



REFERENCE: LA/TL 133 (15-1) 57th SM/akb

14 October 2020

Dear representatives of States at the fifty-seventh session of UNCITRAL Working Group V (Insolvency Law) (Vienna (online), 7-10 December 2020),

Sequel to my letter of 7 September 2020, as the Chair of the Working Group, I have the pleasure to announce the following arrangements for the session in accordance with the decision on the format, officers and methods of work of the UNCITRAL working groups during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, adopted by the UNCITRAL member States on 19 August 2020 (see A/CN.9/1038, annex, I, available at <https://uncitral.un.org/en/commission>).

The session will open on 7 December 2020. Two two-hour meetings per day will be held from Monday, 7 December, to Thursday, 10 December. The meeting hours will be 11:00–13:00 and 15:00–17:00 (Central European Winter Time).

Arrangements put in place for the session will allow delegations to participate at the session in person (Vienna International Centre, Boardroom D, 4th floor) or remotely (Interprefy platform). As a number of the delegations participating remotely will be new to the Interprefy platform, I have requested the Secretariat to convene an informal meeting shortly before the session to explain equipment, connection and other requirements. I also intend to allocate some time during the first meeting on Monday, 7 December, to video/audio/connection testing.

I did not receive any comments on the provisional agenda for the session (A/CN.9/WG.V/WP.169/Rev.1) and on the proposed course of action for its adoption, circulated with my letter of 7 September 2020. The provisional agenda, as issued with amendments made by the Secretariat to reflect the adjusted dates and duration of the session, will be considered adopted at the beginning of the session. It will be posted by the Secretariat on the web page of the Working Group at uncitral.un.org in due course.

There will be no election of officers for the session. The Rapporteur at the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group, Ms. Jasnica Garašić (Croatia), and I will continue our respective offices.

At the session, the Working Group is expected to continue its consideration of a revised draft text on simplified insolvency regime (A/CN.9/WG.V/WP.170/Rev.1). I intend to start the reading of the text from the glossary, then proceed to draft recommendations and conclude with the draft commentary.

I will take steps to ensure an inclusive and transparent approach and adjust the pace and organization of the session to accommodate remote participation, especially as delegations may face technological difficulties. Considering the limited time allocated for the session, I would urge delegations to make concise interventions not exceeding three (3) minutes on a specific provision and also to make use of the chat and other functions available on Interprefy. This will ensure that we make efficient use of the resources available to the Working Group.

Delegations wishing to make written submissions are invited to do so in advance of the session to facilitate the discussions. To have such submission translated into the other official languages of the United Nations, it should be submitted at least two weeks in advance of the session. I will make efforts to ensure that written submissions are adequately reflected in our deliberations and in the summary or the report of the session (see immediately below).

As regards the preparation and adoption of the report, the Rapporteur and I will prepare, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a summary of the deliberations and any conclusions reached during the session in a format similar to that of usual Working Group reports. That summary will be circulated for comments to the delegations after the session and will be amended if and as necessary on the basis of the comments received. My hope is that the Working Group would be satisfied with the final summary and would be willing to adopt it as its report and transmit it to the Commission for consideration at its fifty-fourth session in 2021. If not, the Rapporteur and I will present it to the Commission as our summary.

Please feel free to convey your comments on the above to me (harold_foo@mlaw.gov.sg) with a copy to the secretary of the Working Group (Ms. Samira Musayeva, samira.musayeva@un.org).

In light of the travel restrictions, I will unfortunately not be able to take part in the session in person. I would encourage those representatives in a similar situation to participate remotely so that the Working Group could make progress. I look forward to working with you at the session.

Yours sincerely,



Harold Foo
Chair

UNCITRAL Working Group V (Insolvency Law)