the

<sup>14</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, para. 300.

expected relevance and impact of such work on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>15</sup>

27. In addition, the Commission may wish to continue highlighting in its texts and decisions adopting or approving the texts, their relevance to and impact on sustainable development. In the light of the expected finalization and adoption of texts in the areas of MSMEs, mediation and sale of goods at its fifty-third session, the Commission may wish to highlight in its decisions on those texts their expected input to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (see paras. 14–20 above). The Commission may also wish to consider and specify the expected contribution of its ongoing work on expedited arbitration, investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) reform, electronic commerce (identity management and trust services), insolvency of micro and small enterprises, and judicial sale of ships to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

28. The Commission may wish to request States, the Secretariat, organizations and institutions to continue their efforts towards increasing awareness of the role of UNCITRAL standards and activities for the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Such opportunities might in particular arise in conjunction with:

(a) The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” (New York, 7–16 July 2020), which will examine approaches to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and focus on the most critical trade-offs and synergies between the Goals;

(b) A special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, which will take place in the first half of 2021 with the preparatory process taken place under the auspices of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.<sup>16</sup> (The Commission was informed about that event at its fifty-second session and endorsed measures suggested with respect thereto.<sup>17</sup>)

29. Finally, the Commission may wish to reiterate the view that the promotion of the rule of law in commercial relations should be an integral part of the broader agenda of the United Nations to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group supported by the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General (see para. 6 above).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid. *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/68/17)*, paras. 294 and 295.

<sup>16</sup> See General Assembly resolution [73/191](#).

<sup>17</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, para. 301.