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**United Nations Commission on  
International Trade Law**  
**Fifty-ninth session**  
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## **Work programme of the Commission**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

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## I. Introduction

1. At its forty-sixth session, in 2013, the Commission agreed that it should reserve time for discussion of its future work as a separate agenda item at each Commission session.<sup>1</sup> This note by the secretariat is intended to facilitate that discussion, which is currently agenda item 8 (Work programme of the Commission) in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session (A/CN.9/1235).

2. Chapter II describes the current legislative activities undertaken by the Commission and its working groups, including any related exploratory and preparatory work. Chapter III lists other exploratory and preparatory work undertaken by the secretariat and additional proposals for future work. Lastly, chapter IV lists supporting activities planned until the sixtieth session of the Commission, in 2027.

## II. Legislative activities

3. Table 1 on the following pages provides an overview of the current legislative work by the Commission and its working groups as well as related exploratory or preparatory work being undertaken by the UNCITRAL secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/68/17)*, paras. 305 and 310. When setting UNCITRAL's work programme for the forthcoming period, the Commission may also wish to recall that it had agreed that it would normally plan for the period to the next Commission session, but that some longer-term indicative planning (for a three-to-five-year period) may also be appropriate.

Table 1  
Current legislative work

	<i>Consideration by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session</i>	<i>Work by the Working Group</i>	<i>Exploratory or preparatory work currently undertaken by the secretariat</i>
Working Group II (Dispute settlement)	<p>* Recommendation regarding the interpretation of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, done in New York, 10 June 1958, with respect to arbitral awards in electronic form</p> <p>* Amendments to the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration &amp; revisions to the Explanatory Note thereto</p> <p>* Additional note on form of awards to the UNCITRAL Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings</p> <p>(all of the above contained as annex to A/CN.9/1237)</p>	<p>At its fifty-seventh session, in 2024, the Commission mandated Working Group II to work on the recognition and enforcement of electronic arbitral awards and, subsequently, on electronic notices (A/79/17, para. 285). The Commission is expected to take note of progress made by the Working Group at its eighty-second and eighty-third sessions, including with regard to dispute resolution in the digital economy (DRDE) (A/CN.9/1236 and A/CN.9/1237).</p>	<p>At its fifty-eighth session in 2025, the Commission requested the secretariat to continue its exploratory work related to DRDE, in particular: (a) the use of AI in dispute resolution; (b) platform-based dispute resolution; and (c) remote hearings in arbitration and the conduct of mediation. The Commission also requested that a questionnaire be circulated for input by States and that a colloquium be held on topics (a) and (c) (A/80/17, paras. 22(b) and 237). This work is summarized in A/CN.9/1271 and A/CN.9/1272, as well as in chapter V of A/CN.9/1237. See also DRDE in Table 2 below.</p>
Working Group III (Investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) reform)	<p>* Supplementary provisions on the conduct of proceedings to resolve international investment disputes (A/CN.9/1246)</p> <p>* Statute of the Advisory Centre on International Investment Dispute Resolution (A/CN.9/1265, chap. IX)</p>	<p>At its fiftieth session, in 2017, the Commission mandated Working Group III to work on the possible reform of ISDS (A/72/17, para. 264). The Working Group has been developing draft provisions on procedural and cross-cutting issues and, at its fifty-third session in January 2026, it decided to finalize the draft provisions addressing the conduct of the proceedings and present them to the Commission (A/CN.9/1238 and A/CN.9/1239).</p> <p>At its fifty-seventh session, in 2024, the Commission adopted the Statute in principle and agreed to an informal process to operationalize the Advisory Centre (A/79/17, paras. 167, 157-166). The outcomes of the third operationalization meeting, held in Paris in December 2025, is before the Commission (A/CN.9/1265). Other issues relating to operationalization are contained in A/CN.9/1266.</p>	

Working Group IV  
(Electronic commerce)

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At its fifty-fifth session, in 2022, the Commission mandated Working Group IV to proceed with work on data provision contracts (A/77/17, paras. 22(d) and 163).  
Until its sixty-seventh session in November 2024, the Working Group considered the topic in tandem with the topic of the use of artificial intelligence and automation in contracting, which resulted in the UNCITRAL Model Law on Automated Contracting. Since its sixty-eighth session, the Working Group has focused solely on the topic of data provision contracts. The Commission is expected to take note of progress made by the Working Group at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions (A/CN.9/1240 and A/CN.9/1241).

The secretariat has carried out exploratory or preparatory work on the following topics, all of which have e-commerce components: (a) consolidation and compilation of UNCITRAL texts on electronic aspects (A/CN.9/1263); (b) paperless trade (A/CN.9/1264); (c) digital platforms (A/CN.9/1259); (d) digital payments (A/CN.9/1262) and (e) decentralized autonomous organizations (A/CN.9/1248).  
See Table 2 below.

Working Group V  
(Insolvency law)

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At its fifty-fourth session, in 2021, the Commission referred the topic of applicable law in insolvency proceedings to Working Group V (A/76/17, paras. 215–217).  
The Commission is expected to take note of progress made by the Working Group at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions (A/CN.9/1243 and A/CN.9/1244).

Upon the Commission's request in 2024, (A/79/17, para. 256), the secretariat commenced work to update the 2009 UNCITRAL Practice Guide on Cross-Border Insolvency Cooperation. An updated text is expected to be submitted for review by Working Group V before being transmitted to the Commission for finalization, possibly in 2027.  
The Commission will have before it the report of the Colloquium on Possible Updates to the Guide to Enactment and Interpretation of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (A/CN.9/1256).  
See also Table 2 below.

Working Group VI  
(Negotiable cargo documents)

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At its fifty-eighth session, in 2025, the Commission finalized the United Nations Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents, which was adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2025. At its forty-seventh session, Working Group VI completed its review of the Explanatory Note to the Convention prepared by the secretariat.

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*Consideration by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session Work by the Working Group*

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*Exploratory or preparatory work currently undertaken by the secretariat*

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### **III. Future work and related matters**

3. Table 2 summarizes the documents prepared by the secretariat setting forth the outcomes of the exploratory and preparatory work it had carried out, inputs from Working Groups as well as submissions by other organizations relating to future work of the Commission. For ease of discussions, it follows the order as suggested in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session (A/CN.9/1235) for agenda item 8 (Work programme of the Commission). The areas of work are grouped so that the topics relating to the digital economy and trade could be discussed on 7 July 2026, followed by discussions on other topics the following day.

4. The Commission may wish to note that during the period until the next session of the Commission, Working Groups III, IV and V will continue their mandated work as outlined in Table 1. Therefore, the remaining three Working Groups may be available to receive new mandates. The Commission may also wish to consider how best to allocate future work projects to those Working Groups or, alternatively, among the six weeks of conference resources allocated to them (for example, by allocating one of the weeks to a specific project). The proposed dates of the Working Groups are contained in a table following paragraph 37 in A/CN.9/1235.

	<i>Deliberations at the fifty-eighth session</i>	<i>Relevant documentation</i>	<i>Summary of the suggested way forward</i>
Dispute resolution in the digital economy (DRDE)	<a href="#">A/80/17</a> , paras. 232-237	<p>Report of the Colloquium on the use of artificial intelligence in dispute resolution and the development of procedural guidance on remote hearings in arbitration and the conduct of mediation: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1237</a>, chapter V</p> <p>Stocktaking of developments in dispute resolution in the digital economy – progress report: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1271</a></p> <p>Report on platform-based dispute resolution: submission from the Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform on Online Dispute Resolution (iGLIP): <a href="#">A/CN.9/1272</a></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to request the secretariat to continue its exploratory work to monitor and take stock of developments in the context of the DRDE project, in particular with respect to the use of artificial intelligence tools in arbitration and mediation.</p> <p>With regard to remote hearings in arbitration and remote mediation, the Commission may wish to consider the various options identified (<a href="#">A/CN.9/1237</a>, para. 68) and decide on the appropriate way forward.</p> <p>The report on platform-based dispute resolution suggests the development of standards for such dispute resolution. The experts proposed a streamlined framework of standards divided into two categories: (i) governance standards; and (ii) procedural standards relating to the conduct of individual proceedings (<a href="#">A/CN.9/1272</a>, para. 62). In this regard, the Commission may wish to note the possible synergies with the use of platforms for the conduct of remote hearings in arbitration and remote mediation.</p>
Compilation and consolidation of electronic commerce texts;	<a href="#">A/80/17</a> , paras. 238-242	<p>Preparatory work on the compilation and consolidation of UNCITRAL texts on electronic commerce: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1263</a></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to refer the consolidated text prepared by the secretariat to Working Group IV with a mandate to review the text and consider the policy questions raised by the exercise, with a view to the further development of the text (<a href="#">A/CN.9/1263</a>, para. 64).</p> <p>The Commission may wish to consider the possibility of mandating Working Group IV to take on the further development of the consolidated text in conjunction with work on paperless trade.</p>
End-to-end trade digitalization and paperless trade	<a href="#">A/80/17</a> , paras. 238-245	<p>Preparatory work on enabling end-to-end trade digitalization and paperless trade: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1264</a></p>	<p>The Commission may wish to consider the scope of future work on paperless trade, including its complementarity with the UNCITRAL texts on electronic commerce, and focus on identified gaps and obstacles, for example, the application of UNCITRAL texts to documents submitted to public authorities, particularly those involved in the import, export and transit of goods. The Commission may also wish to consider: (i) the possibility to develop a legal text establishing a supplementary regime for cross-border recognition; (ii) the possible form of such text; and (iii) how the work on paperless trade could benefit from the consolidation of UNCITRAL texts on electronic commerce (<a href="#">A/CN.9/1264</a>, paras. 84-86).</p> <p>The Commission may wish to consider tasking Working Group IV to work on paperless trade in conjunction with the work on the consolidation of UNCITRAL texts on electronic commerce, as it finalizes the work on data provision contracts.</p>
Decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs)	<a href="#">A/80/17</a> , paras. 257-261	<p>Exploratory work on decentralized autonomous organizations: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1248</a></p>	<p>Upon examining the review of existing laws on DAOs and the possible model text, the Commission may wish to consider the desirable scope and form of the</p>

	<i>Deliberations at the fifty-eighth session</i>	<i>Relevant documentation</i>	<i>Summary of the suggested way forward</i>
Digital payments	<a href="#">A/80/17</a> , paras. 267-270	Exploratory work on decentralized autonomous organizations - review and possible model text: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1267</a>	proposed text. It may also wish to consider requesting the secretariat to conduct further preparatory work and invite interested jurisdictions to assess how the proposed text could be implemented and potentially “sandboxed” in their jurisdiction ( <a href="#">A/CN.9/1248</a> , paras. 17-18).
Digital platforms	<a href="#">A/80/17</a> , paras. 262-266	Exploratory work on digital payments: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1262</a>	The Commission may wish to request the secretariat to conduct preparatory work to develop technology-neutral rules, principles or standards, with a view to addressing the identified legal challenges, including whether it would be feasible to address those challenges by substantially revising the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Credit Transfers or preparing a new instrument. The Commission may wish to consider utilizing conference resources allocated to a working group to conduct a joint UNCITRAL – HCCH session on related topics and/or mandating a working group to conduct work on digital payments, beginning as early as spring 2027 ( <a href="#">A/CN.9/1262</a> , paras. 77-79).
Secured transactions involving digital assets	<a href="#">A/80/17</a> , paras. 227-231	Preparatory work on updating the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions (MLST): <a href="#">A/CN.9/1260</a>	The Commission may wish to undertake work to provide guidance to States on the application of the MLST to transactions involving digital assets. The work would build on existing international texts and guidance material, in particular and where applicable, the Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law (DAPL) and the Best Practices for Effective Enforcement (BPÉE). It is suggested that the initial focus of such work be on digital assets, which could further extend to data. Work might take the form of a text supplementing the MLST, explaining the application of MLST to digital assets and, where appropriate, making legislative recommendations. The Commission may wish to consider whether to mandate a working group to examine this topic. The secretariat could be tasked with preparing a draft text, involving experts, for consideration by a working group, with a session or sessions of the working group taking place in late 2026 or early 2027.
Insolvency law	<a href="#">A/80/17</a> , paras. 247-256	Report of the Colloquium on Possible Updates to the Guide to Enactment and Interpretation of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1256</a>	The Commission may wish to consider the recommendations emerging from the Colloquium on the Guide to Enactment and Interpretation of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency ( <a href="#">A/CN.9/1256</a> , paras. 79-84) and, on that basis, determine the nature, form and scope of any future work in the field

<i>Deliberations at the fifty-eighth session</i>	<i>Relevant documentation</i>	<i>Summary of the suggested way forward</i>
	Report of Working Group V (Insolvency Law) on the work of its sixty-eighth session: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1244</a> , section V. Other business	of insolvency law, including whether such work should be undertaken by Working Group V, the secretariat, or a combination of both.  In addition, Working Group V requested the Commission to consider the possibility of the secretariat organizing, in the first half of 2027, a colloquium on possible updates to the 2004 UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law in light of developments in insolvency law and practice, as well as the need to align the Guide with subsequently adopted UNCITRAL texts and ongoing projects. The Working Group further agreed that informal consultations could be held during its sixty-ninth session as a preparatory step towards such a colloquium, should the Commission decide to proceed with it.
Public procurement	<a href="#">A/80/17</a> , paras. 215-219	Preparatory work on updating the UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement and related texts: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1257</a>  The Commission may wish to consider mandating a working group to carry out the possible updates to the UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement (MLPP) and related texts (see <a href="#">A/CN.9/1257</a> , chapter III) and allocating a session or sessions of a working group. In so doing, the Commission may wish to: (i) narrow down the topics or request the working group to consider all such topics and to report with concrete recommendations; and (ii) request the secretariat to undertake further work in preparation for the session.  Alternatively, the Commission could request the secretariat to take up this work and to prepare concrete updates to the MLPP and relevant texts, with the Commission considering those updates at its next session in 2027.
Possible updates to the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules		Draft supplementary provisions on the conduct of proceedings to resolve international investment disputes: <a href="#">A/CN.9/1246</a> , para. 45  The Commission may wish to consider tasking a working group to conduct further review of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules in light of the anticipated adoption by the Commission at the current session of the Supplementary Provisions on the Conduct of Proceedings to Resolve International Investment Disputes.
Model contractual terms on automated contracting	–	The European Law Institute (ELI) has invited the secretariat to cooperate on a joint project to develop model contractual terms on automated contracting that would complement, and be consistent with, the UNCITRAL Model Law on Automated Contracting (2024). The Commission may wish to authorize such work by the secretariat.
Additional topics	–	As of the date of this note, no further proposals for future work have been received by the secretariat.

## IV. Supporting activities

5. This chapter lists the activities of the secretariat planned until the sixtieth session of the Commission, in 2027, in support of the legislative work by the Commission and its working groups.

6. Table 3 lists specific activities, whereby the secretariat, alone or in cooperation with other organizations, prepares texts and explanatory materials to support the acceptance, understanding, uniform interpretation and application of UNCITRAL texts. Table 4 lists recurrent or ongoing activities, some of which are undertaken pursuant to partnerships or other collaborative initiatives. For activities that are more closely related to the technical cooperation and assistance work of the secretariat, see the note by the secretariat on non-legislative activities ([A/CN.9/1250](#) and its addenda).

Table 3  
Specific activities

<i>Description of the activity</i>	<i>Date</i>
Participation in Expert Group on CBDCs convened by HCCH	1-4 September 2026
Participation in Expert Group on Digital Tokens convened by HCCH	26-29 October 2026
Participation in the Multi-Stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels envisaged in the Global Digital Compact and convened by UNCTAD	Autumn 2026
Participation in UNIDROIT Working Group on the Legal Nature of Verified Carbon Credits	14-16 October 2026 (9th session)
Participation in UNIDROIT and ICC Institute of World Business Law Working Group on International Investment Contracts	19-21 October 2026 (9th and final session)
Updating the UNCITRAL Practice Guide on Cross-Border Insolvency Cooperation, to reflect cross-border insolvency developments since the adoption of that text in 2009. The updated text will support training, teaching and capacity-building activities on cross-border insolvency matters and contribute to updating the content of the CLOUT system and other explanatory materials in the area of insolvency law.	2025–2027
Preparing an updated edition of the UNCITRAL 2012 Digest of Case Law on the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration to reflect new case law, including from jurisdictions that have enacted the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration after the publication of the existing edition.	2026–2028

Table 4  
**Recurrent or ongoing activities**

<i>Subject area</i>	<i>Description of the activity</i>
General	<p>Participation in the tripartite coordination meetings of UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT and HCCH, at which the respective work of the three organizations, areas of mutual interest and possible joint activities are regularly discussed.</p> <p>Monitoring and participation in the work of other international organizations active in the field of international trade law with a view to discharging the Commission's mandate to coordinate legal activities in this field and to continue, through its secretariat, to maintain close operation with other international organizations active in the field of international trade law.</p> <p>Participation in the International Organisations' Partnership for Effective International Rule-Making, led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).</p>
Insolvency law	<p>Participation in the World Bank Group's Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes Task Force in the context of ongoing work on the unified Insolvency and Creditor Rights Standard (ICR Standard). Comprised of the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law and the World Bank Principles for Effective Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes, the ICR Standard is recognized by the Financial Stability Board as one of the key standards for sound financial systems, representing the international consensus on best practices for evaluating and strengthening insolvency regimes. See Insolvency and Creditor Rights Standard – Financial Stability Board (fsb.org).</p>
ISDS Reform	<p>Supporting host countries in the organization of intersessional meetings of Working Group III, including the tenth meeting in Hanoi (7-9 September 2026).</p> <p>Hosting a number of informal online meetings on various elements of ISDS reform.</p> <p>Participation in events hosted by UNCTAD and OECD on international investment agreements.</p>
Secured transactions	<p>Participation in the Joint Network for Coordinating Secured Transactions and Related Reforms (<a href="https://uncitral.un.org/en/content/joint-network-coordinating-and-supporting-secured-transactions-reforms">https://uncitral.un.org/en/content/joint-network-coordinating-and-supporting-secured-transactions-reforms</a>) and in the annual coordination conference in London (21-22 September 2026).</p>
Digital trade	<p><i>Paperless trade</i></p> <p>Participation at the fifth session of the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) (1-3 April 2026), and Paperless Trade Week, which includes the fifth session of the Paperless Trade Council (PTC) under the CPTA, along with a session on Digitalizing Trade through the Negotiable Cargo Documents Convention, to be held from 8 to 12 June 2026 at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p><i>Digital platforms</i></p> <p>Participation in the international symposium on "Cross-Border E-Commerce Platform Rules" held in Hangzhou (China) on 27 April 2026.</p> <p>Co-organization of the UAE-UNCITRAL Global Summit on Digital Trade and Digital Platforms, with the Ministry of Economy and Tourism of the United Arab Emirates (Dubai, 8–9 December 2025), which brought together over 600 participants from 19 jurisdictions and showcased the perspectives of industry, legal practitioners, and government agencies on digital trade and digital platforms. Presentations demonstrated the importance of digital platforms in providing the infrastructure for digital trade and supporting new trading opportunities, as well as in connecting trade-related services and fostering end-to-end trade digitalization.</p> <p>Continued engagement with stakeholders, including with organizations involved in the soft law initiatives, for example, the "Hangzhou Initiative" on Guiding Principles for Cross-border E-Commerce Platform Rules and ELI Model Rules on Online Platforms.</p>