

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 ACTIVITIES OF THE UNCITRAL SECRETARIAT



United Nations
Commission on International Trade Law



FOREWORD

As UNCITRAL approaches its sixtieth anniversary in 2026, it is timely to reflect not only on the legislative texts developed under the auspices of the Commission, but also on the sustained support the secretariat provides to the adoption and interpretation of the texts, to ensure that the texts have a concrete and practical effect as well as their continued relevance in an evolving global economy. These activities are typically included in the non-legislative activities carried out by the secretariat.

The present informal annual report highlights the breadth and impact of the non-legislative activities undertaken by the UNCITRAL secretariat in 2025. It highlights the results that were achieved across a wide range of areas, including technical assistance, capacity-building, judicial engagement, outreach, partnerships and knowledge dissemination — and this against the background of financial difficulties and growing demands. These achievements are a testament to the dedication, professionalism, creativity and innovation of the UNCITRAL secretariat, which I am proud to lead.

Non-legislative activities are an essential component of UNCITRAL's mandate. They help ensure that UNCITRAL texts are not only adopted, but also understood, implemented and applied in practice, and that the international legal framework for trade remains harmonious and modern. Equally important, they provide a valuable channel for dialogue with judges, practitioners, policymakers, academics and other stakeholders across regions and legal traditions. The experience and feedback gathered through these activities have consistently informed and enriched UNCITRAL's legislative work and continue to help identify emerging needs and future areas for legal harmonization and modernization.

Looking ahead, sustaining and further strengthening these activities will require the continued engagement and support of UNCITRAL's partners, first and foremost Member States. Such support may take different forms, including expertise, partnerships, secondments and financial contributions to the relevant trust funds. In this regard, voluntary contributions — particularly those that are not earmarked to specific projects — remain especially valuable, as they provide the flexibility necessary for the secretariat to plan strategically and sustain activities over the medium and long term.

Another important expression of support is the active participation of States in UNCITRAL initiatives and treaty events, including the signing ceremony for the United Nations Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents, to be held in Accra on 26 October 2026. It is particularly fitting that this ceremony will take place only two days after United Nations Day, reaffirming the shared commitment of the international community to multilateral cooperation and the rule of law in international trade.

As UNCITRAL enters its seventh decade, I am confident that it will build on its strong foundations and adapt to the evolving needs of international trade and development. At a time of rapid economic and technological change, the importance of modern, harmonized and responsive international trade law remains as evident as ever. The impact of UNCITRAL's work — both legislative and non-legislative — will depend on sustained collective engagement and shared commitment. The UNCITRAL secretariat counts on your support.

Anna Joubin-Bret
Secretary of UNCITRAL
Director of OLA/ITLD

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OUR NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

This brochure highlights main non-legislative activities (NLAs) of UNCITRAL that took place in 2025.

NLAs support the implementation, interpretation and practical application of UNCITRAL texts and contribute to the harmonization and modernization of international trade law.

Through knowledge-management tools, technical assistance, capacity-building programmes, digital resources and outreach initiatives, these activities provide practical support to States, policymakers, judges, arbitrators, legal practitioners, academics, businesses and other stakeholders.

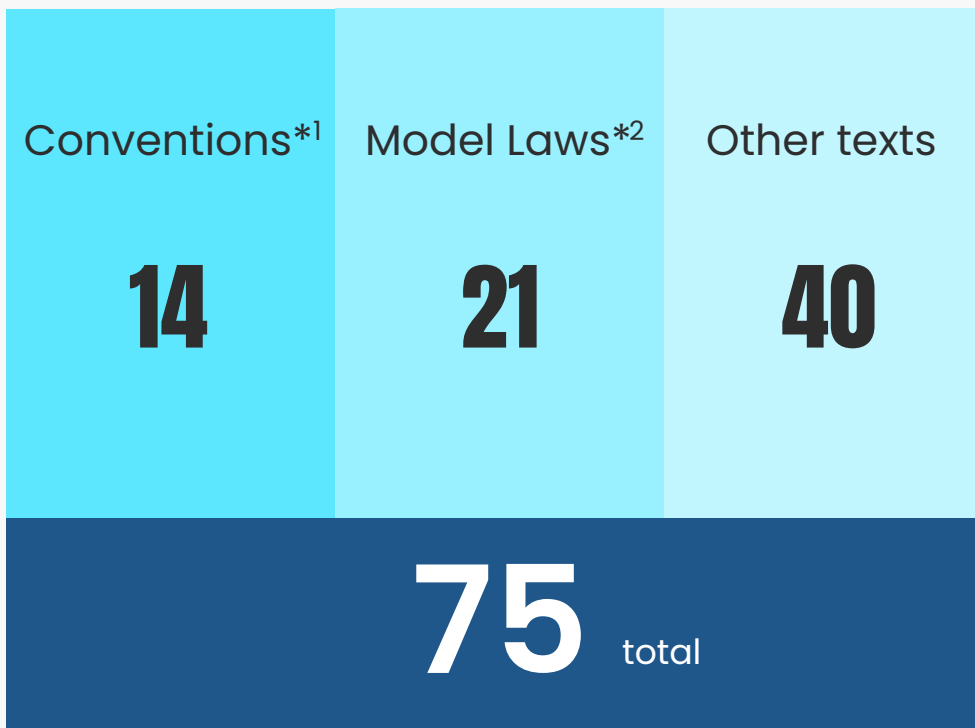
By facilitating access to legal information, promoting awareness of UNCITRAL standards and strengthening institutional and professional capacities, NLAs help maximize the impact and effective use of UNCITRAL texts worldwide.



OUR TEAM



UNCITRAL INSTRUMENTS

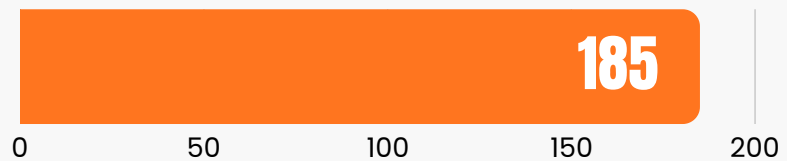


*1 including New York Convention. The New York Convention predates the establishment of UNCITRAL; however, UNCITRAL is promoting it as foundational to all UNCITRAL arbitration instruments.

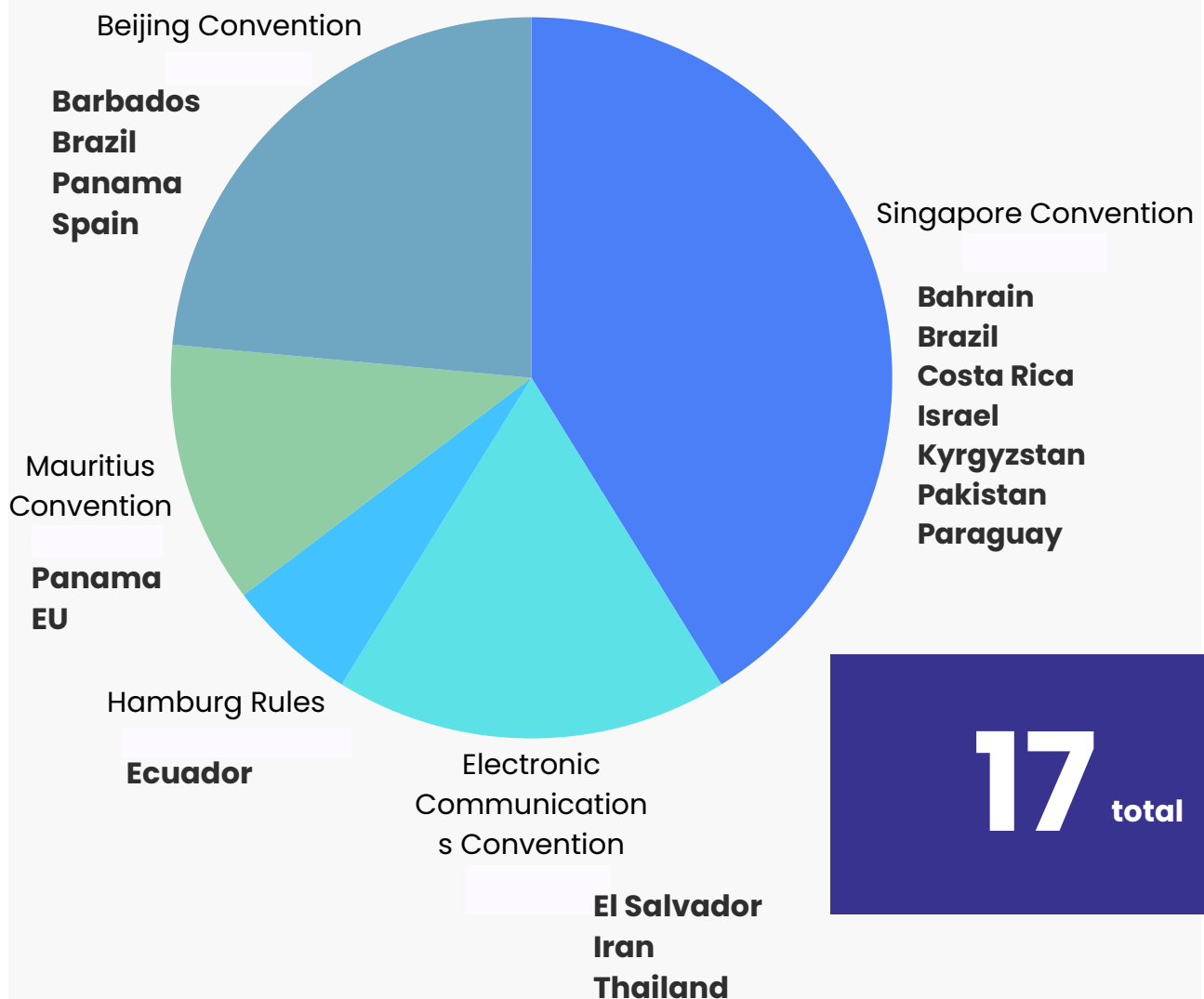
*2 including model legislative provisions .

TREATY ACTIONS IN 2025

Countries and jurisdictions
that adopted at least one
UNCITRAL Conventions

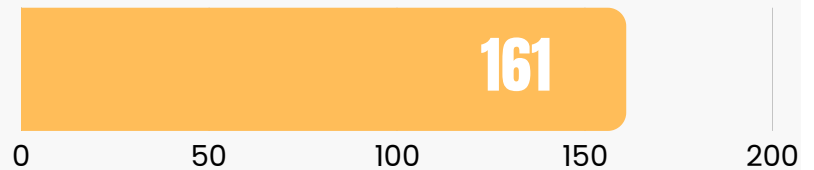


In 2025, the below countries and regional economic integration organizations signed, ratified, approved or acceded to Conventions developed by UNCITRAL.

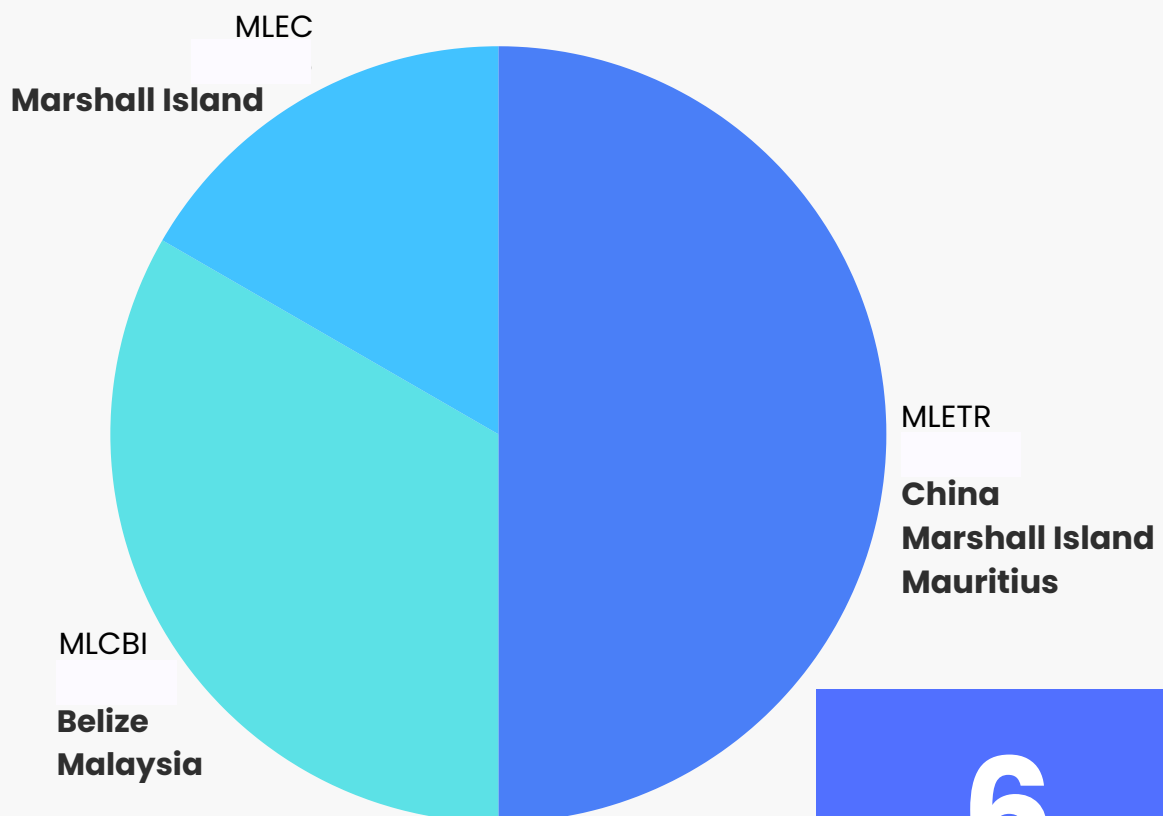


MODEL LAW ENACTMENTS IN 2025

Countries and jurisdictions
that based on or influenced
by the Model Law

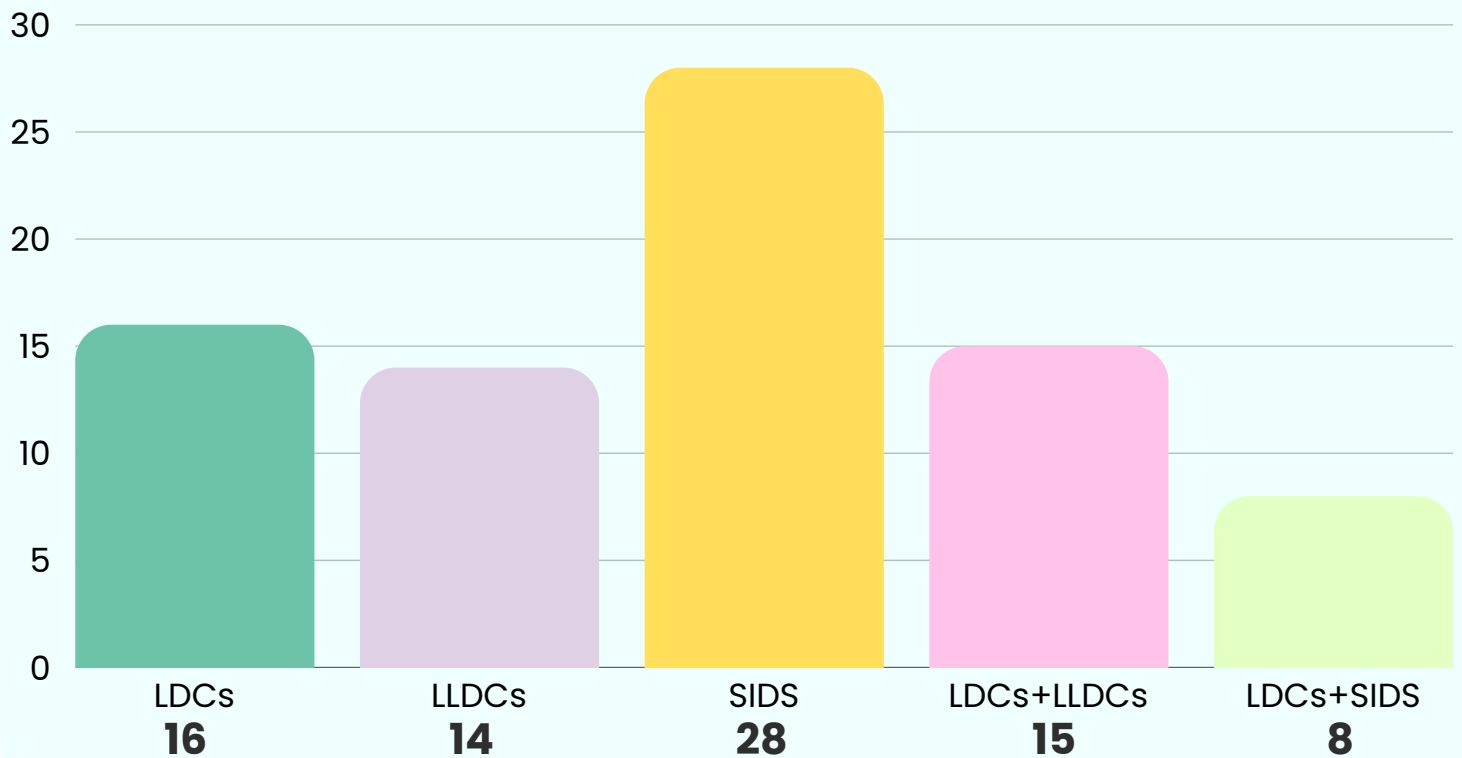
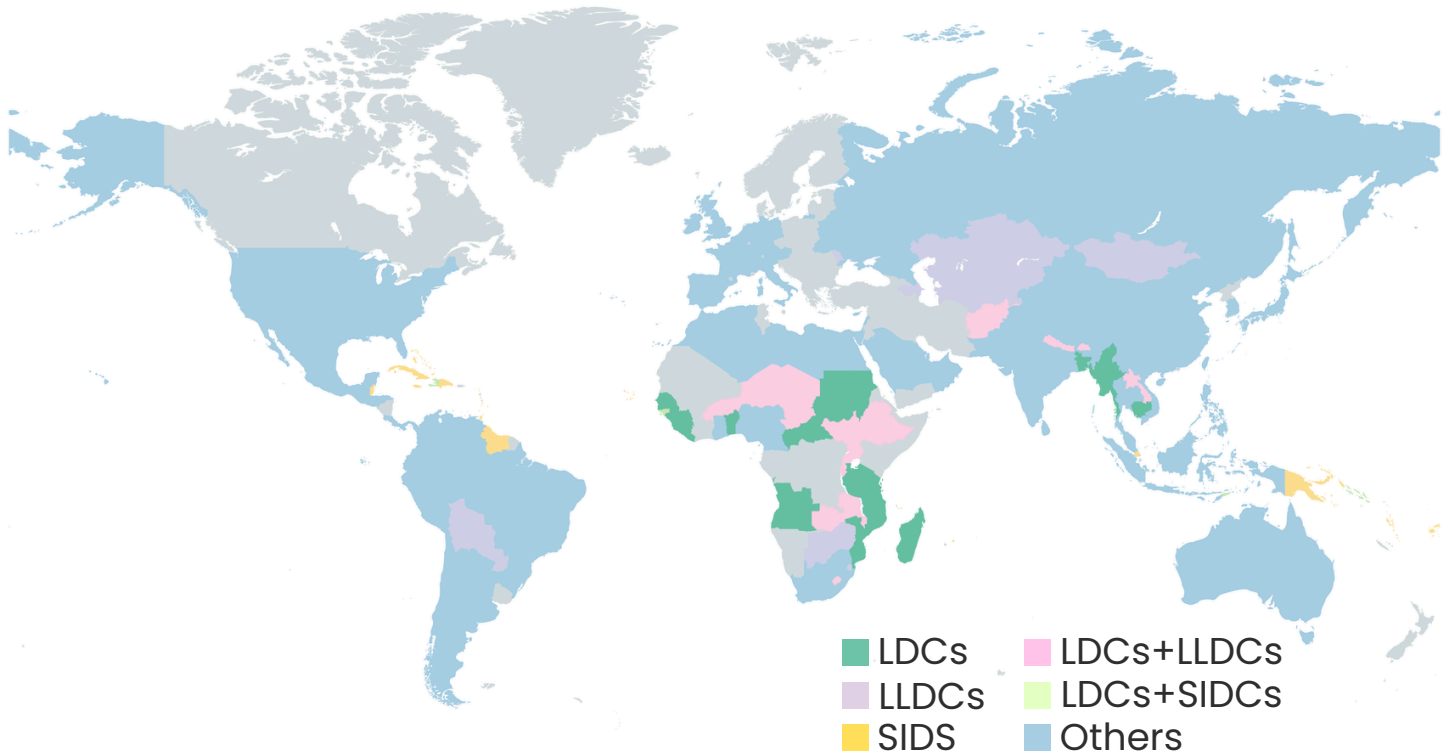


In 2025, the countries below enacted the following UNCITRAL Model Laws:

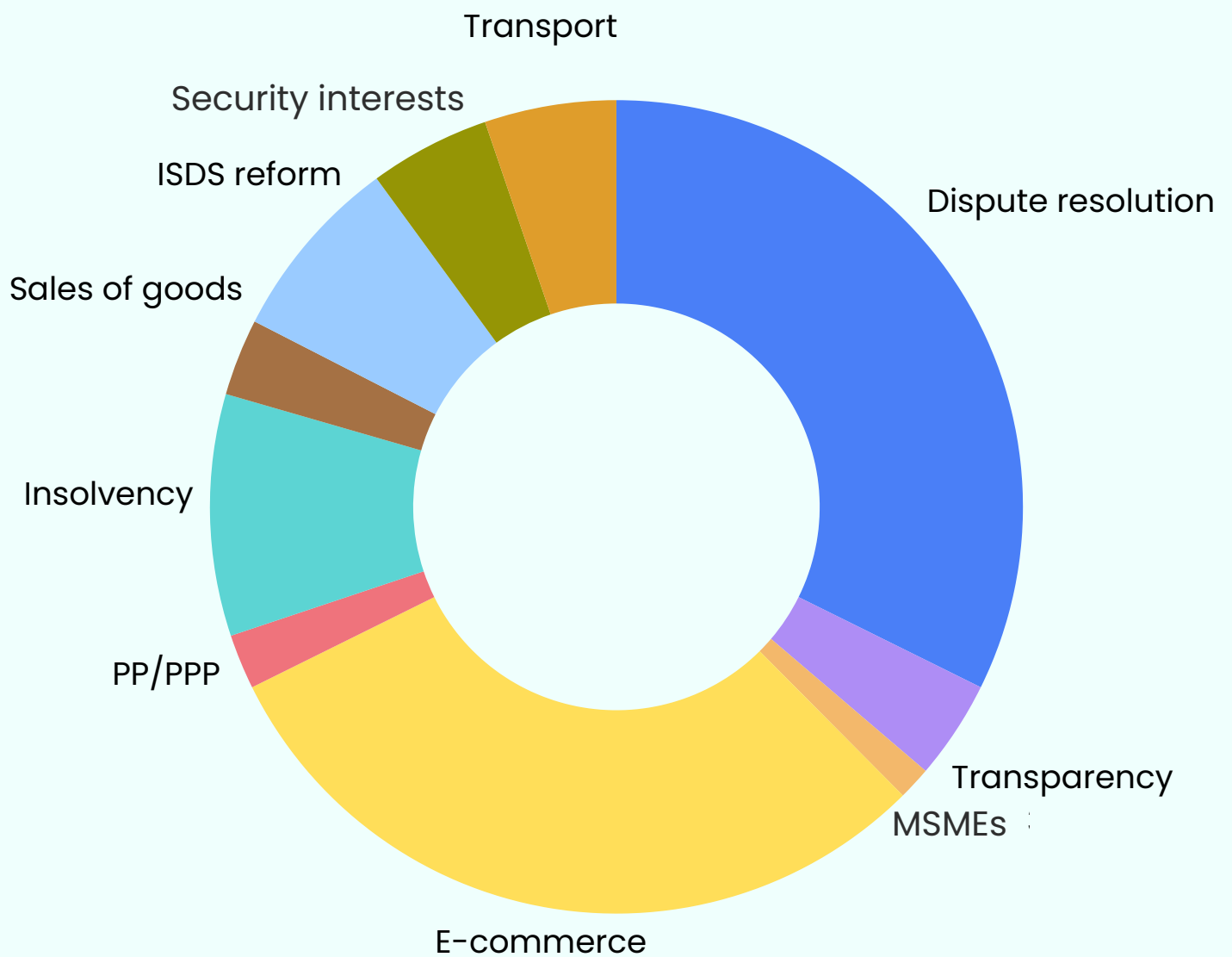


6 countries

GLOBAL OUTREACH



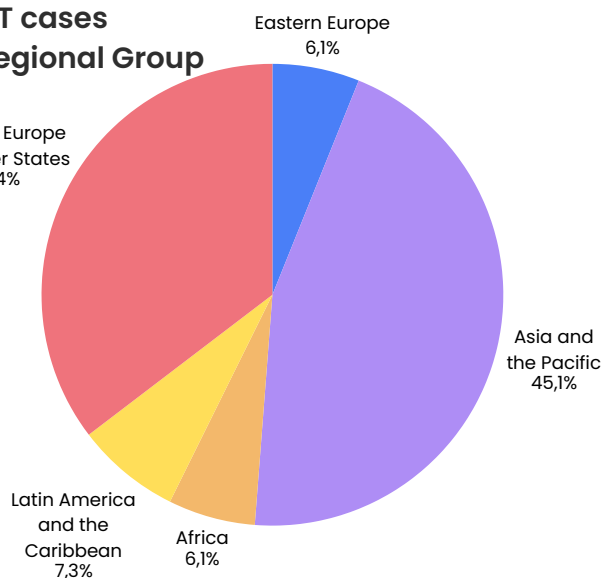
TOPICS COVERED



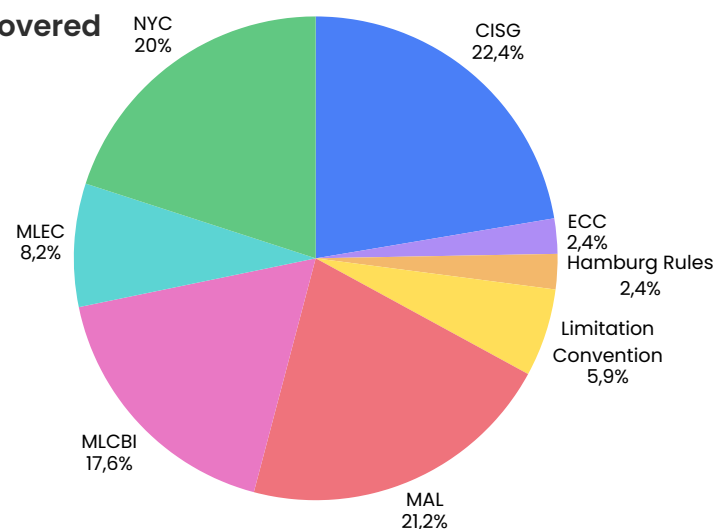
THE CLOUT SYSTEM

Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (CLOUT) is a global system for the collection and dissemination of information on court decisions and arbitral awards relating to UNCITRAL texts, with the objective of promoting their uniform interpretation and application. Through its network of national correspondents and contributors, CLOUT provides abstracts of relevant decisions in the six official languages of the United Nations and serves as an important resource for judges, practitioners, academics and other users. In 2025, efforts continued to expand the collection of case abstracts, strengthen the CLOUT network, and enhance the dissemination of CLOUT materials through the UNCITRAL website and cooperation with legal research platforms and other partners. These activities further reinforced the role of CLOUT in supporting the consistent interpretation and application of UNCITRAL texts across jurisdictions.

**CLOUT cases
per Regional Group**



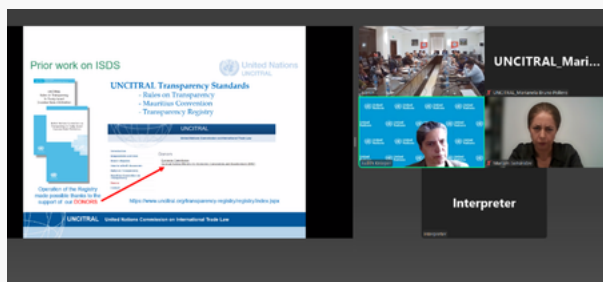
Topics Covered



**+ 82 CASES
FROM 36 JURISDICTIONS**

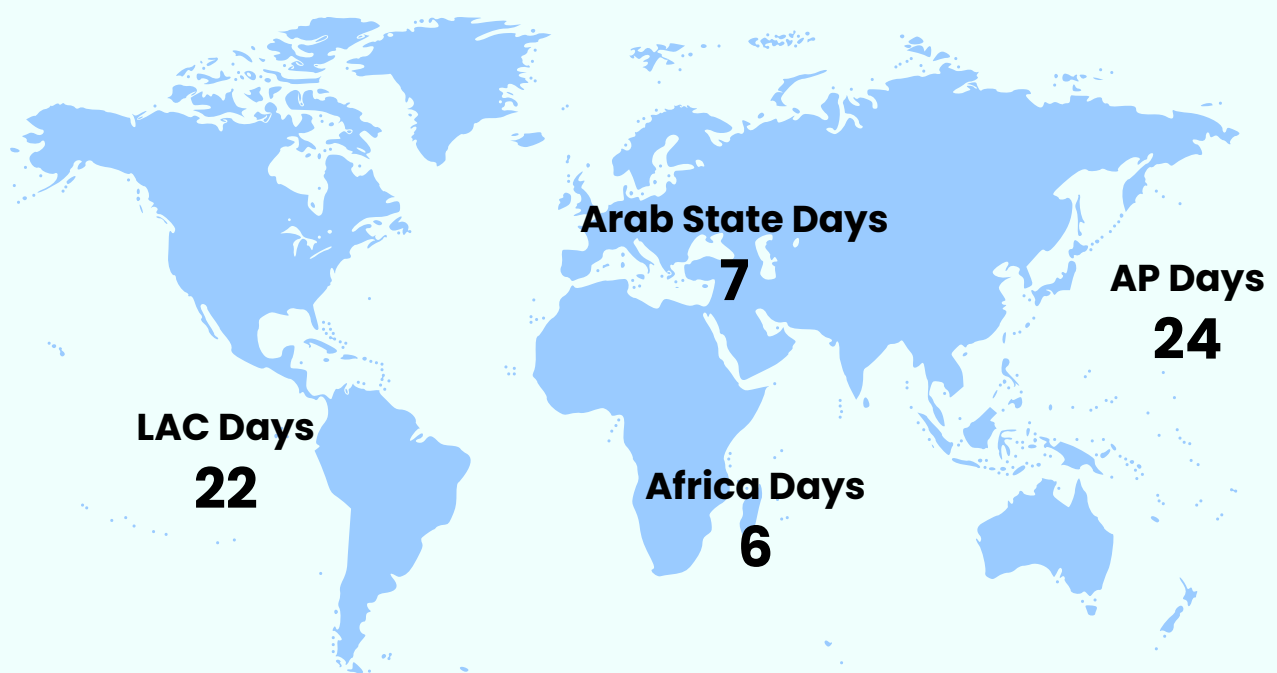
THE TRANSPARENCY REPOSITORY

The Transparency Repository is an online global database (or “repository”) that provides free public access to information relating to treaty-based investor–State arbitration, including case files, decisions and awards, and other documents relevant to the proceedings. By making such information available in a timely and accurate manner, the Repository enhances transparency, predictability and legal certainty for both investors and States. Developments in 2025 reflected growing support for the UNCITRAL Transparency Standards, including the approval of the Mauritius Convention on Transparency by the European Union and the incorporation of transparency provisions in new investment agreements concluded by Canada and the United Arab Emirates, and by Japan and Zambia. Awareness-raising activities undertaken throughout the year further strengthened knowledge of, and support for, transparency in investor–State dispute settlement among policymakers, government officials, practitioners, researchers and students worldwide.

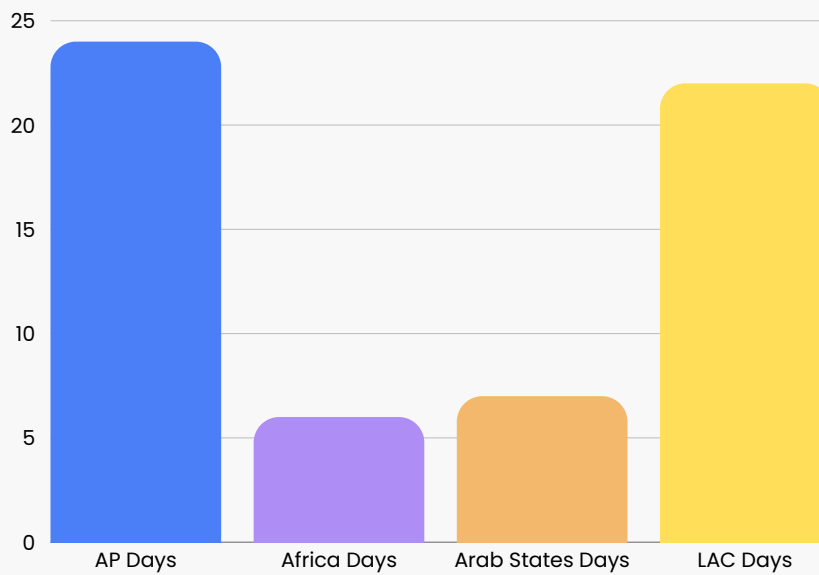


UNCITRAL DAYS

The UNCITRAL Days are flagship annual series of regional events that the UNCITRAL secretariat co-hosts with universities and institutions of higher learning, discussing issues arising from UNCITRAL's work. The series is held across the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, the Arab States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and ,from 2026, in the Transdanubian and Eastern European region.



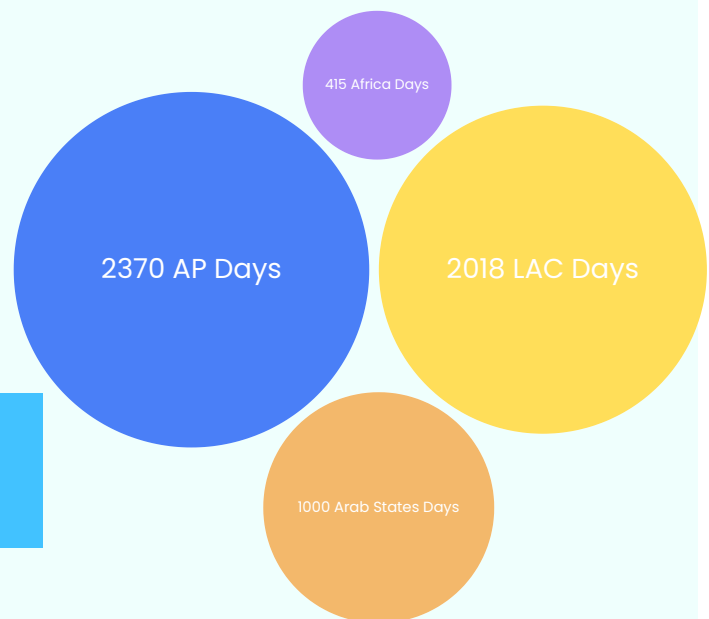
Number of events



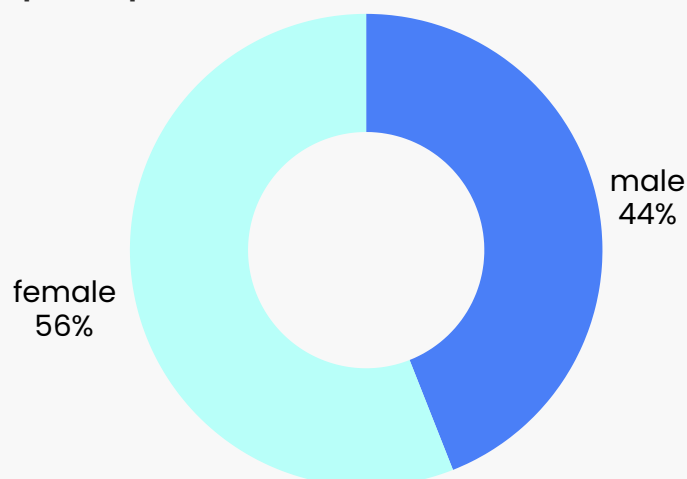
59 in TOTAL

Number of participants

5803 in TOTAL



Gender ratio of participants



NEWLY SIGNED MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

Viet Nam

On the sidelines of the 58th session of the Commission, Viet Nam and the United Nations signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation in modernizing the country's commercial law framework and expanding stakeholders' knowledge of UNCITRAL. The MOU builds on the existing cooperation framework, which culminated in a conference held on 19 June 2025 to mark the commencement of Viet Nam's new term as a member of UNCITRAL.



Morocco

The Secretary of UNCITRAL signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco. The Memorandum establishes a framework for expanding UNCITRAL's presence and activities in Morocco and across the African continent. As an initial step, a capacity-building programme on investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) reform was successfully delivered in June 2026. Additional training and outreach activities are planned for judges, legal practitioners and other stakeholders, focusing on ISDS reform as well as other areas of UNCITRAL's work.

9+2 MOU partners

2025 AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

- Consultation meetings on arbitration reform with the Lao PDR Ministry of Justice and the Economic Dispute Resolution Centre.
- Israel ratified Singapore Convention on Mediation.
- Panama signed Mauritius Convention on Transparency.

Consultation meetings on arbitration reform with the Lao PDR Ministry of Justice and the Economic Dispute Resolution Centre (EDRC)

The secretariat participated in a workshop organized by the United States Department of Commerce Commercial Law Development Program in Vientiane, to assist Lao PDR's consideration of the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration. Approximately 40 officials from the Ministry of Justice and EDRC joined the session.



Panama signed Mauritius Convention



H.E. Mr. Eloy Alfaro de Alba,
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative
of Panama to the United
Nations in New York

FEBRUARY

- The Secretary of UNCITRAL's Mission to Paraguay.
- Atelier sur le Commerce Numerique au Maroc pour les Autorites Publiques.
- Digitalising Trade and Growing Supply Chain Finance in Egypt by Aligning with MLETR.
- Policy Dialogue on Alternate Dispute Resolution with ADBI in Tokyo, Japan.
- SCCA 4th International Conference & Exhibition in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Connecting UNCITRAL's work with the fight against corruption: Public Procurement, PPPs and Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (webinar).
- Bahrain accession to Singapore Convention on Mediation.

Policy Dialogue on Alternate Dispute Resolution: Disseminating International Mediation in Asia-Pacific region / an UNCITRAL collaboration with Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

UNCITRAL supported the development of, and participated in, the ADBI 2025 education programme on Alternative Dispute Resolution for government officials, consisting of a Policy Dialogue on 18–19 February, recordings and training modules on the UNCITRAL mediation, arbitration and transparency instruments, online participation during the training cohort held from 26 May to 4 June and leading in-person sessions on the Singapore Convention and investment mediation for 40 officials on 9–12 September at ADBI in Tokyo.



The Secretary of UNCITRAL's Mission to Paraguay

Meeting with Marco Aurelio González Maldonado, Procurador General de la República del Paraguay during the official visit to Asunción.



Bahrain's Accession to the Singapore Convention on Mediation



MARCH

- Conference on Climate Change and International Trade Law in Hong Kong, China.
- Judicial Roundtable and INSOL annual Conference in Hong Kong, China.
- Update on the work of UNCITRAL in Manila.
- Forum of dry ports operators, logistics and multimodal transport services providers in Bangkok.
- Participation in the OECD 2025 Investment Treaty Conference in Paris.
- Capacity building session on creating an enabling policy environment for e-commerce and digital economy in Jamaica.
- “Unlocking Investment Through PPP” Summit in Cyprus.
- Visit to Honduras for a meeting with high-level government authorities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNCITRAL LAC Days
- Paraguay ratified the Singapore Convention on Mediation.
- Panama signed the Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships.
- Costa Rica acceded to the Singapore Convention on Mediation.

Conference on Climate Change and International Trade Law

The Conference on Climate Change and International Trade Law (Hong Kong, China, 14 March 2025), co-organized with the Hong Kong SAR Department of Justice, served as a new flagship event. It addressed topics such as the legal nature of verified carbon credits, sustainable public procurement and supply chains, public-private partnerships for climate action, climate change and cross-border insolvency and the role of UNCITRAL dispute settlement texts in supporting climate objectives.



MARCH



Visit to Honduras for a meeting with high-level government authorities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Prosecutor Office and the Secretary of the Presidency on the margins of the UNCITRAL LAC Days with Honduras

Judicial Roundtable and INSOL annual Conference

In March 2025, the UNCITRAL secretariat participated in the INSOL Annual Conference in Hong Kong, China. The secretariat contributed to discussions at several side events by sharing information on relevant UNCITRAL texts and ongoing work in the field, including the Legislative and Regulatory (L&R) Colloquium on micro- and small-enterprise (MSE) insolvency and early warning systems; a regional judicial roundtable, co-hosted by INSOL and the World Bank Group and supported by UNCITRAL, on key issues in insolvency proceedings; and a meeting on the promotion of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, which emphasized the importance of assessing its potential impact and implementation.



Costa Rica acceded to the Singapore Convention



H.E. Ms. Maritza Chan Valverde, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations in New York

APRIL

- Capacity-building on insolvency law in Bahrain.
- National Workshop on the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records in Manila.
- Concertation francophone pour l'Afrique et l'océan Indien : en route vers la 14e Conférence ministérielle de l'OMC, in Yaoundé, Cameroon (online).
- Launch of the Cyberlaw Gap Analysis for Pacific Small Island Developing States
- Workshop to support Malaysia's enactment of the MLCBI (online, and Desaru, Malaysia).
- Brazil signs Beijing Convention on Judicial Sale of Ships.
- Thailand acceded to Electronic Communications Convention.

Workshop to support Malaysia's enactment of the MLCBI

The UNCITRAL secretariat contributed to the work of the Working Committee on the adoption and application of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency in Malaysia (CBI-REFORM-WC), including its multi-stakeholder meeting in Johor Bahru that brought together representatives from government, judiciary, insolvency practice, business and academia. Its contribution was recognized by the Minister of Law and Institutional Reforms.



Thailand acceded to the Electronic Communications Convention

MAY

- An overview of UNCITRAL and its work to create an Enabling Framework for International Business and Investment in Santo Domingo.
- Vienna Arbitration Days 2025.
- UNCITRAL Conference on Negotiable Cargo Documents in Vienna.
- The Future of Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods in Light of Digital Transformation and UNCITRAL Texts in Riyadh.
- Qatar Trade & Treasury Transformation Summit.
- World Law Congress in Santo Domingo.
- Pakistan signed Singapore Convention on Mediation.
- Barbados signed and ratified the Beijing Convention on Judicial Sale of Ships.

Second Advisory Centre operationalization meeting in Armenia



MAY

The Future of Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods in Light of Digital Transformation and UNCITRAL texts

Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, in collaboration with the National Competitiveness Center, through the High Judicial Institute, hosted an event on 22 May, which gathered approximately 75 participants. The event was attended by government officials, academics and legal practitioners. Discussion focused on recent developments in international commercial law and highlighted the relevance of UNCITRAL texts, particularly in the areas of arbitration, online dispute resolution and electronic commerce.



JUNE

- International Conference on “Digital Trade Facilitation and Implementation: Advancing Electronic Transactions through UNCITRAL Model Laws”, in Bangkok.
- Paperless Trade Week 2025, organized by UN/ESCAP in Bangkok.
- International symposium on automated contracting in Shanghai, China.
- Workshop on electronic bills of lading in Beijing.
- Participation in the ITU regional forum in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.
- Online workshop with Viet Nam on Stocktaking of Viet Nam's UNCITRAL activities 2019–25 and future plans under the MoU.

International Conference on “Digital Trade Facilitation and Implementation: Advancing Electronic Transactions through UNCITRAL Model Laws”, in Bangkok



JULY

- CLOUT network meeting during the 58th session of UNCITRAL.
- FDI Moot Shenzhen 2025.
- UNCITRAL learning and promotional booth at the 3rd China International Supply Chain EXPO in Beijing.
- Séminaire sur le Commerce Numérique au Maroc (MLETR), delivered under the MOU with EBRD.
- Viet Nam and the UN signed a new MOU.
- Ecuador ratified the Hamburg Rules.
- El Salvador acceded to the Electronic Communications Convention.

New texts to be promoted

Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents

The Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents, finalized by the Commission at its 58th session and adopted by the United Nations in December 2026, establishes a uniform legal framework governing the issuance and use of negotiable cargo documents — a new type of document of title (in paper or electronic form) that represents goods in transit, regardless of transport mode.



JULY

Toolkit and Background Notes on Asset Tracing and Recovery in Insolvency Proceedings (ATR)

The Commission adopted the Toolkit and Background Notes on Asset Tracing and Recovery in Insolvency Proceedings (ATR), providing practical guidance to strengthen cross-border cooperation and improve ATR processes in both physical and digital environments.

Toolkit on the Prevention and Mitigation of International Investment Disputes

The Commission adopted the Toolkit on the Prevention and Mitigation of International Investment Disputes, supporting States in managing potential investor–State disputes early and encouraging context-specific, amicable solutions, including mediation.

Guide on legal issues relating to the use of distributed ledger technology in trade

The guide outlines the legal issues associated with the use of distributed ledger technology (DLT) in trade, aiming to help commercial operators and organizations understand relevant legal considerations in line with UNCITRAL's technology-neutral approach.



JULY

CLOUT Network Meeting

The CLOUT Network meeting was held in person on 16 July 2025 during the 58th Commission session. More than ninety participants attended the meeting from over fifty jurisdictions, including delegates to the Commission, members of the Vienna-based diplomatic community, national correspondents, voluntary contributors and institutional partners. The meeting was structured around six sessions and involved discussion between the UNCITRAL secretariat and CLOUT Network members.



CLOUT NETWORK MEETING

16 July 2025



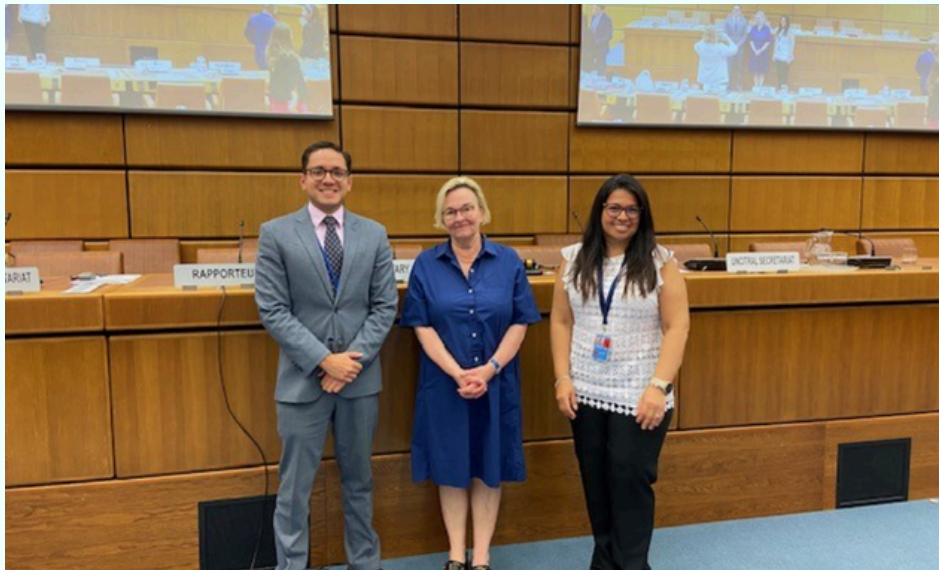
Empowering women in global digital trade

On 17 July, a panel discussion on empowering women in global digital trade was co-organized with the Embassy of Italy as a side event to the fifty-eighth session of the Commission. The discussion brought together experts to explore how UNCITRAL's work could further advance women's empowerment and foster their inclusive participation in the global digital economy.

JULY

Ecuador announced ratification of the Hamburg Rules

During the 58th session of the Commission, Ecuador announced its ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Sea (Hamburg, 1978) (the "Hamburg Rules"). Ecuador becomes the 36th State party to the Convention, which enters into force for Ecuador on 1 August 2026.



El Salvador announced accession to the ECC

During the 58th Commission session, El Salvador announced its accession to the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts (New York, 2005).



AUGUST

- UNCITRAL-APEC Workshop on the Use of International Instruments to Legally Enable End-to-End Digitalization of Trade in Incheon, Republic of Korea.
- ASEAN Law Forum 2025 in Malaysia.
- 2025 ASADIP Annual Meeting in Brazil.
- Brazil ratified the Singapore Convention on Mediation.
- Spain ratified the Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships.



Activities with APEC

In 2025, UNCITRAL participated in over 17 APEC activities hosted by the Republic of Korea, covering trade digitalization, insolvency and structural reform, investor-State dispute settlement, online dispute resolution (ODR), security interests, and trade and IP finance for MSMEs.

It also co-organized, with APEC and the Hong Kong SAR Department of Justice, a workshop on enabling end-to-end digitalization of trade under UNCITRAL frameworks (53 participants, 13 jurisdictions) and contributed virtually to an APEC workshop in Tokyo on ODR.

ASEAN Law Forum 2025

UNCITRAL participated in the ASEAN Law Forum 2025, a regional platform reflecting ASEAN's strong commitment to strengthening the rule of law, legislative and judicial reform, and economic integration. During the event, the Secretary of UNCITRAL delivered a special address highlighting UNCITRAL's vision for harmonized and modern trade law frameworks that foster cross-border trade, investment and innovation. The address further emphasized the role of UNCITRAL's work on cross-border insolvency, ISDS reform, the draft NCD Convention and digital trade in supporting regional development.



SEPTEMBER

- China Arbitration Summit.
- 7th Shanghai-Hong Kong Commercial Mediation Forum.
- 63rd Annual Session of AALCO in Uganda.
- 4th Forum on Rule of Law in Global Digital Trade in Hangzhou, China.
- IV edition of the Colombian Arbitration Week.
- Opportunities and Challenges of Legal Instruments of UNCITRAL for the Development of the Shipping Industry in Shanghai, China.
- High-Level Forum on Justice for Growth — Technical meeting with the EU Commission in Belgium.
- Vienna Blockchain Week.
- EU approved the Mauritius Convention on Transparency.

Opportunities and Challenges of Legal Instruments of UNCITRAL for the Development of the Shipping Industry



EU approved the Mauritius Convention on Transparency



4th Forum on Rule of Law in Global Digital Trade



OCTOBER

- 2025 China International Investment Arbitration Forum Annual Conference.
- 2025 Korea Flagships: ADRSS and 14th Asia-Pacific ADR Conference.
- INSOL Europe 2025 Vienna Annual Congress.
- ABI & INSOL Europe 2025 Berlin International European Insolvency Symposium.
- Secured Finance to Facilitate Sustainable Economic Growth and Improve Food Security Workshop in Tokyo, Japan.
- III World Summit on Corporate Mediation, organized by the Bogota Chamber of Commerce and the Valladolid Chamber of Commerce and XIX Congress on Insolvency Law, Colombia.
- First World Conference on International Law "Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations: The Past, Present, and Future of International Law" in China.
- International Association of Lawyers, Annual Congress in Mexico.
- Iran ratified the Electronic Communications Convention.

INSOL Europe 2025 Vienna Annual Congress

UNCITRAL contributed to an academic forum and annual congress held as part of INSOL Europe 2025 in Vienna in October. The events provided a platform for in-depth exchange on emerging insolvency trends. The Secretary of UNCITRAL delivered the Gabriel Moss Lecture on Insolvency law in the digital age.



OCTOBER

2025 RCAP Flagship events:

UNCITRAL-KMOJ ADR Special Session and Asia-Pacific ADR Conference

The 2025 KMOJ-UNCITRAL Alternative Dispute Resolution Special Session was held on 28 October in Seoul, co-organized with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea, ADB, ADBI and KCAB INTERNATIONAL. Focusing on the implementation of UNCITRAL dispute settlement instruments in civil law jurisdictions, the hybrid event drew 230 participants from 61 jurisdictions – more than double last year's attendance – reflecting strong and growing regional interest. The following day, the 14th Asia-Pacific ADR Conference co-organized with KMOJ, KCAB INTERNATIONAL and ICC, brought together over 370 participants from around 30 jurisdictions under the theme "Unveiling Excellence in Arbitration", reaffirming its role as a leading forum for the regional arbitration community.



OCTOBER

Presenting UNCITRAL instruments in Mozambique and in Portuguese-speaking jurisdictions

Mozambique hosted an UNCITRAL Days conference for the first time, in Joaquim Chissano University (Maputo). The event was held in Portuguese and was attended by 40 students in person, including from other universities in Maputo, with 20 additional participants joining online. The conference focused on “UNCITRAL’s mandate, composition, work methods, and key instruments, highlighting its role in harmonizing international trade law and promoting legal certainty”, “UNCITRAL texts on arbitration and mediation”, and “UNCITRAL’s cross-border insolvency framework, comparing its implementation in Brazil and Mozambique”.



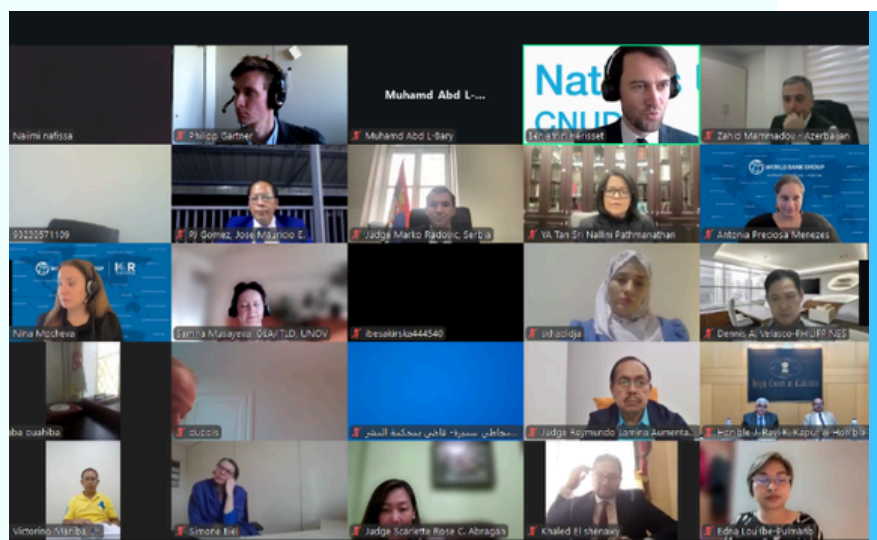
NOVEMBER

- The 4th Tokyo Forum on Dispute Resolution.
- Capacity-building related to simplified insolvency proceedings in Rwanda.
- INSOLLEGAL 2025 — Conferința internațională în insolvabilitate în Moldova.
- Third edition of the joint UNCITRAL–World Bank Group Judicial Capacity-Building Initiative on International Best Practices in the Area of Insolvency Law (webinar).
- 2nd International Conference on Judicial Training in Riyadh.
- Train For Trade conference on digital economy for small island developing States in Singapore.
- 8th Conference on International Coordination of secured transactions (ST) reform in Hong Kong, China.
- The Regional Policy Dialogue on “Moving Forward to the New Trend of International Investment Agreement (IIA) — Bringing the Concept of Sustainable and Responsible Investments (SRI)” in Myanmar.
- Africa Round Table on Insolvency Reform 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Empowering Women in International Law (webinar).
- Signature of MoU with Morocco.



8th Conference on International Coordination of ST Reform

Third edition of the joint UNCITRAL–World Bank Group Judicial Capacity-Building Initiative on International Best Practices in the Area of Insolvency Law



NOVEMBER

The 4th Tokyo Forum on Dispute Resolution

The 4th Tokyo Forum on Dispute Resolution 2025 themed “Possibilities and challenges in the evolving landscape of international dispute resolution” is a flagship event held during Japan International Arbitration Week on 26 November 2025. Co-organised by the Ministry of Justice of Japan and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes and, for the first time, by UNCITRAL RCAP, the Forum featured dedicated sessions on UNCITRAL Working Group II, with particular attention on the DRDE project, followed by a high-level roundtable on “Future of International Arbitration and Mediation – From Civil Law and Common Law Perspectives”.



Africa Round Table on Insolvency Reform 2025

The secretariat participated in this important gathering of insolvency experts from the African continent, including policymakers, judges and practitioners. The secretariat presented UNCITRAL texts on asset tracing and recovery in insolvency proceedings and took part in a practical case study on challenges and tools available to courts and insolvency practitioners in the digital era.

NOVEMBER

International Seminar with University Mohammed V of Rabat



The conference, organized on 11 November 2025 by the University Mohammed V of Rabat and the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco, gathered more than 300 participants. The event focused on the ISDS reform work being finalized by UNCITRAL Working Group III. The seminar aimed to raise awareness among Moroccan legal and academic communities about the structural challenges affecting the ISDS regime — such as questions of legitimacy, transparency, efficiency and balance between investor protection and State sovereignty — and to analyse how the ongoing reform seeks to modernize and harmonize this system globally.

The Sixth International Conference on Arbitration in Libya

The Sixth International Conference on Arbitration in Libya, convened on 24–25 November, gathered international experts, academics and practitioners for a series of sessions on electronic arbitration and the role of UNCITRAL in modernizing international commercial law in the digital age. The event celebrated 20 years of the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts, with a representative from the UNCITRAL secretariat providing an overview of the Convention's impact on digital trade and cross-border contracting. Speakers from across the region explored how UNCITRAL instruments continue to guide legislative reforms in Arab countries, particularly in areas related to e-commerce, automated contracts and digital identity frameworks.



NOVEMBER

The impact of Digitalization on International Trade: Perspectives from the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol and UNCITRAL



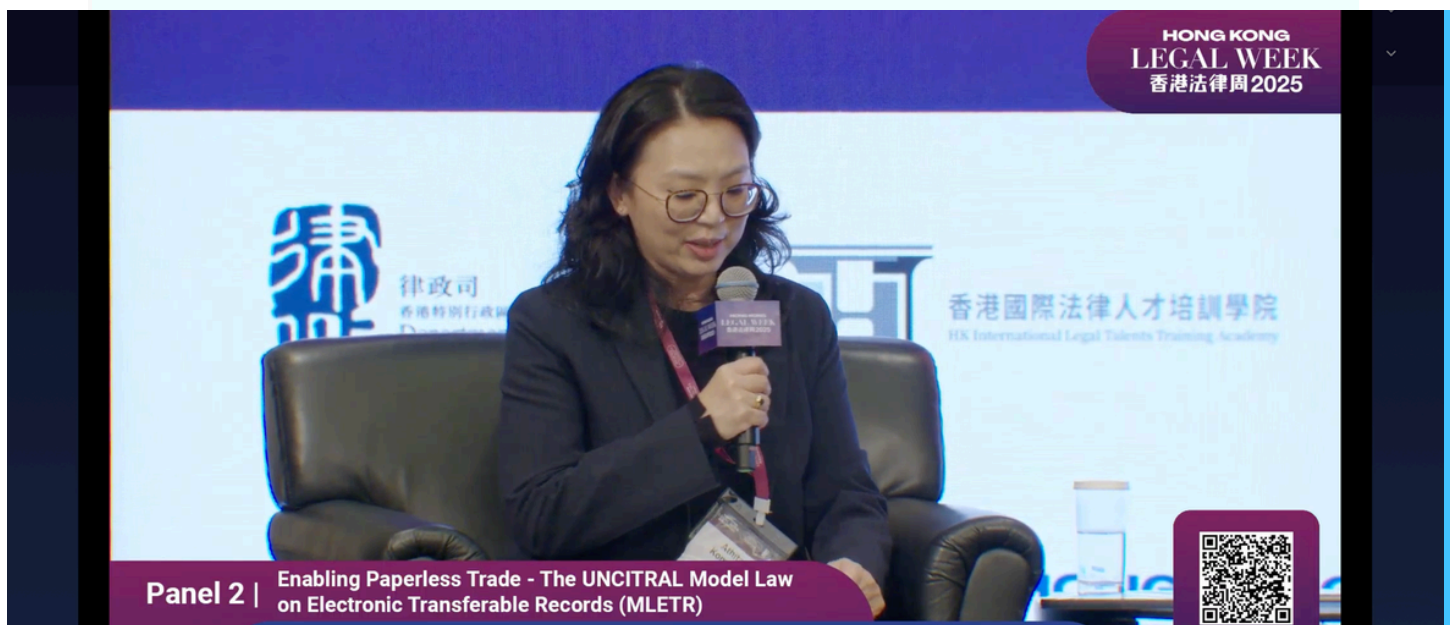
The event opened with a keynote address by the UNCITRAL secretariat on “UNCITRAL and the Future of Digital Trade”, emphasizing the role of UNCITRAL in creating harmonized legal frameworks for electronic commerce and digital trade globally. The panels explored the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol and possible regulatory approaches for cross-border digital trade in Africa. The relevance of UNCITRAL e-commerce texts and their long-standing implementation across African jurisdictions was noted, as well as digitalization and international trade from legal and practical perspectives, covering international sale of goods, negotiable cargo documents and trade finance digitalization being addressed.

DECEMBER

- 6th UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit 2025 in Hong Kong, China.
- IBA Asset Recovery Conference, Lisbon.
- Judicial capacity-building on cross-border insolvency for Arabic-speaking judges — train-the-trainers segment, in Vienna.
- 20th International Capacity-Building Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation: Trade Facilitation and Digital Transformation of Multimodal Information Exchange in Eastern Europe and SPECA, using United Nations Standards in Azerbaijan.
- Kyrgyzstan becomes the 20th party to the Singapore Convention on Mediation.
- United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents (New York, 2025).

6th UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit 2025 in Hong Kong, China

The 6th UNCITRAL Asia-Pacific Judicial Summit, co-hosted biennially by UNCITRAL and the Hong Kong SAR Department of Justice, brought together judges from across the region to discuss end-to-end trade digitalization on 1-2 December in Hong Kong, China. Delivered in Chinese, English and, for the first time, Russian, the Summit examined the judicial application of UNCITRAL's digital trade instruments, including virtual assets, electronic documents, digital service providers and the digitalization aspects of the newly adopted Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents and DRDE. The closed Judicial Roundtable focused on AI-related disputes and interactions between ADR and court processes.



DECEMBER

Judicial capacity-building on cross-border insolvency for Arabic-speaking judges

The secretariat organized a preparatory session with judges from various jurisdictions having experience with the UNCITRAL cross-border insolvency framework and judges from Arabic-speaking jurisdictions (Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia) wishing to learn more on this topic. This training was a preparatory meeting to an in-person training event held in Arabic in January 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

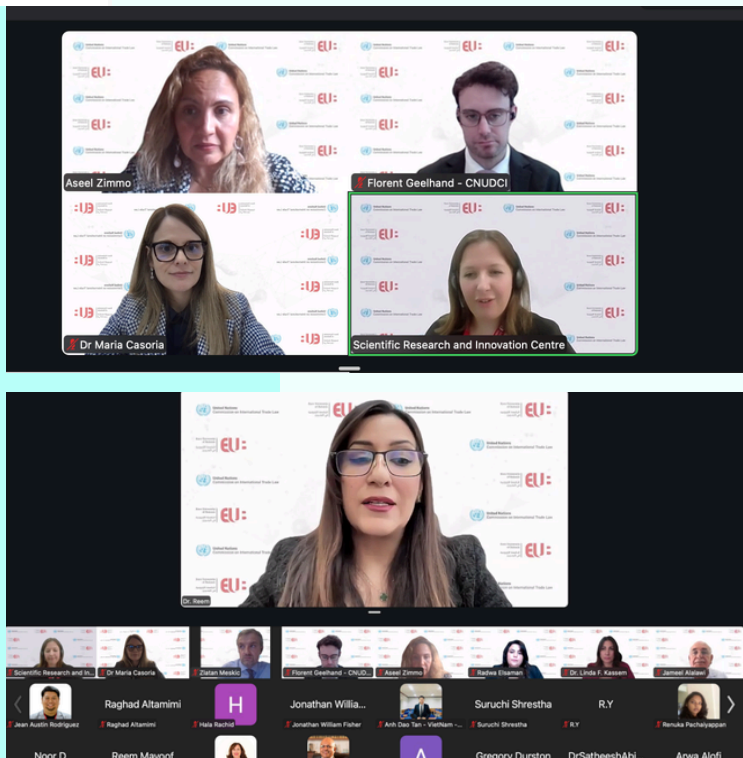


UNCITRAL Instruments as Catalysts for End-to-End Digitalization of International Trade

Dschang University organized an event in the context of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa for the fourth consecutive year. The event, held in French, provided an opportunity for young scholars and academics to examine UNCITRAL texts and their possible implementation in Cameroon.



DECEMBER



The Use of Electronic Communications in Contracts: International Outlook vis-à-vis the Bahraini Legal Framework

The Euro University of Bahrain organized an online research symposium on 4 December 2025, gathering approximately 45 participants from a wide range of jurisdictions, including Argentina, Bahrain, India, Italy, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam. The symposium brought together academics, practitioners, policymakers and specialists in international commercial law to examine the evolving landscape of digital contracting, the legal implications of electronic communications and the impact of emerging technologies on international trade and e-commerce.

IBA Asset Recovery Conference, Lisbon

UNCITRAL engaged with the International Bar Association Asset Recovery Committee, presenting its recently adopted asset tracing and recovery (ATR) texts. It addressed practical questions, emphasizing their relevance beyond insolvency and broader application in asset recovery. The exchange raised awareness among practitioners and provided insights to support targeted promotion and uptake of the ATR framework.



LOOKING AHEAD

UNCITRAL@60 Anniversary Events



2026 marks the 60th anniversary of UNCITRAL's establishment by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 December 1966. To commemorate this milestone, UNCITRAL and its partners are organizing a series of anniversary events throughout the year, including:

- The UNCITRAL@60 Commemorative Event at the Vienna International Centre on 17 December 2026, marking six decades of UNCITRAL's contribution to the harmonization and modernization of international trade law and reflecting on future priorities;
- The UNCITRAL 60th Anniversary Global Essay Competition, bringing together innovative perspectives from researchers and practitioners on the future of international trade law.

More information is available at:

<https://uncitral.un.org/en/content/celebrating-sixty-years-of-UNCITRAL>

Other Key UNCITRAL Events in 2026

Several other major UNCITRAL events are scheduled for 2026, including:

- The signing ceremony of the United Nations Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents in Accra, Ghana, on 26 October 2026;
- The first edition of the Transdanubian Days, bringing together governments, academics, practitioners and international organizations to discuss current developments in international trade law and the implementation of UNCITRAL texts.

As UNCITRAL celebrates its 60th anniversary, the secretariat welcomes collaboration with governments, judicial institutions, academia and other stakeholders worldwide.



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