



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 May 2021

Original: English

**United Nations Commission on
International Trade Law**
Fifty-fourth session
Vienna, 29 June–16 July 2021

Dissemination of information and related activities to support UNCITRAL's work and the use of its texts, including report on CLOUT and Digests

Note by the Secretariat

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Dissemination of information through UNCITRAL's online and social media presence	3
A. Background	3
B. Expanded materials on UNCITRAL's social media channels and its website	3
C. Capacity-building materials on UNCITRAL's website	4
D. CLOUT and Digests of case law	5
E. Promotion of uniform interpretation of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, 1958	6
F. Extent of use of the UNCITRAL website	7
III. Other outreach activities	7
A. Press releases	7
B. Induction briefings, capacity-building and provision of information on UNCITRAL to member States and other stakeholders	7
C. Publications	8
D. Contribution to periodicals, reports and other writings relevant to the work of UNCITRAL	8
E. Information lectures in Vienna	9
IV. UNCITRAL Law Library	9
V. Overall picture of technical cooperation and assistance activities in the reporting period	9
VI. Planned main activities for the period 1 April 2021 onwards	11



VII.	Resources and funding	12
A.	Trust Fund for UNCITRAL Symposia	13
B.	Trust fund to grant travel assistance to developing countries that are members of UNCITRAL	13
VIII.	Internship programme	13

I. Introduction

1. This Note provides information on Secretariat activities designed to raise awareness of UNCITRAL, its mandate and its texts.¹ The activities were undertaken from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021 (the reporting period).

2. This Note addresses, first, activities undertaken online, and proceeds to consider other outreach activities. It also provides information on the overall picture of the relevant activities, an indication of activities planned for the next reporting period (and, in one case, beyond), resource needs for the activities, and the functioning of UNCITRAL's internship programme.

3. These activities complement Secretariat work to support the adoption, use and uniform interpretation of UNCITRAL texts reported to the Commission in the following Notes by the Secretariat: "Technical Cooperation and Assistance", [A/CN.9/1058](#); UNCITRAL regional presence – Activities of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, [A/CN.9/1057](#); and Status of conventions, model laws and operation of the Transparency Registry [A/CN.9/1056](#).

II. Dissemination of information through UNCITRAL's online and social media presence

A. Background

4. At its fiftieth session in 2017, the Commission called on the Secretariat to be innovative in its approach to dissemination of information concerning UNCITRAL texts.² In response, the Secretariat has developed and implemented additional tools to provide information on UNCITRAL's mandate, activities and texts. COVID-19 measures, and their likely continuation for the foreseeable future, have continued to alter the mode of delivery of many supporting activities. These two circumstances have required a more active online presence.

5. In addition, the Secretariat has concluded that providing a comprehensive range of materials on UNCITRAL's website and through social media will be a vital channel to complement its participation in events and engagement in other activities reported to the Commission, even when measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic may no longer be in place.

B. Expanded materials on UNCITRAL's social media channels and its website³

6. During the reporting period, the Secretariat has issued and posted video materials and podcasts to explain implementation issues, common issues of

¹ The activities have the same overall objective as the Secretariat's technical cooperation and assistance activities described in Technical cooperation and assistance, [A/CN.9/1058](#), para. 3, but are generally addressed to a wide audience and users of the UNCITRAL website and social media platforms, and/or cover multiple areas and facets of UNCITRAL's mandate and activities.

² Also noting that the dissemination of information concerning international trade law was one of the mandated functions of UNCITRAL and envisaged as a permanent aspect of the work of the Commission. See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 17*, Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Fiftieth session, 2017, [A/72/17](#), paras. 435–436.

³ [uncitral.un.org](https://www.uncitral.un.org). For a recent description of the website and its modernization in 2018, see Technical cooperation and assistance, [A/CN.9/980/Rev.1](#), paras. 52–54.

interpretation and UNCITRAL practice guidelines for government officials, judges and legal practitioners.⁴

7. The Secretariat has also made available additional information on its website for those with a more general interest in UNCITRAL. This information is intended primarily to explain why UNCITRAL engages in reform of international trade law, and to provide a short introduction to each UNCITRAL subject area or UNCITRAL text and the main policy considerations and provisions reflected in them. An expanded webpage explains the technical assistance and capacity-building support available from the Secretariat and how to access it.⁵

8. The Secretariat has made greater use of UNCITRAL's social media channels as a means of raising awareness since the last session. The number of subscribers and views of social media channels increased substantially since that session. YouTube has been used as a platform for disseminating recordings of events, activities and the work of UNCITRAL, including the Virtual Panel Series: UNCITRAL Texts and COVID-19 Response and Recovery, held during the Commission's fifty-fourth session, and a series of lectures CISG@40: Lectures on Transnational Commercial Law, which were recorded as part of the ongoing CISG@40 celebrations. During the reporting period, 19 new videos were posted, which garnered 15,704 views. The YouTube channel subscribers increased from 140 to 580 during the reporting period.

9. UNCITRAL also maintains LinkedIn, Facebook, Soundcloud and Twitter social media accounts. UNCITRAL's LinkedIn account now has 27,000 followers, an increase of almost 10,000 from the previous reporting period. UNCITRAL also has a Facebook account with more than 3,370 followers. The Secretariat has continued to add short audio podcasts and other audio to its Soundcloud account, including a podcast on the Transparency Registry, part of the Transparency Standards podcast series. In the current reporting period, there were 1,010 plays of content on Soundcloud. The Secretary of UNCITRAL has a Twitter account to disseminate information about events and the work of UNCITRAL. The Twitter account has approximately 599 followers and generates numerous retweets.

10. These social media channels are accessible from the UNCITRAL website, and the Secretariat has continued to post information about UNCITRAL-related events and activities on the various channels, which offer an entry point into the Commission's work and have generated significant interest, as noted in the preceding paragraphs. Consequently, the Secretariat will continue build up its presence in these media in order to generate information and content during the next reporting period.

C. Capacity-building materials on UNCITRAL's website

11. As previously reported,⁶ the Secretariat has issued the first self-paced Modules of an e-learning programme entitled "Introduction to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law". Their production was accelerated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent travel restrictions, with the backing of the Government of China (including financial support),⁷ and of the International Labour Organization's International Training Centre as organizational partner. As tools to raise awareness and effective understanding of UNCITRAL and its work, they are primarily aimed at representatives of permanent missions, prospective UNCITRAL delegates, and government officials dealing with UNCITRAL matters and others who may request technical assistance and capacity-building support from the Secretariat, whom the Secretariat could otherwise not reach in current circumstances. Available

⁴ For background information on the development of these approaches, see *Dissemination of information and related activities to support UNCITRAL's work and the use of its texts*, A/CN.9/1033, para. 27.

⁵ See <https://uncitral.un.org/en/content/technical-assistance-and-coordination>.

⁶ See *Technical Cooperation and Assistance*, A/CN.9/1032, paras. 21–26.

⁷ The backing and support were provided under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Commerce of China, concluded on 7 August 2019.

through the UNCITRAL website, they will also provide durable tools for participants in technical cooperation and assistance activities, and for technical contributors and researchers and practitioners with a general interest in UNCITRAL.

12. The e-learning programme is intended to be complemented by subsequent in-depth capacity-building activities (conducted either in-person or also in online format). Consequently, the online component is designed to ensure that the participants in follow-on activities have a broadly similar level of understanding of the issues under discussion. For this reason, participants need to register to complete the e-learning programme, and will receive a certificate of completion.

13. The initial series of e-learning comprises three Modules, as follows:

(a) Module 1 introduces international trade law in the UNCITRAL context, explaining international trade law reform and its relevance for economic development. It outlines key obstacles that commercial entities face in trading across borders and how harmonized legal standards can address them;

(b) Module 2 discusses UNCITRAL, its organization and methods of work and how States and delegates may prepare for meetings of UNCITRAL and its Working Groups;

(c) Module 3 focuses on how trade law reform based on UNCITRAL texts can support the Sustainable Development Goals, and how the UNCITRAL Secretariat supports States in adoption and use of UNCITRAL texts through its technical cooperation and assistance activities.

14. These materials are accessible through the homepage of the UNCITRAL website, though hosted by another agency.⁸ They will be supplemented by a Glossary of relevant terms and a second series of Modules, which are expected to be released the next reporting period, covering UNCITRAL texts in dispute settlement, public-private partnerships and e-commerce, among others.

15. The considerable successes of UNCITRAL's Asia Pacific and Latin American Days have generated significant interest from a younger demographic, including among students and early practitioners.⁹ To include the preferences of that demographic as well as more traditional written content, during the next reporting period the Secretariat will build on its social media and website presence for capacity-building purposes, and will also reflect the expanded information available on Working Group pages in the technical cooperation and assistance area of the UNCITRAL website.

D. CLOUT and Digests of case law

1. CLOUT¹⁰

16. At 31 March 2021, 202 issues of CLOUT had been published, dealing with 1,857 cases from 72 jurisdictions.¹¹

⁸ The Modules are currently available in English and the production of other language versions, starting with Chinese, is in progress.

⁹ The UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day Report 2020 and the UNCITRAL LAC Day Report 2020 are available at https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/en/apdayreport_2020.pdf, https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/en/lacdayreport_2020.pdf and https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/es/lacdayreport_2020.pdf respectively.

¹⁰ For background information on the Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (CLOUT) system, see Publications to promote a uniform interpretation and application of UNCITRAL texts (CLOUT and digests) and support their implementation and enactment, A/CN.9/1017, paras. 1–6.

¹¹ During the reporting period, a case from Uruguay has been published for the first time in CLOUT.

17. The cases published in the reporting period relate to the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention) (eight cases), the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (11 cases), the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, 1980 (CISG) (21 cases), the Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods (two cases), the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (eight cases), the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce (one case), the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts (two cases) and the United Nations Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Sea (Hamburg Rules) (three cases). The distribution of cases by areas of work of UNCITRAL follows an established pattern (A/CN.9/1017, para. 7).

18. Similarly, with respect to the geographic origin of reported cases, most abstracts published in the reporting period continue to originate from jurisdictions located in the Western European and other States Group (see A/CN.9/1017, para. 14). However, in that respect it should also be noted that several cases published during the reporting period originated from India and have been prepared by CLOUT National Correspondents. Efforts have also been made to increase the coverage of cases originating from arbitral institutions.

19. The total number of reported cases has decreased due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also prevented the finalisation of several projects implementing the envisaged measures for the rejuvenation and expansion of CLOUT (A/CN.9/1017, paras. 15–29). Although the restrictions imposed by measures to address the Covid-19 pandemic prevented holding the annual meeting of CLOUT correspondents, work on establishing CLOUT partnerships is ongoing with a view to providing better coverage of less represented jurisdictions and areas of work of UNCITRAL.

2. Digest of case law and additional capacity-building materials related to UNCITRAL's insolvency texts

20. At its fifty-third session (6–17 July 2020 and 14–18 September 2020), the Commission approved preparation of and publication by the Secretariat of materials related to existing insolvency texts, in particular: (a) a digest of case law on the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (MLCBI); (b) an update of the MLCBI Judicial Perspective; and (c) on the enactment of the UNCITRAL Model Laws on cross-border insolvency, on recognition and enforcement of insolvency-related judgments, and on enterprise group insolvency.¹²

21. Preparation of the Digest of Case Law on the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency was completed by the end of 2020, and the English text is available on the UNCITRAL website¹³ as an advance copy. Other language versions of the text will be published online as they are completed.

22. Preparation of the guidance note on the enactment of the three UNCITRAL Model Laws on insolvency is being finalized and its publication is expected by the end of the 2021. Finally, the update of the MLCBI Judicial Perspective is progressing, and is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2021, with publication as soon as practicable thereafter, Secretariat resources permitting.

¹² Ibid., *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/75/17)*, paras. 20, 59, 61 and 63. See also, *ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, paras. 222 (b) and 250. and *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/67/17)*, para. 156.

¹³ At https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/en/20-06293_uncitral_mlcbi_digest_e.pdf.

E. Promotion of uniform interpretation of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, 1958 (New York Convention)

23. The Secretariat has continued its coordination of materials published on the Convention Guide Web Platform (available at www.newyorkconvention1958.org) and the CLOUT database, though the extent of cooperation was limited by the COVID-19 pandemic and measures taken to address it. The Convention Guide Web Platform continues to increase the volume of case law published on the application of the Convention and to add information about the jurisdictions that have adopted the Convention.¹⁴

F. Extent of use of the UNCITRAL website

24. The Secretariat continues to receive regular questions on and requests for information relating to UNCITRAL's activities presented on its website. These queries come in all six United Nations official languages, reflecting the website's significance as a multilingual source of international trade law. Once the Organization's Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) has made statistics or a statistic gathering tool available for uncitral.un.org, statistics on the use of the UNCITRAL website (which generates those queries) will be made available to the Commission.

III. Other outreach activities

A. Press releases¹⁵

25. The Secretariat issued 19 press releases in the period from May 2020 to May 2021, to mark treaty actions relating to UNCITRAL, when advised of the adoption of an UNCITRAL model law or other relevant text, and to communicate other information of particular importance and direct relevance to UNCITRAL. The Commission may wish to repeat its regular request to States to advise the Secretariat when enacting legislation implementing an UNCITRAL model law or other relevant text.

B. Induction briefings, capacity-building sessions and provision of information on UNCITRAL to member States and other stakeholders

26. The Secretariat has continued its induction briefings for member States and other stakeholders,¹⁶ and has also provided a series of capacity-building information sessions on selected UNCITRAL texts and/or subject-areas. These capacity-building sessions cover the legal obstacles and law reform needs that UNCITRAL texts in the areas concerned are designed to address, relevant Sustainable Development Goals,

¹⁴ For a fuller description of the scope and content of the Platform, see Publications to promote a uniform interpretation and application of UNCITRAL texts (CLOUT and digests) and support their implementation and enactment, A/CN.9/1017, paras 41–46.

¹⁵ A description of the Secretariat's approach to the issue of press releases is found in Technical cooperation and assistance, A/CN.9/980/Rev.1, paras. 64–65.

¹⁶ As reported to the Commission in 2020, induction briefings cover the legal and policy issues in the topics currently before the Commission and its working groups; the importance of wide and informed participation in its work; UNCITRAL's working methods; and Secretariat activities to support both legislative development in UNCITRAL and the adoption and use of its texts. See Dissemination of information and related activities to support UNCITRAL's work and the use of its texts, A/CN.9/1033, Section G.

the main issues and policy approaches reflected in the texts, and other appropriate contextual information.

27. The Secretariat has provided capacity-building sessions for the following States:

(a) Turkmenistan, addressing UNCITRAL and commercial law reform and focussing on commercial dispute resolution, international sale of goods and e-commerce (Ashgabat/Vienna, 9 June 2020);

(b) Zimbabwe, introducing UNCITRAL's mandate, working methods, texts and tools to support their effective adoption, use and uniform interpretation (2 November 2020); and

(c) Pakistan, addressing "Evolving Healthy Digital Trade Environments with Specific focus on Design and Implementation of Identity Management and Trust Services Rules" and "Economic future of MSMEs post Covid-19: Measures that can enhance Entrepreneurial scopes and opportunities for MSMEs under evolving global patterns" respectively (Islamabad/Vienna, 18 February and 18 March 2021). For details of a proposed third information session, see paragraph 41(b) below.

28. The Secretariat has held several consultations on procedural matters with States during the reporting period (Vienna and online, 28 May, 6 July, 29 July, 19 August, 2 September and 1 December 2020).

C. Publications¹⁷

29. The following publications were released, primarily in electronic form in the reporting period:

(a) Legal Guide to Uniform Instruments in the Area of International Commercial Contracts, with a Focus on Sales, prepared jointly with HCCH and Unidroit; and

(b) Digest of Case Law on the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (see, further, paragraph 20 above).

D. Contribution to periodicals, reports and other writings relevant to the work of UNCITRAL

30. During the reporting period, the Secretariat has contributed to the following writings relevant to the work of UNCITRAL:

(a) On the work of UNCITRAL on measures to prevent and combat corruption and on international cooperation in this area, in a contribution to the preparatory process for the Special session of the General Assembly against corruption (to be held on 2–4 June 2021);¹⁸

(b) On the UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement, to a forthcoming book "Public Procurement in (a) Crisis, Global Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic", and to a forthcoming Guidebook on Setting-up and Operating Framework Agreements in public procurement, by the World Bank;

(c) On the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on PPPs, to a Report entitled "Benchmarking Infrastructure PPPs 2021" and "Traditional Public Investments", issued by the World Bank;¹⁹

(d) On the UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement and the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on PPPs, an article entitled "Harmonization of

¹⁷ A description of the publications issued by the Secretariat, including UNCITRAL texts and its *Yearbook*, is found in Technical cooperation and assistance, A/CN.9/980/Rev.1, paras. 61–63.

¹⁸ For further details, see Coordination Activities, A/CN.9/1069, para. 23.

¹⁹ Available at <https://bpp.worldbank.org/>.

approaches between Public-Private Partnerships and Public Procurement: The New UNCITRAL texts on Public-Private Partnerships”, for the Public Procurement Law Review, Issue 1, 2021;

(e) On the UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement and the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on PPPs, to a “Guide to Addressing Corruption and Fraud in International Infrastructure Projects”, to be issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;²⁰ and

(f) On the Singapore Convention and the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Mediation and International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, an article entitled “The Making of the UNCITRAL Mediation Framework”, in the forthcoming edition of the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution International Arbitration Review;

(g) On the contribution of UNCITRAL to the HCCH Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts in the book “Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts”; and

(h) On the UNCITRAL Commission session, an article entitled “News from the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL): the work of the fifty-third Commission session”, for the Uniform Law Review, Issue 1, 2021.

E. Information lectures in Vienna

31. The Secretariat regularly provides information lectures to visitors to the Vienna International Centre.²¹ As a result of, the COVID-19 restrictions, no such lectures were offered during this reporting period.

IV. UNCITRAL Law Library²²

32. In reporting period, Library staff responded to approximately 550 reference requests, originating from over 40 countries. COVID-19 pandemic measures meant that there were no visitors to the UNCITRAL Law Library. While there were no Library visitors, individuals from 34 countries enquired about the possibility of visiting the Library.

33. The Library continues to maintain its online public access catalogue (OPAC) jointly with the other United Nations libraries in Vienna.

34. The “Bibliography of recent writings related to the work of UNCITRAL” is available to the Commission ([A/CN.9/1055](#)), and monthly updates from the date of the latest annual bibliography and a consolidated bibliography remain available on the UNCITRAL website. As at the date of submission of this Note, the consolidated Bibliography contains 11,121 entries, reproduced in English and in the original language versions.

35. In 2020, a donation was received from the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators (Journal of Arbitration, other publications). Book donations were received from Beck, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Cambridge University Press, Edward Elgar, Hart Publishing, LexisNexis Canada, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Schulthess, Springer, Thomson Reuters, Verlag Österreich and Wolters Kluwer.

V. Overall picture of awareness-raising, technical cooperation and assistance activities in the reporting period

²⁰ For further details, see Coordination Activities, [A/CN.9/1069](#), para. 23.

²¹ A description of such lectures is found in Technical cooperation and assistance, [A/CN.9/980/Rev.1](#), para. 67.

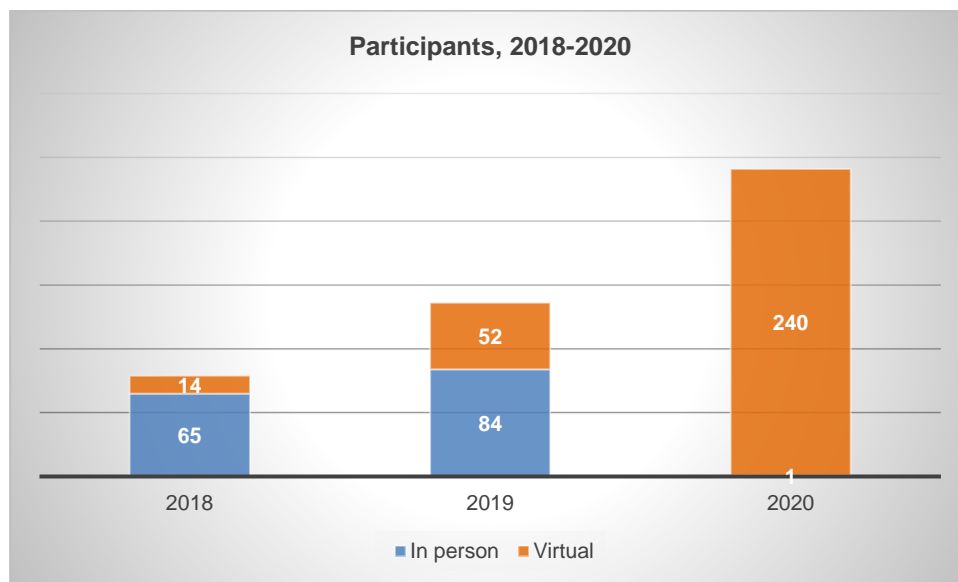
²² A general description of the Library and its functions is found *ibid.*, paras. 55–60.

36. Demand for awareness-raising, technical cooperation and assistance activities has continued to grow during the reporting period,²³ despite the COVID-19 pandemic. During the reporting period, the Secretariat in Vienna and the Regional Centre carried out over 180 activities, representing an increase of approximately 62 per cent compared with the previous reporting period.

37. As reported to the Commission in another Note,²⁴ the Secretariat prioritizes delivery of these activities through partnerships and joint initiatives. The activities delivered through these collaborative initiatives during the reporting period represented approximately 45 per cent of all activities undertaken.

38. Measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impede the historically predominant in-person mode of delivery of such activities. However, the resulting move to online delivery has increased the Secretariat's ability to reach audiences for awareness-raising purposes, as the following graph indicates:

Secretariat awareness-raising – numbers of participants, 2018-2020



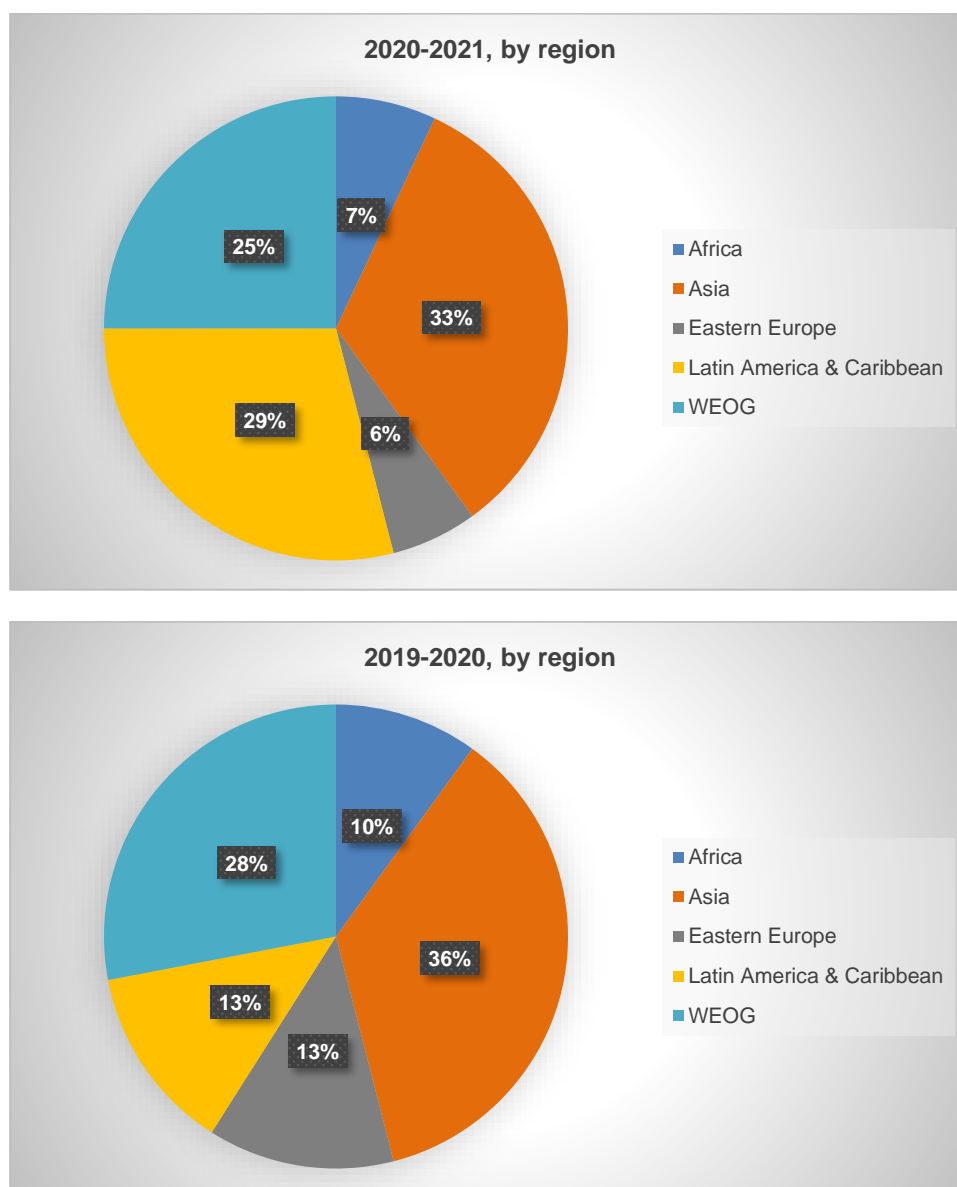
39. Demand in the reporting period for awareness-raising, technical assistance and capacity-building activities was fairly evenly-distributed over UNCITRAL subject-areas. The historical pattern that there are relatively more requests regarding more recently-adopted UNCITRAL texts continued, in this reporting period indicating the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation and the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records. The impact of COVID-19 measures appears to have generated relatively more requests for activities to support awareness of, to promote effective understanding of and to build capacity to use UNCITRAL texts than for legislative advice and assistance.

40. The geographical reach of these activities has expanded considerably during the reporting period. While all regions have seen an increase in UNCITRAL-related activities, the increase in Latin America and the Caribbean is particularly significant, as the following charts indicate.

²³ Technical cooperation and assistance, [A/CN.9/1058](#), para. 3.

²⁴ Ibid.

Secretariat technical cooperation and assistance activities (TCA Activities) by region, 1 April 2019–31 March 2021



VI. Planned main activities for the period 1 April 2021 onwards

41. The following main activities, some of which will be undertaken through the Regional Centre, are planned for the reporting period commencing 1 April 2021:

(a) Regional meeting on e-commerce in the context of the potential adoption of a Uniform Act on electronic transactions by OHADA and exploratory work of UNCITRAL on digital economy, co-hosted by OHADA and the OIF (Yaoundé, online, 11 May 2021);

(b) Third Pakistan information session, on “Bilateral investment treaties with reference to investor-state dispute settlement” (tentatively, May/June 2021);

(c) Launch of second phase of the EBRD-UNCITRAL Initiative (London, 15 May 2021);

(d) Fourteenth Multinational Judicial Colloquium on Insolvency, co-organized with INSOL-UNCITRAL-World Bank Group (location to be confirmed, tentatively June 2021);

(e) Incheon Law & Business Forum, co-hosted with Incheon City and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea (Incheon, Republic of Korea, early September 2021);

(f) UNCITRAL Singapore Academy, co-organized with the Ministry of Law, Singapore and an ICSID-UNCITRAL Capacity-Building Workshop on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (Singapore/online, 7–8 September 2021);

(g) Eighth Annual Meeting of International Organisations' Partnership for Effective International Rule-Making (Vienna/online, 13–14 September 2021);

(h) Series of events in conjunction with the fortieth anniversary of the CISG (online in various locations, and in Hong Kong, China, 27 October 2021);

(i) UNCITRAL Special Session, co-hosted with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and supported by the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board ("KCAB") International (Seoul, 4–5 November 2021);

(j) UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit, co-hosted with the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, China and the Asian Academy of International Law (Seoul, early November 2021);

(k) 10th Asia Pacific ADR conference, co-hosted with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea, KCAB International, the Seoul International Dispute Resolution Centre, the International Chamber of Commerce International Court of Arbitration, and other partners (Seoul, 4-5 November 2021);

(l) UNCITRAL Asia-Pacific Day 2021 with partner universities and institutions in the region (September-December 2021); and

(m) UNCITRAL LAC Day 2021, with partner universities and institutions in the region (November-December 2021).

42. These and other activities will be reported to the Commission in due course.

VII. Resources and funding

43. Activities to support the adoption, use and uniform interpretation of UNCITRAL texts are resource-intensive, and meeting the demand for them exceeds the financial and human resources available through the Organization's Regular Budget. This lack of funding requires the Secretariat to raise extrabudgetary funds and secure additional financial and human resources to provide for the delivery of support activities.²⁵

44. The funds raised take various forms: in-kind contributions to support and fund travel for awareness-raising, technical assistance and capacity-building purposes; contributions to UNCITRAL Trust Funds; States' provision of Junior Professional Officers to support Secretariat staff (while expanding their own knowledge of international trade law) and voluntary contributions to fund the continued operation of the transparency repository as a key mechanism for promoting the UNCITRAL Transparency Standards (The United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (New York 2014), the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (effective date: 1 April 2014) and the Transparency Registry). As reported to the Commission in another Note,²⁶ the European Commission, the OPEC Fund for International development and BMZ have continued their support for the Transparency Registry, with a view to promoting the UNCITRAL Transparency Standards and thereby good governance, focusing in particular on African States.

²⁵ For a discussion of the need for such funding, and approaches to secure it, see Technical cooperation and assistance, [A/CN.9/980/Rev.1](#), paras. 74–87.

²⁶ See Status of conventions, model laws and operation of the Transparency Registry [A/CN.9/1056](#).

45. The Secretariat seeks to maximize efficiency in the delivery of its awareness-raising, technical assistance and capacity-building activities, but despite these efforts and active fund-raising by the Secretariat, the balances in UNCITRAL's Trust Funds remain insufficient to meet the anticipated demand for these activities once COVID-19 travel restrictions start to be lifted and in-person events can resume. In addition, the Secretariat's efforts to enhance UNCITRAL's online presence, as described above, have also generated additional costs and the need to upgrade delivery tools, all of which have required and will continue to require the acquisition of additional competencies and additional financial resources.

46. The Commission may therefore wish to renew its regular appeals for extrabudgetary funding,²⁷ in particular for multi-year and specific-purpose contributions that would enable effective strategic planning and would enhance the Secretariat's ability to meet the increasing demand for technical assistance and capacity-building on the use of UNCITRAL texts, particularly requests from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

A. Trust Fund for UNCITRAL Symposia²⁸

47. The UNCITRAL Trust Fund for Symposia finances the participation of UNCITRAL staff or other experts at seminars and other events that consider commercial law reform needs and the adoption and use of relevant UNCITRAL texts. Its objective is to support members of the legal community in developing countries.

48. The released budget for 2020 for the Trust Fund for UNCITRAL Symposia amounted to US\$ 259,456 and the total expenditure in 2020 was US\$ 111,136.

49. During the year from July 2020 to date, the following additional funds were received:

(a) US\$ 200,000 from the Government of China under a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations;²⁹

(b) US\$ 20,000 from the Government of Indonesia;

(c) US\$ 500,000 from the Government of Saudi Arabia under a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations;

(d) US\$ 22,795 from the Government of the Republic of Korea;³⁰

(e) US\$ 445,455 under a grant agreement with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) by appointment of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for strengthening the role of developing and least developed States in the ISDS reform; and

(f) US\$ 178,200 under a grant agreement with the Government of France to support research on investor-State dispute settlement reform (ISDS).

²⁷ See, for example, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17, A/74/17*, para. 260.

²⁸ For a fuller description and history, see Dissemination of information and related activities to support UNCITRAL's work and the use of its texts, [A/CN.9/1033](#), paras. 40–42.

²⁹ Further details of the partnership with China are set out in Technical cooperation and assistance, [A/CN.9/1058](#), paras. 9–10.

³⁰ To support Secretariat participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Project (see Technical cooperation and assistance, [A/CN.9/1058](#), para. 20).

B. Trust fund to grant travel assistance to developing countries that are members of UNCITRAL³¹

50. A further trust fund to grant travel assistance to developing countries that are members of UNCITRAL is open to voluntary financial contributions from States, intergovernmental organizations, regional economic integration organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as to natural and juridical persons.

51. During the year from July 2020 to date, the following additional funds were received:

- (a) US\$ 1,213 from the Government of Austria; and
- (b) US\$ 23,290 from the Government of France.

VIII. Internship programme³²

52. During the current reporting cycle, 30 interns undertook an internship with the UNCITRAL Secretariat in Vienna, and a total of 14 interns took up remote internships in the Regional Centre during the same period. Following measures taken to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, internships were postponed or cancelled or undertaken remotely as from March 2020.

53. The internship programme's demographic pattern continues as previously reported, with an under-representation of candidates from African and Latin American States, and of candidates with fluent Arabic language skills. The Commission may wish to repeat its earlier calls for States and observer organizations to raise awareness of UNCITRAL's internship programme, and for States and observer organizations to consider granting scholarships to support those most qualified for an internship at UNCITRAL, particularly from under-represented regions.³³

³¹ For a fuller description and history of the Fund, see Dissemination of information and related activities to support UNCITRAL's work and the use of its texts [A/CN.9/1033](#), paras. 43–44.

³² Further details of the programme are set out in Technical cooperation and assistance, [A/CN.9/980/Rev.1](#), paras. 88–93.

³³ See, for example, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/74/17)*, annex II, para. 260.