



General Assembly

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**United Nations Commission on
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**Decision adopted by States members of UNCITRAL in
December 2020 concerning working group sessions in
accordance with the procedure for taking decisions of
UNCITRAL during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
pandemic**

Note by the Secretariat

In an annex to this note, the secretariat transmits to the Commission the decision adopted by States members of UNCITRAL on 9 December 2020 on the dates and place as well as the arrangements for the sessions of UNCITRAL working groups in the first half of 2021 during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Commission may wish to take note of this decision at its first plenary meeting during the fifty-fourth session.



Annex

Decision on the dates and place as well as the arrangements for the sessions of UNCITRAL working groups in the first half of 2021 during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

On the proposal of the Chair of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) at its fifty-third session upon consultation with all States members of UNCITRAL on 1 December 2020, States members of UNCITRAL adopted the following decision on 9 December 2020:

“States members of UNCITRAL,

“Recalling the Commission’s decision on the format, officers and methods of work of the UNCITRAL working groups during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic adopted on 19 August 2020,¹

“Recalling also the Commission’s decision on the dates and place of the sessions of Working Groups to be held in New York in the first half of 2021,²

“Noting the impact of prevailing travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic on the participation of delegations at the working group sessions,

“Bearing in mind the importance of advancing work of all working groups to the extent possible in light of the relevance and importance of that work, including for the COVID-19 response and recovery,

“Generally satisfied with the arrangements made by the Secretariat, which are temporary and exceptional in nature, to allow delegations to participate in person or remotely at the working group sessions held in the second half of 2020, including the choice of meeting hours that took into account the participation of delegations from various time zones,

“Recalling the methods of work of the Commission and its working groups as summarized in annex III to the report of the forty-third session of UNCITRAL³ and in document [A/CN.9/638](#), in particular paragraphs 27 to 32,⁴

“Stressing the need to preserve transparency, inclusiveness, flexibility, effectiveness and equality in carrying out the work of the working groups.

Decide:

“1. The decision on the format, officers and methods of work of the UNCITRAL working groups during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic⁵ adopted on 19 August 2020 shall be extended to all sessions of the working groups in the first half of 2021.

¹ [A/CN.9/1038](#), Annex I.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No.17 (A/75/17)*, part two, para. 101.

³ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No.17 (A/65/17)*.

⁴ Available at <https://uncitral.un.org/en/about/methods/officialdocs>.

⁵ [A/CN.9/1038](#), annex I.

“2. The new dates and place of Working Groups I, II and III during the first half of 2021 shall be as follows:

Working Group I (Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) Thirty-fifth session	25–29 January 2021 (Vienna, in-person and online)
Working Group II (Dispute Settlement) Seventy-third session	22–26 March 2021 (New York, in-person and online)
Working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform) Fortieth session	8–12 February 2021* (Vienna, in-person and online)

* Possibly one or two additional days in Vienna in May 2021 for consideration of the workplan and resourcing plan – to be arranged by the Secretariat on an “as available” basis of UNOV Conference Management Services and within existing resources.

“3. The dates and place of Working Groups IV, V and VI scheduled to be held during the first half of 2021 shall remain unchanged.”
