



**United Nations Commission
 on International Trade Law**
Forty-second session

Vienna, 29 June-17 July 2009

Technical cooperation and assistance
Note by the Secretariat
Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1-5	2
II. Technical cooperation and assistance activities	6-31	4
A. Activities addressing multiple topics	8-14	5
B. Sale of goods	15-16	7
C. Dispute resolution	17-19	7
D. Procurement	20-21	8
E. Security interests	22	9
F. Transport	23-24	9
G. Insolvency	25	10
H. Electronic commerce	26-29	11
I. Assistance with legislative drafting	30-31	11
III. Coordination activities	32-35	12



I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) plays an important role in developing the legal framework for international trade and investment through its mandate to prepare and promote the use and adoption of legislative and non-legislative instruments in a number of key areas of trade law, including: sales; dispute resolution; government contracting; banking and payments; security interests; insolvency; transport; and electronic commerce. Those instruments are widely accepted, offering solutions appropriate to different legal traditions and to countries at different stages of economic development and include:

(a) In the area of sale of goods, the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG)¹ and the United Nations Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods (the Limitation Convention);²

(b) In the area of dispute resolution, the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards³ (the New York Convention, a United Nations convention adopted prior to the establishment of the Commission, but actively promoted by it), the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules,⁴ the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules,⁵ the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and revised articles,⁶ the UNCITRAL Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings,⁷ and the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Conciliation;⁸

(c) In the area of government contracting, the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services,⁹ the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Privately Financed Infrastructure Projects¹⁰ and the UNCITRAL Model Legislative Provisions on Privately Financed Infrastructure Projects;¹¹

¹ 11 April 1980, United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1489, p. 3; *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, Vienna, 10 March-11 April 1980* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.V.5), part I.

² *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Prescription (Limitation) in the International Sale of Goods, New York, 20 May-14 June 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.V.8), part I; United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1511, pp. 77 and 99; *UNCITRAL Yearbook 1980*, part three, chap. I, sect. C.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 330, No. 4739.

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/31/17)*, para. 57; *UNCITRAL Yearbook 1976*, part one, chap. II, sect. A.

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/35/17)*, chap. V, sect. A, para. 106; *UNCITRAL Yearbook 1980*, part three, chap. II.

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/40/17)*, annex I; *UNCITRAL Yearbook 1985*, part three, chap. I; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/61/17)*, annex I.

⁷ *UNCITRAL Yearbook 1996*, part three, chap. II.

⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/57/17)*, annex I; *UNCITRAL Yearbook 2002*, part three.

⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/49/17)*, annex I; *UNCITRAL Yearbook 1994*, part three, chap. I.

¹⁰ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.V.4, A/CN.9/SER.B/4.

¹¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/57/17)*, annex I.

(d) In the area of banking and payments, the United Nations Convention on International Bills of Exchange and International Promissory Notes,¹² the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Credit Transfers,¹³ and the United Nations Convention on Independent Guarantees and Standby Letters of Credit;¹⁴

(e) In the area of security interests, the United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade¹⁵ and the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions;¹⁶

(f) In the area of insolvency, the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (MLCBI)¹⁷ and the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law;¹⁸

(g) In the area of transport, the United Nations Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Sea (Hamburg Rules),¹⁹ the United Nations Convention on the Liability of Operators of Transport Terminals in International Trade,²⁰ and the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea (the “Rotterdam Rules”);²¹ and

(h) In the area of electronic commerce, the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce (MLEC),²² the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Signatures (MLES),²³ and the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts (ECC).²⁴

2. Technical cooperation and assistance activities aimed at promoting the use and adoption of its texts are one of UNCITRAL’s priorities, pursuant to a decision taken at its twentieth session (1987),²⁵ and are particularly useful for developing countries and economies in transition lacking capacity in the areas of trade law covered by the work of UNCITRAL. Since trade law reform, based on harmonized international instruments, has a clear impact on the ability to participate in international trade, the Secretariat’s technical cooperation and assistance work aimed at promoting use and adoption of texts can facilitate economic development.

¹² *UNCITRAL Yearbook 1988*, part three, chap. I; General Assembly resolution 43/165, annex.

¹³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/47/17)*, annex I.

¹⁴ New York, 11 December 1995, United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2169, p. 163; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/50/17)*, annex I.

¹⁵ *UNCITRAL Yearbook 2002*, part three; General Assembly resolution 56/81, annex.

¹⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/62/17 Part II)*, para. 99.

¹⁷ *UNCITRAL Yearbook 1992*, part three, chap. I.

¹⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/59/17)*, para. 55.

¹⁹ Hamburg, 31 March 1978, United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1695, p. 3; *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on the Carriage of Goods by Sea, Hamburg, 6-31 March 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.VIII.1), document A/CONF.89/13, annex I.

²⁰ A/CONF.152/13, annex.

²¹ New York, 11 December 2008, General Assembly Resolution A/RES/63/122, annex.

²² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/51/17)*, annex I.

²³ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/56/17)*, annex II.

²⁴ New York, 23 November 2005, General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/21, annex.

²⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/42/17)*, para. 335.

3. The status of adoption of treaties and enactment of model laws is regularly updated and available on the UNCITRAL website. It is also available in the annual report to the Commission entitled “Status of conventions and model laws”, which highlights new treaty actions and enactments of model laws.

4. In its resolution 63/120 of 15 January 2009, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance, in particular for developing countries and economies in transition, of the technical cooperation and assistance work of the Commission in the field of international trade law and reiterated its appeal to the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies responsible for development assistance, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as to Governments in their bilateral aid programmes, to support the technical cooperation and assistance programme of the Commission and to cooperate and coordinate their activities with those of the Commission. The General Assembly also stressed the importance of bringing into effect the conventions emanating from the work of the Commission to further the progressive harmonization and unification of private law, and to this end urged States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to those conventions.

5. This note lists the technical cooperation and assistance activities of the Secretariat subsequent to the date of the previous note submitted to the Commission at its forty-first session in 2008 (A/CN.9/652 of 8 April 2008), and reports on the development of resources to assist technical cooperation and assistance activities.

II. Technical cooperation and assistance activities

6. Technical cooperation and assistance activities undertaken by the UNCITRAL Secretariat promote the adoption of UNCITRAL legislative texts and include providing advice to States considering signature, ratification or accession to UNCITRAL conventions, adoption of an UNCITRAL model law or use of a UNCITRAL legislative guide. They also support implementation of these texts and their uniform interpretation. Technical cooperation and assistance may involve: undertaking briefing missions and participating in seminars and conferences, organized at both regional and national levels, on UNCITRAL texts; assisting countries to review existing legislation and assess their need for law reform in the trade field; assisting with the drafting of national legislation to implement UNCITRAL texts; assisting multilateral and bilateral development agencies to use UNCITRAL texts in their law reform activities and projects; providing advice and assistance to international and other organizations, such as professional associations, organizations of attorneys, chambers of commerce and arbitration centres, on the use of UNCITRAL texts; and organizing training activities to facilitate the implementation and interpretation of legislation based on UNCITRAL texts by judiciaries and legal practitioners.

7. Activities included below that are denoted with an asterisk were funded by the UNCITRAL Trust Fund for Symposia.

A. Activities addressing multiple topics

1. Regional activities

8. A number of technical cooperation and assistance activities undertaken since the last report covered several of the topic areas noted in paragraph 1 above. The UNCITRAL Secretariat participated in the following regional events:

(a) The 5th ASEAN Law Forum (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) which discussed how ASEAN member countries can best achieve the harmonization of trade laws, with emphasis on adherence to relevant international instruments. Topics discussed by the Forum included: the CISG, the ECC, the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions, and UNCITRAL legislative texts on international commercial arbitration (Bangkok, 7-8 May 2008);

(b) The International Conference of Lawyers of the Union for the Mediterranean. The Secretariat provided information on the CISG and the UNCITRAL legislative texts on arbitration and electronic commerce that might be considered for adoption by the members of the Union (Nice, France, 28-29 June 2008);

(c) *A Capacity-Building Workshop on Treaty Law and Practice and the Domestic Implementation of Treaty Obligations organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in collaboration with the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, UNCITRAL, UNODC and UNHCR and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney's General Office in Ghana. The workshop, attended by ECOWAS countries, provided the opportunity to discuss the CISG; the ECC; the UNCITRAL Model Laws on International Commercial Arbitration and International Commercial Conciliation and the New York Convention. A specific consultation was organized by the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) and the UNCITRAL Secretariat to discuss the United Nations Convention on Independent Guarantees and Stand-By Letters of Credit; the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions and issues related to the Indicators of Commercial Fraud (Accra, 10-12 June 2008); and

(d) Since 2007, the Secretariat has provided regular advice to the sub-project Regional Implementation of the Convention on International Sales of Goods and International Commercial Arbitration, a component of the Project Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Legal Reform, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). The Project involves Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. In the context of the sub-project, the Secretariat participated in the following activities: an expert meeting to discuss country reports on the implementation of CISG and arbitration legislative texts prepared by national experts (Becici, Montenegro, 16-19 June 2008); a joint mission to discuss adoption of the CISG by Albania (Tirana, 14-17 October 2008); a round table during the 21st Kopaonik School of Natural Law where the country reports on CISG and arbitration legislation were presented (Kopaonik, Serbia, 15 December 2008); an Arbitration Conference and the second open Pre-Moot jointly organized by GTZ and the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade; and a Regional Round Table, conducted during the Pre-Moot, to discuss how to promote the uniform application

of the CISG and the enactment of UNCITRAL texts on arbitration and e-commerce in the region (Belgrade, 27-29 March 2009).

2. Country-specific activities

9. At the country level, the Secretariat participated in the following technical cooperation and assistance activities covering several of the topics noted in paragraph 1 above:

(a) An international seminar “Uniform Trade Law – Principles and Practice”, organized by the Italian Committee of the Union International des Avocats and the Regional Bar Association of the Triveneto to present the CISG and UNCITRAL texts on arbitration and conciliation (Venice, Italy, 3-5 October 2008); and

(b) An international conference “Institutional Arbitration in Infrastructure & Construction” organized by the Construction Industry Arbitration Council (CIAC) to disseminate information on the CISG, on arbitration and on UNCITRAL texts relating to construction works; and the conference on “International Commercial Arbitration & Sale of Goods: UNCITRAL Perspective” organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) – Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) to present UNCITRAL texts on arbitration, the New York Convention and the CISG (New Delhi, 16-18 October 2008).

(c) As part of the USAID World Trade Organization (WTO) Accession Plus Project in Ethiopia, the Secretariat contributed to a position paper on reinforcing Ethiopia’s international trade law framework for a stronger business environment as part of the preparation for negotiating accession to the WTO. The paper suggested this might be achieved by becoming a party to the New York Convention and the CISG. Further work to follow up on the paper’s recommendations will be undertaken in conjunction with USAID in 2009.

3. Briefings for Permanent Missions in Vienna

10. The Secretariat provided a briefing on UNCITRAL and its working methods at the Orientation Seminar for Members of Permanent Missions Accredited to the International Organizations in Vienna organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at the United Nations Office at Vienna (30-31 October 2008). Briefings on various working group topics are regularly being offered in Vienna by the Secretariat.

11. The Secretariat met with nine Permanent Missions from the African Group to discuss issues of mutual interest to better address the needs of African countries, including enhancing participation in the legislative work of UNCITRAL and technical cooperation and assistance (Vienna, 5 December 2008).

12. The Secretariat met with the Permanent Missions from CAFTA-DR and GRUCA (Grupo Centroamericano) countries to discuss issues of mutual interest, including technical cooperation and assistance and possible regional activities with a view to fostering closer regional economic integration through the adoption of uniform texts (Vienna, 18 February 2009).

13. The Secretariat conducted a briefing for Permanent Missions of European Union member states to present the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Conciliation (2002) in relation to the Directive 2008/52/EC of the

European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters (Vienna, 6 October 2008).

4. Other activities addressing multiple topics

14. At the request of the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO), the Secretariat provided substantial and methodological inputs to the implementation of the MSc Programme on Public Procurement Management. The Secretariat conducted training sessions at the ITCILO Campus (Turin, Italy) on: the UNCITRAL Public Procurement Model Law (4 September 2008); the CISG (22 October 2008); and the legal aspects of e-procurement and the UNCITRAL Model Laws on e-commerce and e-signatures (11 December 2008).

B. Sale of goods

15. The Secretariat has been active in promoting adoption and uniform interpretation of the CISG, at the regional level, as well as through Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Vienna, Geneva and New York and directly with relevant officials in the capitals. As part of these activities, the Secretariat:

(a) Participated at the international conference “The spirit and interpretation of the CISG” organized by the Steering Committee for the CISG Tokyo Congress, the University of Tokyo Law School, the Institute of International Commercial Law of the Pace University School of Law, and co-sponsored by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice of Japan, and UNCITRAL. The Conference followed Japan’s accession to the CISG in July 2008 (Tokyo, 16-18 November 2008); and

(b) Presented a note on the promotion of the adoption of the CISG at the international conference “Issues on the CISG Horizon – Conference in Honour of Peter Schlechtriem (1933-2007) (Vienna, 2 April 2009).

16. Assistance was also provided to States in the final stage of the adoption process, with particular regard to formulation of reservations and the deposit of instruments of consent to be bound. Since the last report, the CISG was acceded to by Armenia, Japan and Lebanon, and Belgium acceded to the Limitation Convention.

C. Dispute resolution

17. The Secretariat has promoted adoption of the texts relating to arbitration and conciliation through participation in activities organized both on a regional basis and with individual countries, as well as activities organized by arbitral institutions. Regional activities included:

(a) The annual tripartite meeting of the International Commercial Arbitration Court of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, Mongolian National Arbitration Centre and China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission to discuss the contribution of UNCITRAL to the development of an international commercial arbitration framework in Central Asia (Ulan Bator, 9-10 October 2008); and

(b) A regional conference organized by the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration to discuss the New York Convention and to present the joint International Bar Association (IBA)/UNCITRAL project on monitoring the legislative implementation of that Convention (Cairo, 10-11 November 2008).

18. The Secretariat collaborated with a number of arbitral institutions and organizations, participating at:

(a) A conference on alternative means for the settlement of investor-State disputes organized by the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Ministry of Justice and the Investment Promotion Agency of Ukraine to discuss the use of the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules in the field of investor-State dispute settlement (Kiev, 2-3 June);

(b) A conference organized by the Swedish Arbitration Association (SAA) on “Public Policy in International Commercial Arbitration”, to deliver a lecture on the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and interpretative guidance regarding public policy as a bar to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards (Stockholm, 4-5 September 2008);

(c) The annual Conference of the IBA to present the UNCITRAL/IBA project on monitoring the legislative implementation of the New York Convention (Buenos Aires, 15-18 October 2008);

(d) The conference “International Commercial Arbitration in Russia in light of Global Economic Development” hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Russian Federation to present the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration with the 2006 amendments (Moscow, 17 October 2008);

(e) The conference “International Arbitration involving Parties from the Arab World” hosted by the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce to present the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (Stockholm, 23 October 2008); and

(f) The international conference “Activating Commercial Arbitration” supported by the Dubai International Arbitration Centre to lecture on the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 11-14 November 2008).

19. The Secretariat also participated at a conference on “The 50th Anniversary of the New York Convention: Challenges to the Judiciary”, to address Asian judges on the implementation of the Convention and on the recently published reports, upon invitation of the National Judges College of China and Cheung Kong Centre for Negotiation & Dispute Resolution (Beijing, 10-13 December 2008).

D. Procurement

20. In accordance with requests of Working Group I (Procurement), the Secretariat has established links with other organizations interested in procurement to foster cooperation, particularly with regard to UNCITRAL’s work on revising the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services, as

well as undertaking activities to promote knowledge and acceptance of the Model Law.²⁶ The Secretariat participated in the following activities:

(a) The workshop on the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement organized by the WTO to present the work of UNCITRAL in the area of procurement (Geneva, Switzerland, July 2008);

(b) A meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce, Commission on International Law and Practice, Task Force on Public Procurement, to present a report on the 2008 sessions of the UNCITRAL Working Group I and the progress towards the completion of the revised UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement (Vienna, 11 November 2008); and

(c) The “International Forum on Public Procurement” held by the Central University of Finance and Economics to discuss public procurement law reform and modernization and the UNCITRAL approach to sustainable procurement under the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services (Beijing, 26-29 November 2008).

21. The Secretariat provides regular briefings to UNODC country offices staff on the implementation of the procurement-related aspects of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption using the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement as implementing legislation.

E. Security interests

22. The Secretariat participated in a number of activities to disseminate information on the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions and the current work of UNCITRAL Working Group VI on security rights in intellectual property. These activities included:

(a) The Global Business Law Conference organized by the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Business Law to promote the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions (Frankfurt, Germany 29-30 May 2008);

(b) The Eight Annual International Insolvency Conference upon invitation of the International Insolvency Institute to discuss the treatment of security interests in intellectual property rights under licence agreements in the case of insolvency (Berlin, 9-10 June 2008); and

(c) The International Conference on Financing Innovation on the occasion of the Fifth Venice Award for Intellectual Property Culture, organized by the European Patent Academy and the Italian Patent and Trademark Office, hosted by the Venice University, to present UNCITRAL’s work on security interests in intellectual property rights (Venice, Italy, 26-28 November 2008).

F. Transport

23. The Secretariat participated in the 39th Conference of the Comité Maritime International to present and promote the draft Convention on Contracts for the

²⁶ See documents A/CN.9/575, paras. 52 and 67, and A/CN.9/615, para. 14.

International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea (Athens, 14-16 October 2008).

24. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Arab Society for Commercial and Maritime Law, the Comité Maritime International and the Institut Méditerranéen Maritime contributed to the organization of the 3rd Arab Conference for Commercial and Maritime Law – “The Rotterdam Rules 2009, Uniformity vs. Diversity of the Law of Carriage of Goods by Sea”. The Conference was devoted to discussing the Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea and, in particular, whether it meets the needs of Arab countries (Alexandria, Egypt, 18-19 April 2009).

G. Insolvency

25. The Secretariat has promoted the use and adoption of insolvency texts, particularly the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, through participation in various international fora. The activities included:

(a) A conference “Secured transactions and insolvency: reforms at a crossroads” jointly organized by the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), UNCITRAL and the World Bank (Washington, 5-6 May 2008) to bring together key stakeholders in the fields of insolvency and secured transactions in an effort to explore some of the critical issues that arise in the convergence of these two areas, to assess current positions on these issues, and identify areas of agreement and future questions and challenges;

(b) The 14th Annual Global Insolvency and Restructuring Conference sponsored by the International Bar Association (IBA), dealing with insolvency law and intellectual property issues, as well as cross-border insolvency practice and issues arising with implementation of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (Stockholm, 19-20 May 2008);

(c) The second Judicial Summer Camp organized by the GRIP 21 initiative for insolvency prevention in cooperation with UNCITRAL, INSOL Europe and the International Insolvency Institute, to discuss current issues in insolvency law, particularly cross-border insolvency. Judges from 15 countries attended the Camp (Paris, 2-4 July 2008);

(d) The Canadian Annual Review of Insolvency Law Conference organized by the National Centre for Business Law, University of British Columbia to present UNCITRAL work on enterprise groups and cross-border insolvency (Banff, Canada, 12-14 February 2009); and

(e) Upon invitation of the Academy of European Law to provide an update on UNCITRAL work on the cross-border treatment of enterprise groups in insolvency in the context of a conference on cross-border insolvency proceedings (Trier, Germany, 25-27 March 2009).

H. Electronic commerce

26. The Secretariat has participated in joint activities with national governments and agencies to promote UNCITRAL legislative texts on electronic commerce, as well as regional activities.

27. At the regional level, this included a High-level Symposium on Building Regional Capacity for Paperless Trade organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to discuss the enabling legal framework for single window and paperless trade environment (Bangkok, 24-25 March 2009).

28. Other activities included:

(a) The 2008 Annual Meeting of the International Distribution Institute (IDI), to make a presentation on the 2005 UN Convention on the Use on Electronic Communications in International Contracts (Turin, Italy, 6-7 June 2008); and

(b) A workshop on cyber legislation organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, and the support of the Spanish government, to present UNCITRAL legislative texts on electronic commerce to officials from CAFTA-DR and GRUCA members States (San Salvador, 23-27 March 2009).

29. *The Secretariat also participated at the “Tercer Taller Internacional de Comercio Electrónico de La Havana” coordinated by the Empresa de Gestión Informática y las Comunicaciones (GESEI) to lecture on UNCITRAL texts on e-commerce and their relevance to developing countries. In the course of the mission, separate meetings with representatives of the judiciary and Government were organized to discuss e-commerce legislation for Cuba and UNCITRAL legislative texts and provide information about the work of the WCO-UNCITRAL Joint Legal Task Force on Coordinated Border Management incorporating the International Single Window (Havana, 9-16 February 2009).

I. Assistance with legislative drafting

30. In the context of a programme carried out by the World Bank-FIAS (The Investment Climate Advisory Service of the World Bank), comments were provided on a study concerning the Acte Uniforme du 17 Avril 1997 portant organisation des sùretés of the Organization for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa (OHADA).

31. Comments were also provided on various draft texts on the topic of arbitration, such as: the draft amendments to the law on arbitration of Mongolia; the draft Federal law on arbitration and the enforcement of arbitration awards of the United Arab Emirates; the draft law on arbitration of Vietnam; the draft law on International Commercial Arbitration Court of Uzbekistan and the draft International Arbitration Bill of Mauritius.

III. Coordination activities

32. In accordance with its mandate,²⁷ the UNCITRAL Secretariat participates in a number of the working groups and meetings of other organizations active in the field of international trade law to facilitate coordination of the work being undertaken.

1. International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit)

33. The Secretariat participated in the following meetings of Unidroit:

- (a) The Governing Council of Unidroit (Rome, 21-23 April 2008);
- (b) The Working Group on the Unidroit Principles to contribute to the redrafting of the principles (Rome, 25-31 May 2008);
- (c) The Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the draft Unidroit Convention on Substantive Rules Regarding Intermediated Securities (Geneva, Switzerland, 8-12 September 2008); and
- (d) The joint session of the Unidroit General Assembly and the Unidroit Committee of Governmental Experts for the finalization and adoption of the draft Model Law on Leasing (Rome, 10-13 November 2008).

2. Hague Conference on Private International Law

34. The Secretariat participated at the following meetings of the Hague Conference:

- (a) Legal Liaison Meeting (The Hague, 14-15 May 2008); and
- (b) The Council on General Affairs and Policy (31 March-2 April 2009).

3. Other organizations

35. Other coordination activities have included participation and, in some cases, presentations on the work of UNCITRAL at the following meetings:

- (a) General
 - (i) The Meeting of Scientific Committees for the Postgraduate and Masters Programmes of the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin, Italy, 16 December 2008);
 - (ii) A conference sponsored by the International Law Association (ILA), British Branch: Does International Law Mean Business? – A Partnership for Progress (London, 15-18 May 2008); and
 - (iii) The annual International Trade Law Post-Graduate Course, upon invitation of the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO) and the University Institute of European Studies, to lecture on the work of UNCITRAL (Turin, Italy, 24-25 March 2009).

²⁷ General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), sect. II, para. 8.

(b) Dispute resolution

(i) A meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Commission on Arbitration to present the UNCITRAL/IBA project on the legislative implementation of the New York Convention and discuss synergy between the project and the ICC Project, which is aimed at preparing a report for use by practitioners on national rules of procedure for recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards (Paris, 23-25 April 2008); and

(ii) The 2009 Arbitration Conference jointly organized by the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (VIAC) and UNCITRAL to present the current work of UNCITRAL Working Group II on the revision of the UNCITRAL arbitral rules and the UNCITRAL/IBA project for an effective implementation and harmonized interpretation of the New York Convention (Vienna, 2-3 April 2009).

(c) Procurement

(i) A Consultation Meeting on Stabilization Clauses and Human Rights organized by the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Business and Human Rights, which also considered issues related to the Legislative Guide on Privately Financed Infrastructure Projects, on the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement and on future work on investment arbitration (London, 22 May 2008);

(ii) The Asia Anti-Corruption Conference, organized by the National Committee of Integrity and Transparency (NCIT) which touched upon issues relating to the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement (Doha, Qatar, 8-11 June 2008); and

(iii) The multi-stakeholder consultation on Stabilization Clauses and Human Rights organized by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises at the University of Pretoria (Pretoria, 21 October 2008).

(d) Secured transactions

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Conference on Intellectual Property Financing to present the Legislative Guide on Security Interests and UNCITRAL's work on security interests in intellectual property rights (Geneva, Switzerland, 10-11 March 2009).

(e) Insolvency

(i) A meeting of the World Bank's Insolvency and Creditors Rights Task Force, Working Group on Insolvency and Non-Bank Financial Institutions to discuss the implications for commercial insolvency regimes of recent insolvencies involving non-bank financial institutions and complex financial arrangements and to help improve the capacity of those regimes to address the legal and policy issues (Washington, 12-13 January 2009);

(ii) The World Bank's Finance and Private Sector Development Forum 2009 to discuss insolvency law reform and the interaction of the work by the World Bank and UNCITRAL (Washington, 25 February 2009); and

(iii) The 10th anniversary conference of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law to participate in a round table with Unidroit, the Hague Conference and the European Union to discuss transnational experience in different areas of private international law; the UNCITRAL topic was insolvency law (Lausanne, Switzerland, 19 March 2009).

(f) Electronic commerce

The first meeting of the WCO-UNCITRAL Joint Legal Task Force on Coordinated Border Management incorporating the International Single Window to study of the legal aspects involved in implementing a cross-border single window facility with a view to formulating a comprehensive international reference document on legal aspects of creating and managing a single window (Brussels, 17-21 November 2008).²⁸

²⁸ At its forty-second session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat (A/CN.9/678) containing an update on the progress of the work of the WCO-UNCITRAL Joint Legal Task Force on Coordinated Border Management incorporating the International Single Window.