



General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 April 2026

Original: English

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

Fifty-ninth session

New York, 24 June – 9 July 2026

Coordination and cooperation

International governmental and non-governmental organizations invited to sessions of UNCITRAL and its working groups

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Commission may wish to recall that, from its forty-fourth session to fiftieth session, 2011 to 2017, it heard oral reports by the secretariat about intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations invited to sessions of UNCITRAL.¹ At its forty-eighth session, in 2015, it requested the secretariat, when presenting its oral report on the topic of organizations invited to sessions of UNCITRAL, to provide comments on the manner in which invited organizations fulfilled the criteria applied by the secretariat in making its decision to invite non-governmental organizations.² At its forty-ninth session, in 2016, the Commission welcomed the detailed and informative report presented by the secretariat pursuant to that request.³ At its fiftieth session, in 2017, the Commission requested the secretariat to provide information about intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations invited to sessions of UNCITRAL in writing for future sessions.⁴ This note is presented pursuant to that request and covers the period since the start of the fifty-eighth session of UNCITRAL (Vienna, 7-23 July 2025) up to the date of this note.

2. Criteria and procedures for inviting intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to sessions of UNCITRAL and its working groups may be found on the UNCITRAL website at <https://uncitral.un.org/en/about/faq/methods>. The list of the invited intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can be found at: <https://missions.unodc.org/missions/index.html>.⁵

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/66/17)*, paras. 288–298; *ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/67/17)*, paras. 174–178; *ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/68/17)*, paras. 257–261; *ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/69/17)*, paras. 205–207; *ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/70/17)*, paras. 279–281; *ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/71/17)*, paras. 286–290; and *ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/72/17)*, paras. 360–364.

² *Ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/70/17)*, para. 280.

³ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/71/17)*, para. 290.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/72/17)*, para. 364.

⁵ The webpage is only accessible to States.

3. In the period under consideration, the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) was added in the list of IGOs invited to sessions of UNCITRAL and its working groups.

4. The UNCITRAL secretariat also considered that the following NGOs, which had requested to be invited to sessions of UNCITRAL and its working groups, met the eligibility criteria and were therefore added⁶ to the list of NGOs⁷ invited to sessions of UNCITRAL and its working groups: Latin American Arbitration Association (ALARB); and Brazilian Arbitration Committee (CBAr).

5. In addition to the NGOs invited to the sessions of Working Group III (ISDS Reform) that appear on the list of NGOs, some additional NGOs and other entities are invited to contribute to the work of that Working Group. Because of their nature or because their expertise and experience are not relevant to other areas of UNCITRAL's work, they are placed on a separate ad hoc list of NGOs and other entities invited to Working Group III. The following NGOs and other entities are not invited to annual sessions of UNCITRAL or considered for invitation to other UNCITRAL working groups. They may, however, be considered for invitation to annual sessions of the Commission at which instrument(s) related to ISDS reform will be discussed, which is the case for this fifty-ninth session.

<i>Acronym</i>	<i>Full name of the organization</i>	<i>Website</i>
	Academic Forum	
ACILP	African Center of International Law Practice	www.acilp.org
BIICL	British Institute of International and Comparative Law	www.biicl.org/
CIL	Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore	https://cil.nus.edu.sg/
SOMO	Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations	www.somo.nl
ClientEarth	ClientEarth	www.clientearth.org
CCSI	Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment	ccsi.columbia.edu/
COPIID	Compliance Politics and International Investment Disputes	www.jus.uio.no/ior/english/research/projects/copiid
CUTS International	Consumer Unity and Trust Society	www.cuts-international.org
EI	Europa-Institut at Saarland University	https://europainstitut.de/en/
ECAA	European Chinese Arbitrators Association	https://ecaa-arbitrators.com/

⁶ The NGOs are listed in the chronological order of their application.

⁷ The list includes NGOs invited to all annual sessions of the Commission. Organizations whose names appear in bold in the list are also invited to observe deliberations on all topics currently assigned to UNCITRAL Working Groups. The sixth column of the list identifies organizations that are being invited to observe deliberations on some of the topics currently assigned to UNCITRAL Working Groups, while the seventh column of the list identifies organizations that were invited to session of UNCITRAL and its working groups in the past.

<i>Acronym</i>	<i>Full name of the organization</i>	<i>Website</i>
IFILA	International Federation for Investment Law and Arbitration ⁸	www.ifila.org
T&E	European Federation for Transport & Environment	www.transportenvironment.org
ESIL	European Society of International Law	www.esil-sedi.eu
ETUC	European Trade Union Confederation	www.etuc.org
FOEI	Friends of the Earth International	www.foei.org
CIDS	Geneva Center for International Dispute Settlement	www.mids.ch
iCourts	iCourts	www.jura.ku.dk/icourts
IAM	Institut Afrique Monde	www.institutafriquemonde.org
IEA	Instituto Ecuatoriano de Arbitraje	www.iea.ec
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development	www.ictsd.org
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development	www.iied.org
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation	www.ituc-csi.org
SIMC	Singapore International Mediation Centre	www.simc.com.sg
SIS	School of International Studies at the University of Trento	www.sis.unitn.it
USCIB	United States Council for International Business	www.uscib.org

⁸ Previously named European Federation for Investment Law and Arbitration (EFILA).