



G-77 Plenary Meeting on UNCITRAL matters

**Remarks Points by H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Chairperson of the G-77,
during the briefing by Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCITRAL**

Vienna, 5th May 2023

Excellencies, colleagues,

Thank you for devoting some of your most valuable time to join us this morning for this important briefing by the Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in preparation for the upcoming 56th session of UNCITRAL, which will once again take place here in Vienna from the 3rd to the 21st of July.

Before anything else, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCITRAL, for continuing the initiative to address the Member States of the G77 to interact with your Excellencies to enlighten us about the main topics on the agenda of the 56th Commission session of UNCITRAL and its future work.

In my capacity as the Chair of the Group of 77, it is my firm belief that productive dialogue and close interaction between the Group and the Vienna-based Organizations are key components for ensuring that the channels of communication remain open and information flows uninterrupted between all stakeholders. This way, we will be able to address vital issues as expeditiously as possible.

Mme Secretary,

Before giving you the floor, let me just share with you the main priorities and the position of G-77 regarding the upcoming session of the Commission.

Firstly, the Group underlines that the 56th session is going to carry on with the work undertaken during the 55th session and particularly looks forward to the updates concerning Working Group I (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), Working Group II (Dispute settlement) and Working Group III (Investor State Dispute Settlement).

The Group takes note with satisfaction of the progress made in UNCITRAL's work during the 55th session, particularly with respect to the adoption of the model law on identity management and trust services under Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce).

The Group likewise appreciates the conclusion of the work of Working Group VI and the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships, and we look forward to the opening for signature in Beijing this year.

In view of the foregoing, the Group acknowledges the good work being done by the Secretariat and urges Member States to support the Secretariat on the tasks assigned to it by the Commission, especially on the new work of WG IV on artificial intelligence and the new mandate of WG VI on Negotiable Multimodal Transport Documents.

The Group likewise looks forward to the discussion during the Colloquium on Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience (as mandated by Commission Resolution A/77/17, para. 216).

The Group recalls the successful launch of the UNCITRAL days in Africa in Accra, Ghana and the continuation of the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day and UNCITRAL Latin America and Caribbean Day in 2022. We look forward to more of these initiatives that provide a platform for the sharing of ideas and also foster the inclusion of participants in the Work of the Commission whilst generating interest among academics, students and practitioners worldwide.

The Secretary of UNCITRAL will elaborate more on these, including the main topic of the upcoming session of UNCITRAL and methods of work, and share updates on their implementation. I am confident that this briefing will enhance the Group's collective understating of the Commission's work, as well as the challenges that lie ahead.

As I close my opening statement, may I now invite Madam Anna Joubin-Bret to make her presentation and then open the floor for comments and questions.

Thank you.