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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 Commission's fifty-third session, the Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific has carried out its activities in accordance with the priority lines of action identified in the UNCITRAL secretariat's strategic framework for technical assistance ([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 2020 and 31 March 2021.

Promotion of the universal adoption of UNCITRAL instruments

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

2. Despite the ongoing impacts of measures taken to address the coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") pandemic including travel and organizational restrictions imposed across the region, 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:



CISG@40

(a) In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (Vienna, 1980) (“CISG”), the UNCITRAL secretariat is organizing a series of activities from 2020 through 2022 under the theme of “CISG@40” to promote adoption, broad coverage, and uniform interpretation of the CISG.¹ In the Asia-Pacific, the Regional Centre has delivered the following:

(i) Co-organized with the Center for International Investment and Commercial Arbitration a virtual CISG@40 Conference inviting legal experts and government officials from across the region to discuss the post-COVID-19 benefits of the CISG and possible adoption by Pakistan and others in the Asia-Pacific, attracting approximately 40 remote participants from 15 jurisdictions (Lahore, Pakistan, 6 October 2020);

(ii) Co-organized the “UN Day Seminar on the CISG and the Internationalisation of Trade Law in the Past 40 Years” with the UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for Australia (Australia, 23 October 2020);

(iii) In conjunction with the UNCITRAL secretariat in Vienna, supported “Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the CISG: CISG as a Tool for Global Trade – Theory and Practice” co-organized with the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, China, and the Asian Academy of International Law, wherein eminent scholars, practitioners, and government officials explored the CISG’s contribution to the development of international sales law, its scope of application, contract formation and dispute resolution. A total of 168 participants from 26 jurisdictions attended (Hong Kong, China, 27 October 2020);

(iv) Several other flagship events co-organized by the Regional Centre included dedicated sessions on the CISG, such as the UNCITRAL Special Session, the JPRI International Conference, and the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day 2020 series, as elaborated in paragraphs 2(c), (e) and (f) *infra*;

(b) Measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic which continued through the reporting period have affected the following CISG-related activities:

(i) Second South Asia UNCITRAL conference (New Delhi, 1–2 May 2020; pending rescheduling);

(ii) CISG@40 Contract Drafting Masterclass with Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (Shenzhen, China, January 2021; postponed to third quarter of 2021);

(iii) CISG@40 event in collaboration with Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, February 2021; postponed to October 2021).

The Regional Centre is seeking to reschedule the postponed activities as soon as feasibly possible.

UNCITRAL Special Session

(c) The UNCITRAL Special Session (Seoul, 3-4 November 2020), co-organized by the Regional Centre and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea, and supported by KCAB International, provided capacity-building to government and international organization officials on the CISG, the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts (New York, 2005) (“ECC”), UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable

¹ This Note addresses the CISG@40 activities organized or supported by the Regional Centre. A Note by the Secretariat entitled “Technical cooperation and assistance”, A/CN.9/1058, provides more information on the CISG@40 global initiative emanating from the work of the Commission as a whole. For more information on the CISG@40 global initiative, please also visit: uncitral.un.org/cisg40.

Records (2017), 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”), and the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (New York, 2018) (“Singapore Convention on Mediation”). Participants shared experiences and updates from their respective jurisdictions as well as the impact of COVID-19 on dispute resolution. The hybrid event was attended by representatives from 15 jurisdictions, i.e., China, Fiji, India, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uzbekistan, and five intergovernmental organizations in the region, i.e., the Asian Development Bank (“ADB”), International Trade Centre (Lao PDR), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (“UNESCAP”), UNESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (“UNESCAP-ENEA”), and the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Lao PDR.

Asia Pacific ADR Conference

(d) The Asia Pacific ADR Conference (ninth edition) (Seoul, 5–6 November 2020), an annual regional conference, co-organized with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea, KCAB International, the Seoul International Dispute Resolution Centre and the International Chamber of Commerce (“ICC”) International Court of Arbitration. Under the theme “The New Arbitration Landscape: 2020 and Beyond”, the conference discussed current reform proposals in investor-state dispute settlement (“ISDS”), the proposed expedited arbitration provisions under consideration by UNCITRAL, and innovative suggestions for virtual and remote hearings. Over 300 individuals from 39 jurisdictions registered for the conference.

JPRI International Conference

(e) The JPRI International Conference (Seoul, 12–13 November 2020), co-organized with the Judicial Policy Research Institute (JPRI), the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), under the theme “International Commercial Litigation: Recent Developments and Future Challenges”. The hybrid 2-day conference invited 40 global experts to discuss the CISG, secured transactions, insolvency, dispute settlement, and Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (“CLOUT”) in the Republic of Korea. The audience comprised approximately 150 judges, senior officials and legal experts from 10 jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day

(f) The UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day (seventh edition) held during the last quarter of 2020 aimed at promoting awareness and encouraging the study of UNCITRAL texts by legal scholars and students.² 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 complications arising from COVID-19, a ground-breaking total of 35 partner institutions co-hosted 19 events in virtual or hybrid format in 10 jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region, i.e., Australia, China, including the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand and Viet Nam, reaching a live audience of over 8,500 participants. In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the CISG was the main focus of the events. Other UNCITRAL topics covered include dispute settlement, ISDS, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (“MSMEs”), insolvency, security interests, and electronic commerce.

² See further, UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day 2020 Report, viewable at: https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/en/apdayreport_2020.pdf.

Events focusing on the CISG, at which the Regional Centre presented or otherwise supported, were held with the following academic partners and institutions:

- (i) Seoul National University (Seoul, 14 September 2020);
- (ii) China University of Political Science and Law (Beijing, 23 September 2020);
- (iii) Shanghai University of Political Science and Law and the ICC (Shanghai, China, 26 September 2020 and 9-10 October 2020);
- (iv) Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in collaboration with the ICC (Melbourne, Australia, 13 October 2020);
- (v) Ho Chi Minh City University of Law and the ICC (Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, 11 November 2020);
- (vi) Wuhan University, ICC and Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. The conference was attended by approximately 4,600 participants (Wuhan, China, 28 November 2020);
- (vii) University of Macau, supported by the World Trade Center Macau Arbitration Center (Macao, China, 4 December 2020);
- (viii) Foreign Trade University, in collaboration with the Vietnam Business Lawyers Club, Vietnam International Arbitration Center, and the Vietnam Society of International Law (Hanoi, 10 December 2020);
- (ix) University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Mediation Centre, and International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (Hong Kong, China, 10 December 2020);
- (x) Far Eastern Federal University (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 16 December 2020);
- (xi) Southwest China University of Political Science and Law (Chongqing, China, 18 December 2020);
- (xii) Gujarat National Law University Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law, in collaboration with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India and UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for India (Gujarat, India, 18 December 2020);³
- (xiii) National Law University Delhi, in collaboration with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, INSOL India, UNCITRAL National Co-ordination Committee for India, Nottingham Trent University, Campbell University, Georgetown University Law Center, International Law Institute, and Society of Insolvency Practitioners of India (New Delhi, 6-10 January 2021).⁴

Events on other topics, at which the Regional Centre presented on the work of UNCITRAL and the Regional Centre, dispute settlement, ISDS, MSMEs, security interests, and electronic commerce, or otherwise supported, were held with the following academic partners and institutions:

- (xiv) Shanghai University of International Business and Economics and the ICC (Shanghai, China, 10 October 2020);
- (xv) Inha University (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 27 October 2020);
- (xvi) Kangnam University (Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea, 28 October 2020);
- (xvii) Chung-Ang University (Seoul, 19 November 2020);
- (xviii) Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, 26 November 2020);

³ UNCITRAL texts on insolvency were also highlighted.

⁴ Ibid.

(xix) Nagoya University Graduate School of Law (Nagoya, Japan, 22 December 2020).

3. 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 UNCITRAL's mandate generally or with **cross-topic** focus:

(i) Coordinated presentations on innovations and challenges for cross-border trade and online dispute settlement in the digital economy at an event co-hosted with the Ministry of Commerce of China, the Institute of International Law of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Arbitration Law, and the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (Beijing, 15–16 October 2020);

(ii) Discussed the impact of digital technology on international arbitration at the ICC Annual Seminar during Hong Kong Arbitration Week (Hong Kong, China, 19 October 2020);

(iii) Delivered a special address at the online UN Day Seminar co-organized with the UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for Australia, covering CISG@40, the accession by Australia to the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (New York, 2014) (“Mauritius Convention on Transparency”), entry into force of the Singapore Convention on Mediation, insolvency, MSMEs, multimodal negotiable transport documents, and legal issues of the digital economy (Australia, 23 October 2020);

(iv) Presented on the CISG and the Singapore Convention on Mediation to approximately 300 Japanese legal practitioners in collaboration with the Academy for International Business Transactions (Tokyo, 24 October 2020);

(b) In the area of **dispute settlement**, the Regional Centre has:

(i) Co-organized a virtual briefing session on Working Group III discussions for government representatives from China, Japan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea (Seoul, 9 April 2020);

(ii) Presented on UNCITRAL dispute settlement instruments and provided institutional support for webinars organized with Manav Rachna University and the UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for India (Haryana, India, 2 and 27 May 2020);

(iii) Provided remarks on UNCITRAL arbitration texts for an online course by Bali International Arbitration and Mediation Center (Bali, Indonesia, July 2020);

(iv) Participated in an event focusing on the UNCITRAL Model Arbitration Law organized by the Asian International Arbitration Centre (“AIAC”) (Kuala Lumpur, 21 August 2020);

(v) Coordinated keynote speech celebrating the entry into force of the Singapore Convention on Mediation at the China Academy of Arbitration Law Online Mediation Seminar (China, 12 September 2020);

(vi) Presented on the Singapore Convention on Mediation at the LAWASIA 2020 Conference Online (Sydney, Australia, 17 September 2020);

(vii) Provided institutional support to Australian Arbitration Week 2020 and the ACICA/CIARB Australia International Arbitration Conference (Australia, 12–16 October 2020);

(viii) Delivered congratulatory remarks at the Korea International Mediation Centre Inauguration Meeting (Seoul, 13 November 2020);

- (ix) Provided institutional support to the virtual AIAC YPG Conference (Kuala Lumpur, 3 March 2021);
 - (x) Coordinated opening remarks for the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea kick-off ceremony of the Singapore Convention on Mediation domestic implementation study group (Seoul, 10 March 2021);
 - (c) In the area of **security interests**, the Regional Centre:
 - (i) Presented on security interests reform and the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions (2016) at the 2020 International Conference on Ease of Doing Business organized by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea (Seoul, 4 December 2020);
 - (d) In the area of **sale of goods**, the Regional Centre has held a number of CISG@40 activities as discussed in paragraph 2 *supra*;
 - (e) In the area of **insolvency**, the Regional Centre:
 - (i) Presented an overview of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (1997) at a webinar on its potential applicability in India co-organized with the UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for India and Manav Rachna University (Haryana, India, 6 June 2020);
 - (ii) Co-organized UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day and insolvency moot court competition activities with Gujarat National Law University and National Law University Delhi, as discussed in paragraph 2(f) *supra*.
4. 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 Fiji, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, to the UNCITRAL Special Session held in November 2020.

Technical assistance and capacity-building⁵

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

5. 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) Co-organized an ISDS capacity-building workshop for least developed countries in the Asia-Pacific region with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia and Australian National University (Yangon, Myanmar, 1 December 2020);
 - (ii) Delivered remarks at the Timor-Leste International Arbitration Webinar co-hosted with the ADB, ICC, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, and the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (Timor-Leste, 8 December 2020);
 - (iii) Provided technical assistance to the Government of Uzbekistan in reviewing its draft arbitration bill as based on the UNCITRAL Model Arbitration Law, in collaboration with the ADB;
 - (iv) Promoted attendance by government officials and judges from developing, landlocked and small island jurisdictions to virtual capacity-building activities and conferences;

⁵ These activities are undertaken upon request.

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

(i) Jointly organized with UNESCAP-ENEA and the Government of Mongolia a virtual workshop on accession to the ECC (Ulaanbaatar, 17 November 2020). Mongolia became a party to the ECC on 3 December 2020.

Activities reported in A/CN.9.1058, supported by the Regional Centre⁶

(c) Peer-review of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (“UNCTAD”) diagnostic report on the e-commerce regulatory framework of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw, 11 September 2020);

(d) UNCITRAL Working Group III Virtual Pre-Intersessional Meeting on “The Use of Mediation in ISDS” co-organized with the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, China and the Asian Academy of International Law (Hong Kong, China, 9 November 2020);⁷

(e) Technical engagement with UNESCAP in the context of the promotion and implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, namely in relation to the ECC, and participation in the Sixth Meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation (Bangkok, 25–26 January 2021);

(f) Virtual briefing sessions for representatives from the Governments of Turkmenistan (Vienna, June 2020), Afghanistan (Vienna, February 2021) and Pakistan (Vienna, February 2021);

(g) The first meeting of the Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform on Online Dispute Resolution (iGLIP on ODR) in collaboration with the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, China (Hong Kong, China, 18 March 2021);⁸

(h) Digitalization of International Trade event co-hosted with the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation and the International and Comparative Research Center (Moscow, 30 March 2021);⁹

(i) Dispute Resolution in the Digital Economy series including a kick-off discussion and 2-day workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice of Japan and Japan International Dispute Resolution Centre (JIDRC) (Tokyo, 5 February and 30–31 March 2021);¹⁰

(j) Activities under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China on the Financial Contribution to the UNCITRAL Trust Fund signed on 7 August 2019, including:

(i) Development of “Introduction to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law” online modules;

(ii) 2020 China International Arbitration Summit co-hosted by the China Academy of Arbitration Law and Guangzhou Arbitration Commission (Guangzhou, China, 28–29 October 2020);

(iii) China Academy of Arbitration Law Online Mediation Seminar as discussed in paragraph 3(b)(v) *supra*;

(iv) Digital economy event as discussed in paragraph 3(a)(i) *supra*.

⁶ See further, Section II.A, A/CN.9/1058.

⁷ See uncitral.un.org/en/working_groups/3/investor-state.

⁸ See A/CN.9/1064/Add.4.

⁹ See A/CN.9/1081.

¹⁰ See A/CN.9/1064/Add.4. Event material and recordings are accessible at: uncitral.un.org/en/disputeresolutiondigialeconomy.

Activities undertaken jointly or in cooperation with other agencies

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

6. 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), UNCTAD and UNESCAP 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 2, 3 and 5 *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 Australia, China, and Viet Nam in paragraph 2(f) *supra*;

(c) Provided technical assistance and capacity-building to promote an improved legal framework for trade, investment and access to justice under the Lao People's Democratic Republic – United Nations Partnership Framework 2017–2021;

(d) Co-moderated the “APEC Alternative Dispute Resolution – Mediation in Post COVID-19 Times” webinar organized by Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, MyAPEC Virtual Exhibition and the Malaysian Mediation Centre (Kuala Lumpur, 30 November 2020);

(e) Participated in the seventh session of the Committee on Trade and Investment of UNESCAP (Bangkok, 27–29 January 2021);

(f) In partnership with the ADB, provided technical assistance and capacity-building for the reform of laws on international commercial arbitration in the South Pacific, including by co-organizing the 3rd South Pacific International Arbitration Conference (Sydney, Australia, 17 March 2021).

7. 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

8. In the reporting period, the following UNCITRAL texts have been adopted in the region:¹¹

(a) In the area of **international arbitration**:

(i) New York Convention: Tonga (2020);

(ii) Mauritius Convention on Transparency: Australia (2020);

(iii) UNCITRAL Model Arbitration Law: Uzbekistan (2021).

(b) In the area of **international commercial mediation**:

(i) Singapore Convention on Mediation: Saudi Arabia (2020). The Convention entered into force on 12 September 2020;

¹¹ See, further, Status of conventions and model laws, Note by the Secretariat, [A/CN.9/1056](#). This Note addresses actions in the Asia-Pacific and outcomes from activities of the Regional Centre, as relevant. The Status Note addresses status of the conventions and model laws emanating from the work of the Commission as a whole.

- (c) In the area of **electronic commerce**:
 - (i) The ECC: Kiribati, Bahrain and Mongolia (2020);
 - (ii) UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (2017): Singapore and the Abu Dhabi Global Market in the United Arab Emirates (2021).

Outreach

Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 4, 16, and 17

9. 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 Regional Centre's work, 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) Fostered academic engagement by delivering virtual presentations to universities in the region as part of the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day flagship series;
- (c) Supported moot competitions to raise awareness of UNCITRAL instruments among students, including:¹²
 - (i) Moot Shanghai 2020 (Special Edition) as mentioned in paragraph 2(f)(iii) *supra*;
 - (ii) International Insolvency and Bankruptcy Moot Competition 2020–21 as mentioned in paragraph 2(f)(xiii) *supra*;
 - (iii) Virtual Pre-Moot for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot organized by AIAC (Kuala Lumpur, 5–7 March 2021);
 - (iv) Moot Shanghai 2021 with ICC (Shanghai, China, 8–12 March 2021);
- (d) 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

10. The costs of the Regional Centre's activities are not covered by the United Nations' regular budget, 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 Trust Fund for UNCITRAL Symposia to meet the cost of its operation and programme.

11. 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, regarding the operation and financial contribution to the Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, the Incheon

¹² See further, [A/CN.9/1058](#).

Metropolitan City, in 2021, had agreed in 2016 to extend its financial contribution of USD 450,000 over a 5-year period until 2021.

12. 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, 14 interns (7 female and 7 male) from 8 jurisdictions (Canada, China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Norway, Senegal, Singapore and the United States of America) undertook remote internships. In particular, the Regional Centre welcomed an intern who is a resident of Incheon Metropolitan City, and 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.

13. 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 October 2020 and extended the secondment period of a current legal expert in March 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.

14. The sustainability of the Regional Centre, the operation of which relies entirely on the contribution from one State, is at great risk. As of the time of this note, the secretariat is seeking to obtain an extension of the contribution with the Ministry of Justice and the Incheon Metropolitan City of the Republic of Korea. 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 Trust Fund for UNCITRAL Symposia, 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.
