

**D. Activities of the secretariat to distribute and to promote awareness of the
UNCITRAL Legal Guide on Drawing Up International Contracts for the Construction of Industrial Works:
note by the Secretariat (A/CN.9/310) [Original: English]**

INTRODUCTION

1. When the Commission adopted the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide on Drawing Up International Contracts for the Construction of Industrial Works* at its twentieth session (1987), it requested the Secretary-General "to take effective measures for the widespread distribution and promotion of the use of the *Legal Guide*" (A/42/17, para. 315).¹ Specifically, the Commission urged the secretariat to arrange for prompt publication of the *Legal Guide* in all languages, to take steps to distribute the *Legal Guide* to relevant Government officials, libraries and trade organizations worldwide and to take steps to promote the *Legal Guide* (A/42/17, para. 313). In considering the report of the Commission on the work of its twentieth session, the General Assembly recommended "that all efforts should be made so that the *Legal Guide* becomes generally known and available" (General Assembly resolution 42/152 of 7 December 1987, para. 8).

2. The following sections discuss steps that have been taken or are contemplated by the UNCITRAL secretariat. Steps to promote awareness and use of the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* must be taken within the context of the limited human and financial resources available to the UNCITRAL secretariat (see A/CN.9/305, paras. 49 and 50, and A/CN.9/311). This applies as well to steps taken by other units of the United Nations Secretariat that have been or will be involved in publishing and promoting the *Legal Guide*, since the critical financial situation of the United Nations has produced comparable resource shortages in those units. The UNCITRAL secretariat is endeavouring to achieve the maximum results from its promotional activities within the level of resources available to it.

3. In connection with its discussion of the promotion of the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* at its twentieth session, the Commission expressed the view that measures should also be taken by Governments, particularly those of member States of the Commission (A/42/17, para. 313). Governments might, for example, take steps to bring the *Legal Guide* to the particular attention of personnel of Government departments and organs and State-owned enterprises who are involved in drawing up international contracts for the construction of industrial works, and other relevant circles, such as firms or enterprises, lawyers, engineers, trade associations and libraries. Governments might wish to consider the possibility of publishing a notice about the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* in their journals of official notices or announcements.

¹Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twentieth session, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/42/17).

I. Publication and issuance of *UNCITRAL Legal Guide*

4. The English version of the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* was issued at Vienna on 5 February 1988. The Chinese version is expected to be issued by the end of March 1988 and the Spanish version by the end of April. The other language versions (Arabic, French and Russian) are in various advanced stages of publication and will be issued in due course.

II. Distribution of *UNCITRAL Legal Guide*

5. Copies of the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* are being distributed, pursuant to the general world-wide distribution of UNCITRAL documents and publications, to the following recipients: all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and in or accredited to Vienna and through them to the ministries to which they distribute UNCITRAL documents; 30 United Nations Specialized Agencies; 25 intergovernmental organizations; 350 international non-governmental organizations; 65 United Nations Information Centres and 320 depository libraries of United Nations documents world-wide.

6. In addition, copies of the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* are being sent to approximately 400 recipients world-wide on special mailing lists instituted and maintained by the UNCITRAL secretariat. These recipients include, for example, professors of law and of trade; practising lawyers; individual officials of Governments and of international governmental and non-governmental organizations; consultants; bar associations; and chambers of commerce and other trade associations.

7. The UNCITRAL secretariat is sending copies of the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* to all Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and to the Regional Procurement Advisers for each Region of the World Bank. The secretariat will also distribute the *Legal Guide* to relevant personnel of organs within the United Nations system that are active in the areas of industrialization and economic development, including those that are involved in works construction projects in developing countries. Those recipients will be asked to bring the *Legal Guide* to the attention of appropriate persons and circles in the areas served by them.

**III. Availability of *UNCITRAL Legal Guide*
as sales publication**

8. The *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* is a sales publication of the United Nations. It can be ordered from the United Nations, at one of the addresses given below,

under the appropriate sales number. The sales number of the English version is E.87.V.10; the sales numbers of the other language versions begin with, instead of the letter E, the following letters: Arabic-A, Chinese-C, French-F, Russian-R, Spanish-S. The document number A/CN.9/SER.B/2 should also be quoted. Readers from Europe, Africa and northern Asia should address their orders to United Nations Publications, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; readers from North, Central and South America, southern Asia and the Pacific should address their orders to United Nations Publications, Room DC 2-0853, United Nations Headquarters, New York, New York 10017, U.S.A.

9. The *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* will also be obtainable at 110 bookshops and distribution centres throughout the world that regularly stock United Nations publications. The price of the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* is \$US 42.00 or an equivalent amount in other currencies.

IV. Publicity and promotion of awareness of *UNCITRAL Legal Guide*

10. The *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* will be listed in the catalogues of United Nations publications. The catalogues are issued annually by the United Nations Sales Section. In addition, the Sales Section in Geneva will include information about the *Legal Guide* in special mailings targeted to particular audiences, such as lawyers, engineers, firms and enterprises involved in international commerce and contracting and academics in the fields of law, engineering and construction. The Publications Unit will also arrange for copies of the

Legal Guide to be distributed to specialists for review in appropriate journals.

11. The UNCITRAL secretariat has prepared an information sheet about the *Legal Guide* for distribution at appropriate forums, such as seminars on construction law, and to various recipients, such as journals in the field of international commercial law, construction law, construction and engineering.

V. Seminars and symposia

12. The UNCITRAL secretariat is planning to participate in or organize seminars and symposia to promote awareness of the existence of the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* and to discuss its contents. The secretariat will participate in a workshop on international engineering contracts co-sponsored by INGRE, an engineering and construction enterprise in Yugoslavia, and the University of Zagreb Construction Institute, in Cavtat, Yugoslavia, from 25 to 27 April 1988.

13. The UNCITRAL secretariat is co-sponsoring with the Preferential Trade Area for the Eastern and Southern African States a regional seminar on UNCITRAL texts and international trade law, to be held in Lesotho in August, 1988 (see A/CN.9/305, paras. 37-40 and A/CN.9/311, paras. 28-31). A portion of the seminar will be devoted to the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide*.

14. The UNCITRAL secretariat is exploring possibilities of organizing seminars on the *UNCITRAL Legal Guide* in other regions, including Asia and Latin America.