

A light blue, stylized map of the African continent is centered on the page. The map has a slightly irregular, torn-paper-like edge. The text of the title is overlaid on the map.

**UNCITRAL DAYS
IN AFRICA
2022
REPORT**

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
I. Background of the UNCITRAL Days series	4
II. A Series for Africa	5
III. The 2022 UNCITRAL Days in Africa	7
IV. Highlights of the inaugural UNCITRAL Days in Africa	14
Conclusions and way forward	14
Annex 1: Programme	15
Annex 2: Summary of Events	16
Annex 3 - Testimonies from Beneficiaries	38

Introduction

1. This report on the UNCITRAL Days in Africa 2022 highlights the objectives of this inaugural series, the deliverables produced, and the outcomes achieved.
2. First, the report provides background information on the UNCITRAL Days project in general and on the launch of the African edition. It is followed by a snapshot of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa 2022 inaugural series to illustrate the extent of regional participation in this project and a summary of the salient features of this inaugural series. A list of participating universities and institutions appears under Section III below and in Annex 1.
3. Highlights of the individual events held with the hosting partners, appear in Annex 2 (Summary of Events). Testimonials from partnering institutions in their original language appear at Annex 3 in the final pages of the report.

I. Background of the UNCITRAL Days series

4. The so-called ‘UNCITRAL Days’ are a flagship annual series of regional events that the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) co-hosts with partner institutions of higher learning (hereinafter, ‘partner institutions’).

5. Originally conceived as an annual celebration of the establishment of UNCITRAL by United Nations General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI) on 17 December 1966, the events are organised by the partner institutions, and they are held during the last quarter of each year, with the support of the UNCITRAL Secretariat.

6. The UNCITRAL Days aim at increasing awareness of UNCITRAL texts generally, and at fostering study, research and discussions by the participants on topics related to UNCITRAL’s work. They are aimed at, and involve, young legal scholars, Law students and young legal professionals, i.e. the next generation of legal practitioners, academics and policymakers, who in their respective capacities may well become essential participants in, contributors to, and proponents of the work of UNCITRAL in the future.

7. Participation to the UNCITRAL Days is free. The activities held in their context are academic in nature. The partner institutions who take the lead in organizing them typically focus for each edition on an area of commercial law identified as being of significant importance in the region, under an overarching theme suggested by and coordinated with the UNCITRAL Secretariat.

8. The UNCITRAL Days were first launched as a regional event in 2014 by the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP). These have been known as ‘the AP Days’. Given the success of, and increasing participation in the AP Days, an inaugural series for Latin America and the Caribbean was launched in 2020 (‘the LAC Days’).

9. In 2020, there were 19 events in the Asia-Pacific region, with 35 partnering universities and institutions in ten jurisdictions, and 30 events in Latin America and the Caribbean, with 34 participating universities and institutions in 16 jurisdictions. In 2021, the 8th edition of the AP days comprised 21 events in 14 jurisdictions organised by 40 partner institutions, while the second edition of LAC Days gathered 27 universities and institutions from 20 jurisdictions and a total of 30 online academic events.

10. The UNCITRAL Days in both regions have, since the first event in 2014, reached many thousands of participants (students, professors, researchers, practitioners and, as applicable, government officials). Many of them noted that the deliverables (lectures, presentations, focused workshops, etc.) have had a positive impact in terms of capacity building provided to public and private stakeholders with the ultimate result of increasing awareness of UNCITRAL work and of international trade law issues in general. The annual UNCITRAL Days have also

led to an increased participation to UNCITRAL's work by States of these two regions and assisted them in their consideration of adopting UNCITRAL texts.

II. A Series for Africa

11. At its 54th annual session in July 2021, UNCITRAL expressed its appreciation for the successes of the 2020 UNCITRAL Days in both the Asia-Pacific and the Latin American and Caribbean regions, welcomed the forthcoming 2021 series, and took note of the potential benefits for other regions to host UNCITRAL Days events. In this regard, the Chair of the 54th Session, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations in Vienna, H.E. Amb. Philbert Abaka Johnson, called upon States to host an inaugural UNCITRAL Days series in Africa in 2022. In so doing, the Chairman expressed his appreciation for the evident engagement of many States in the region, and their willingness, along with States from other regions, to work with UNCITRAL to support the UNCITRAL Days series.¹

Theme

12. At an Africa Forum convened in the margins of UNCITRAL's 54th annual session held on 30 June 2021, approximately 50 representatives from African States shared their thoughts on areas of commercial law with particular resonance in the region, and noted both the increasing participation of African States in UNCITRAL's legislative work, and the importance of raising the priorities and needs of the African region in UNCITRAL's work.² The Chair of the session, H.E. Ambassador Philbert Abaka Johnson, emphasized that the digital revolution was an incredible opportunity for African countries, accompanied by a need for African States to develop legal infrastructure allowing them to benefit from it and to address the challenges of the digital economy. Areas of particular resonance to the African region according to the participants included the need for the establishment of a harmonized legal framework for a fair and efficient settlement of international investment disputes; and transparency, accountability and good governance in the commercial law framework. The specificities of the African region were also noted, including the fact that micro and small enterprises, and particularly micro-businesses, many of which are family owned or run by women entrepreneurs, formed the basis of the economy in many African countries.

13. These topics increased in importance with the adoption and entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement,³ the launch of the operational phase of

¹ see UNCITRAL report A/76/17), para. 315

² A summary of this side event can be found at: https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/en/africa_forum_summary.pdf

³ The AfCFTA agreement was signed in Kigali, Rwanda, on 21 March 2018. It entered into force on 30 May 2019. As at February 2023, the Agreement counted 54 signatories out of 55 countries in the African group of States, 46 of whom had deposited their instruments of ratification. See, <https://www.tralac.org/resources/infographic/13795-status-of-afcfta-ratification.html>

the African Internal Market, the establishment of the AfCFTA Secretariat. As AfCFTA seeks to build a single market for trade and investment throughout Africa – a challenging endeavour with enormous potential to support sustainable development and transform lives across the continent, the harmonization of the commercial law framework – which is UNCITRAL’s *raison d’être* - is taking on greater importance in the context of the anticipated increased economic ties among African countries following the entry into force of the AfCFTA. The negotiations of two AfCFTA Protocols, on Digital Trade and on Investment, serve to emphasize how important it is that government representatives in their negotiation be well informed about relevant policy options and existing tools in these areas. As this is a dynamic area of law-making for the African region, it is furthermore important that future policymakers are able to adapt the relevant frameworks as business practices evolve.

14. In this context, possible themes identified for an inaugural series of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa were those aspects of commercial law discussed in the AfCFTA Agreement and to be further developed into Protocols and addressed in UNCITRAL’s work. In order to reflect diversity within the African region, a flexible approach was adopted with the choice of a broad overarching theme: “*Modernization and harmonization of the international commercial law framework in the AfCFTA context*”. Several subtopics were identified, addressing training needs of partnering institutions covering numerous subject areas of UNCITRAL’s work, such as electronic commerce, insolvency law, alternative dispute resolution and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

15. The secretariat wishes to thank the European Union for its support to the operation of the Transparency Registry by the secretariat, which enabled it to raise awareness on the Transparency Standards and the ISDS Reform in the context of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa (events hosted by AAPDI Paris; Ains Sham University, Cairo; Université Gaston Berger, Saint-Louis, Senegal; University of Dschang, Cameroon; School of Higher Commercial Studies, Algiers; Njala University at Bo Campus, Sierra Leone; and University Cadi Ayyad, Marrakesh).

Launch event

16. The launch of the inaugural UNCITRAL Days in Africa series took place on 27 May 2022 at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration in Accra, Ghana and online, thanks to the generous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana and of the European Union.⁴ The inaugural session provided an opportunity to introduce the concept of the UNCITRAL Days to all participants, while providing information to institutions of higher learning that might host activities. The inaugural session also provided a forum for all participants to explore thematic areas relevant to UNCITRAL’s work and to themselves, through interactive discussions. Five African

⁴ See, UNCITAD press release for the event, ‘UNCITRAL Days in Africa’, at <https://uncitral.un.org/en/events/uncitral-day-africa>. Under the press release, the following are accessible via dedicated links: Flyer of the Launch event; Programme of the Launch event; Calendar of Academic Events and Video of the Launch event.

universities and one association officially confirmed their intention to organize one or more UNCITRAL Days event(s) at the occasion of the launch conference.⁵

III. The 2022 UNCITRAL Days in Africa

17. In total, the inaugural UNCITRAL Days in Africa series counted 16 events organised in nine countries throughout the African continent, including French, Arab and English-speaking countries. They were organised by ten universities or institutions of higher learning and one association.⁶












Participating jurisdictions and institutions

18. The nine jurisdictions which participated in the inaugural UNCITRAL Days series in Africa were: Algeria (1 event), Cameroon (1 event), Egypt (2 events), Ghana (launch event), Kenya (1 event), Morocco (1 event), Senegal (1 event), Sierra Leone (1 event) and South Africa (6 events). (See, snapshot and in the figure below.)

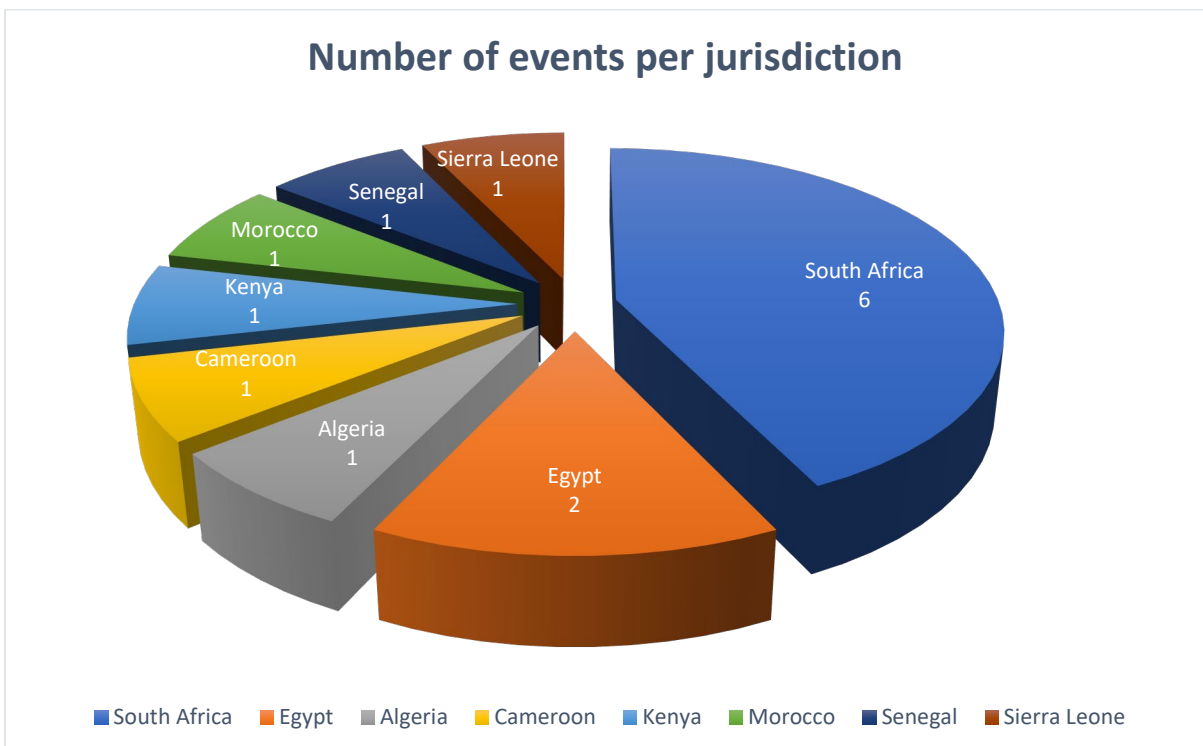
19. The contribution of all of the institutions hosting sessions was most welcome and appreciated, as well as the support of relevant counterparts, including national counterparts, which has made it possible for the variety of events to take place across nine countries, taking also into account the occasional technical challenges.

⁵ These were the Mandela Institute at the Witwatersrand University ('Wits') School of Law in Johannesburg, South Africa; the University Gaston Berger of Saint-Louis in Sénégal; the *Académie africaine de la pratique du droit international* (African Academy for International Law Practice) in Paris, France; the University of Ghana School of Law in Accra, Ghana; the Njala University, School of Social Sciences & Law, at the Bo Campus in Sierra Leone; and the Ain Shams University Law School in Cairo, Egypt.

⁶ See above Fnote for the initial participants, to which were later added the following institutions of higher learning: the Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch, South Africa; the Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakesh, Morocco; the University of Nairobi in Nairobi, Kenya; the *École des Hautes Études Commerciales* in Algiers, Algeria; and the University of Dschang in Western Cameroon.

	 Algeria	Number of event(s)	1
		Language	French
		Synchronous participants (approx.)	74
	 Cameroon	Number of event(s)	1
		Language	French
		Synchronous participants (approx.)	172
	 Egypt	Number of event(s)	2
		Language	English/Arabic
		Synchronous participants (approx.)	600
	 Ghana	Number of event(s)	1
	Language	English/French	
	Synchronous participants (approx.)	100	
 Morocco	Number of event(s)	1	
	Language	French	
	Synchronous participants (approx.)	100	
 Senegal	Number of event(s)	1	
	Language	French	
	Synchronous participants (approx.)	50	
 Sierra Leone	Number of event(s)	1	
	Language	English	
	Synchronous participants (approx.)	80	
 South Africa	Number of event(s)	6	
	Language	English	
	Synchronous participants (approx.)	214	
 Kenya	Number of event(s)	1	
	Language	English	
	Synchronous participants (approx.)	66	
 AAPDI	Number of event(s)	1	
	Language	French	
	Synchronous participants (approx.)	80	

* **Map source:** <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/africa-2>. As noted on the map, the boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



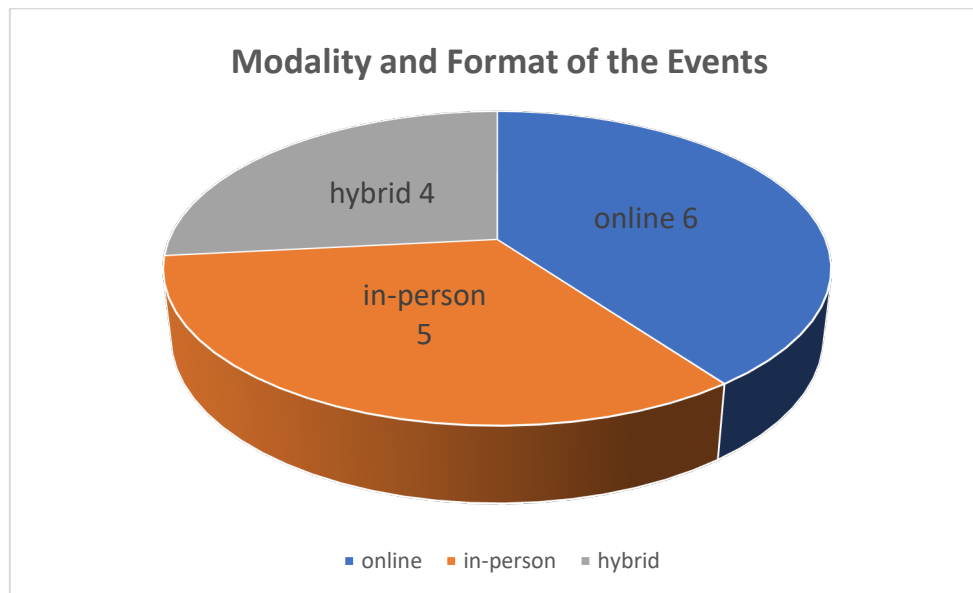
List of Hosting Institutions and Partners

20. The following is a table listing the institutions of higher learning which hosted UNCITRAL Africa Days Events in 2022 and other partners involved in the organization of these events or who otherwise supported them.

No.	Institution (with embedded link to the Institution's Webpage)	Location	Webpage dedicated to the Africa Days event(s) hosted (as applicable)
A) Universities and Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa			
1.	Ain Shams University, Faculty of Law	Cairo, Egypt	ASU A workshop at the Faculty of Law on reforming the investor-state dispute settlement system
2.	Cadi Ayyad University	Marrakesh, Morocco	--
3.	Dschang University	Cameroon	--
4.	École des Hautes Études Commerciales d'Alger (EHEC Algiers)	Alger, Algérie	--
5.	Gaston Berger University (UGB)	Saint Louis, Sénégal	--
6.	Njala University, School of Social Sciences and Law	Sierra Leone	--
8.	Wits University, Mandela Institute	Johannesbourg, South Africa	Events - Wits University
9.	Stellenbosch University, African Procurement Law Unit	Stellenbosch, South Africa	UNCITRAL Days in Africa – APLU (africanprocurementlaw.org)
10.	University of Nairobi	Nairobi, Kenya	--
B) Other Partners			
11.	Académie Africaine de la Pratique du Droit International (AAPDI)	Paris, France	Journée de la CNUDCI en Afrique - AAPDI - Académie Africaine de la Pratique du Droit International (aailp.org)
12.	Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law	Heidelberg, Germany	--
7.	Monash University	Melbourne, Victoria, Australia	--

Format of the events and support of the UNCITRAL Secretariat

21. The format of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa activities ranged from two to three-hour online events to in-person or hybrid conferences of either half-day, one, two or three full days of duration, depending on the technological capacities and preferences of the hosting Institutions.



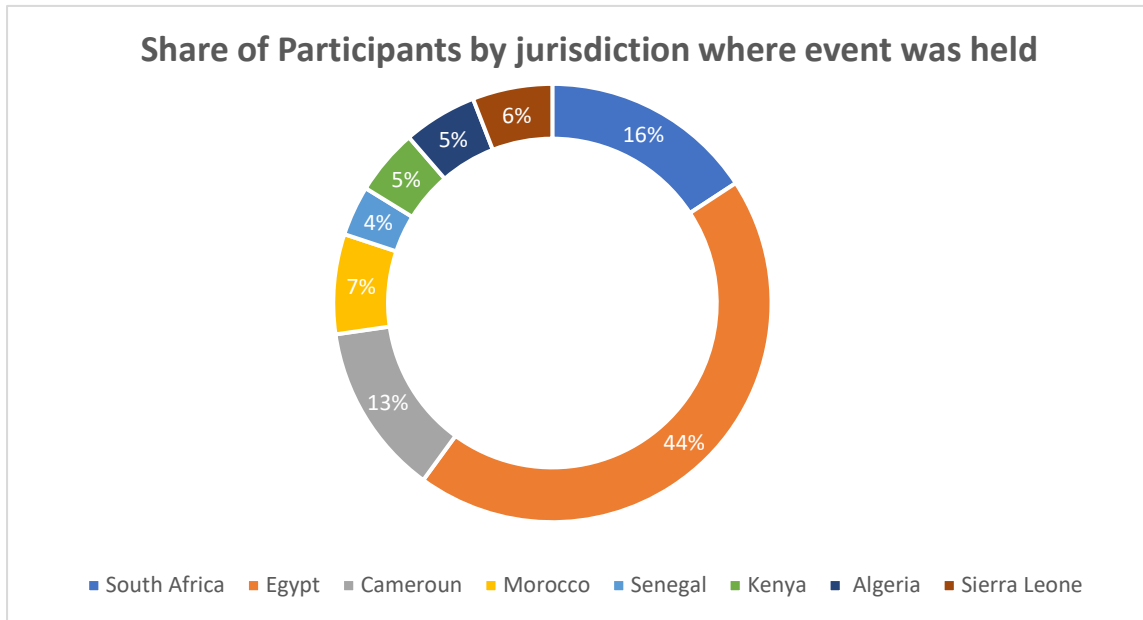
22. The UNCITRAL secretariat provided special support to all UNCITRAL Days in Africa activities, both in terms of participation in the events and by providing *ad hoc* support for the organisation of the activities. The UNCITRAL Secretary delivered opening remarks, either remotely or in person, or through a recorded video if live and remote participation possible, to almost all the activities. Legal officers from the UNCITRAL secretariat in Vienna delivered technical presentations related to several subject areas of UNCITRAL’s work, based on topics identified by the hosting Institutions as being of special interest to them and their students. In a few instances, where, notably, the organisers could support the travel costs, UNCITRAL secretariat representatives participated in-person to the activity.⁷

23. The UNCITRAL secretariat provided support in both languages as and where possible, with its legal officers delivering contributions in both languages, with the result of enhancing regional accessibility and multilingualism of the Africa Days’ events.

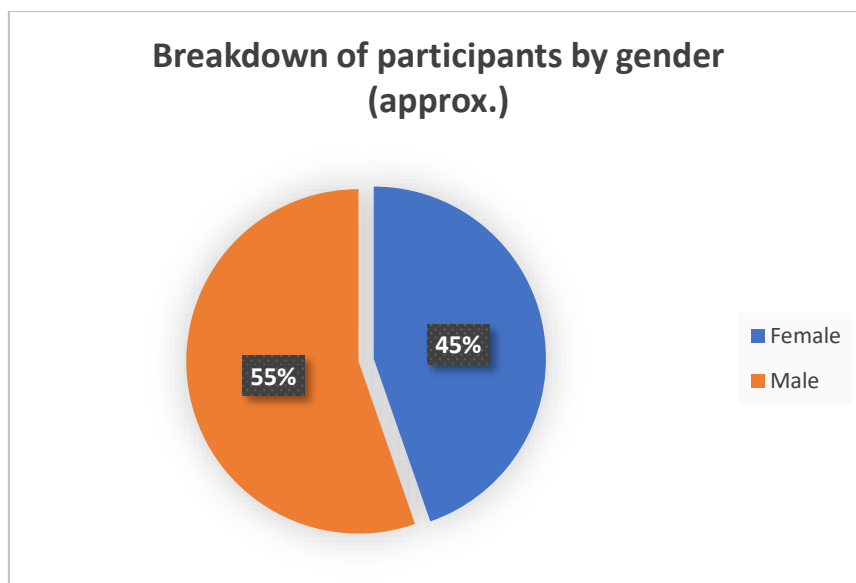
⁷ The in-person participation of one UNCITRAL secretariat representative was made possible in Egypt (both events at Ains Sham University), Morocco (Cadi Ayyad University), Senegal (Université Gaston Berger) and South Africa (Monash University, Mandela Institute at Wits University, and Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law International Law)

Participation, audience diversity and gender parity

24. Altogether, the 15 activities of the inaugural UNCITRAL Days in Africa reached a participation of over 1400 synchronous participants.



25. Based on statistics provided by the hosting institutions, where in particular a gender breakdown was available, the public reached was diverse, with 45 % of the participants being women overall.



26. While most activities were geared towards Law students and the academic community in the particular hosting institution, several of them were broadcast online or were hybrid thus

allowing remote participation including from students and academia or other members of the public from various countries. As such, many of the events were open to public audiences from across the African continent.

27. The events gathered experts (mostly academic and legal practitioners) from African countries at different stages of economic development, thereby ensuring that diverse perspectives could be represented, with an emphasis on challenges according to the variety of situations and contexts across the African continent. Some of the events further included members of the civil society and governmental officials.

Supporting progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals

28. In light of the comprehensive themes and topics explored during the inaugural UNCITRAL Days in Africa series, including on such topics as MSMEs, electronic commerce, insolvency law, public procurement and alternative dispute resolution; considering also the particular focus of this inaugural series on educating the next generation, the events supported UNCITRAL’s overall contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on several fronts, including:

Goal #	Description	Relevance to UNCITRAL Instrument
Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<i>E-commerce, MSMEs, Public Procurement, PPPs, security interests, transparency in treaty-based international arbitration</i>
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	<i>MSMEs</i>
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<i>Public Procurement, PPPs, transparency in treaty-based international arbitration</i>
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<i>E-commerce, MSMEs</i>
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<i>PPPs</i>
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<i>PPPs</i>
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<i>Dispute settlement, e-commerce, insolvency, MSMEs, Public Procurement, PPPs, sale of goods, security interests, international transport of goods, transparency in treaty-based international arbitration</i>
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	<i>Dispute settlement, e-commerce, MSMEs, Public Procurement, PPPs, security interests, international transport of goods, transparency in treaty-based international arbitration</i>

Goal #	Description	Relevance to UNCITRAL Instrument
Goal 10	Reduce income inequality within and among countries	<i>Insolvency, Public Procurement, transparency in treaty-based international arbitration</i>
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	<i>PPPs</i>
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	<i>Public Procurement, PPPs, sale of goods, transparency in treaty-based international arbitration</i>
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	<i>Dispute settlement, e-commerce, Public Procurement, PPPs, sale of goods, transparency in treaty-based international arbitration</i>
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	<i>Dispute settlement, insolvency, Public Procurement, PPPs, security interests</i>



IV. Highlights of the inaugural UNCITRAL Days in Africa

29. For convenience, highlights of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa's inaugural series have been compiled in the following annexes to this report:

- a. Annex 1 provides the last version of the programme of all events in the UNCITRAL Days in Africa's inaugural series.
- b. Annex 2 to the present report provides a summary of each event in the UNCITRAL Days in Africa's inaugural series. The summaries include information such as date, organisers, general theme or title of the event, number of participants and breakdown of participants in gender whenever available, topics addressed during the event and specific UNCITRAL-related instruments of particular relevance.
- c. Annex 3 compiles testimonies received from the organisers and partners.

Conclusions and way forward

30. The UNCITRAL Secretariat is grateful to all organisers and participants, and to all those who supported the organization of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa's inaugural series 2022, for the level of interest and enthusiasm which the events have attained.

31. It is the hope of the UNCITRAL Secretariat that the 2023 series will be equally well received and further disseminated across the continent.

32. One participating university to the inaugural African series proposed to be involved in the launch of an inaugural series for Arab countries. This was the occasion to discuss, and agree on, a further expansion of the project.

33. For institutions interested in co-organizing an UNCITRAL Days' activity, please contact the UNCITRAL Secretariat at the generic email uncitral@un.org, to explore collaboration opportunities.

UNCITRAL Secretariat
United Nations Vienna
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
1400 Vienna, Austria
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<https://uncitral.un.org/>

Annex 1: Programme



United Nations
UNCITRAL

2022 UNCITRAL Days in Africa

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE*

Modernization and harmonization of international commercial law framework in the AfCFTA context

UNCITRAL Days are a series of events co-organised with institutions of higher learning to raise awareness of the work of UNCITRAL amongst the next generations of legal thinkers and policymakers, thereby furthering its efforts to promote the progressive harmonization and modernization of international trade and commercial law

<p>11 October, Egypt Ain Shams Law School, Cairo <i>The reform of investor-State dispute resolution mechanism</i></p>	<p>17 November, Kenya University of Nairobi, Nairobi <i>Modernization and Harmonization of International Commercial Law framework: UNCITRAL Instruments, Global and Domestic Institutions in the Context of the AfCFTA</i></p>
<p>1 November, South Africa Mandela Institute, Wits University, Johannesburg <i>Towards an economically inclusive AfCFTA: leveraging technology and the harmonisation of laws to improve MSMEs' access to credit</i></p>	<p>22 November, South Africa Mandela Institute, Wits University, Johannesburg <i>In search of an inclusive AfCFTA: what role for advisory centres on international trade and investment law?</i></p>
<p>3 November, South Africa Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch <i>Importance of public procurement rules in free trade agreements such as AfCFTA</i></p>	<p>24 November, Algeria Ecole des Hautes Études commerciales d'Alger <i>AfCFTA implementation : from phase 1 to phase 2 of the negotiations</i></p>
<p>5-6 November, Egypt Ain Shams Law School, Cairo <i>Dispute settlement in the context of sustainable development</i></p>	<p>24-25 November, South Africa Mandela Institute, Wits University, Johannesburg <i>Making a Multilateral Investment Court Beneficial for Sub-Saharan Africa?</i></p>
<p>8 November, South Africa Mandela Institute, Wits University, Johannesburg <i>Stronger MSME participation within the AfCFTA: an effective and efficient insolvency law to improve access to credit</i></p>	<p>30 November, online AAPDI and Partners <i>Modernization and harmonization of international commercial law framework in the AfCFTA context</i></p>
<p>8 November, Morocco University Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech <i>Methods of Dispute Settlement in Investment and international trade</i></p>	<p>7-8 December, Senegal University Gaston Berger, Saint Louis <i>Challenges of international trade and investment for Senegal</i></p>
<p>15 November, South Africa Mandela Institute, Wits University, Johannesburg <i>Improving intra-African E-Commerce: What role for the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade and UNCITRAL?</i></p>	<p>8 December, Cameroun University of Dschang <i>The relevance of UNCITRAL law and OHADA law to the implementation of the AfCFTA agreement</i></p>
<p>16-18 November, Sierra Leone Njala University, School of Social Sciences and Law <i>Modernization and harmonization of international commercial law framework in the AfCFTA context</i></p>	

* Programme subject to changes

*Please follow UNCITRAL social media pages for information on UNCITRAL Days in Africa events





Annex 2: Summary of Events

1	<i>Ain Shams University, Faculty of Law</i>	17
2	<i>Mandela Institute, Wits University</i>	18
3	<i>Stellenbosch University, African Procurement Law Unit</i>	19
4	<i>Ain Shams University, Faculty of Law</i>	20
5	<i>Mandela Institute, Wits University</i>	21
6	<i>Cadi Ayyad University, Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences</i>	22
7	<i>Mandela Institute, Wits University</i>	23
8	<i>Njala University's School of Social Sciences and Law</i>	24
9	<i>University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law</i>	26
10	<i>Mandela Institute, Wits University</i>	28
11	<i>École des Hautes Études Commerciales d'Alger</i>	29
12	<i>Monash University, Mandela Institute at Wits University, and Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law</i>	30
13	<i>Académie Africaine de la Pratique du Droit International (AAPDI)</i>	32
14	<i>Formation doctorale de l'UFR de Sciences Juridiques et Politiques, Université Gaston Berger</i>	34
15	<i>Unité de recherche en Droit, Institutions et Intégration communautaire, Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques, Université de Dschang</i>	36

Ain Shams University, Faculty of Law

Cairo, 11 October 2022

1. The first event of the 2022 UNCITRAL Days in Africa was an in-person workshop held in Cairo on 11 October 2022 on: “Reforming the Investor-State Dispute Settlement System (ISDS)”, and its implications for Egypt and other developing countries in the region.
2. The event was organised by the Ain Shams University, with the support of the Egyptian Ministry of Justice. Around 100 participants, among them academics, practitioners, researchers and high-level public officials, including the Vice Minister of Justice of Egypt for International Cooperation, attended.
3. A first session focused on UNCITRAL’s approach to reforming the ISDS; and a second session focused on the Supreme Committee for Arbitration and International Disputes, an Egyptian institution and its impact on investment in Egypt.
4. A representative of the UNCITRAL Secretariat travelled to Cairo to deliver presentations in the first session. Representatives of three international Law firms based in Cairo represented the lawyers’ (and legal practitioners’) perspectives to the ISDS.



Mandela Institute, Wits University

Johannesburg, South Africa, 1 November 2022

1. The second event of the inaugural African Days series was a Webinar organised on 1 November 2022 by the Mandela Institute of the Wits University in Johannesburg, on the topic: *“Towards an economically inclusive AfCFTA: leveraging technology and the harmonisation of laws to improve MSMEs’ access to credit”*.
2. This webinar was the first in a series of four hosted by the Mandela Institute. The event was attended by 32 participants, 18 men and 14 women.
3. The UNCITRAL Secretary’s opening remarks were followed by the Presenters’ discussion on the role of technological change and the harmonisation of laws in addressing access to credit by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) throughout the African continent. Each panellist addressed more specific issues within their respective areas of expertise. In particular, a regional integration expert and development scholar addressed why it is important to consider the needs of MSMEs in the context of AfCFTA to set the scene of the following interventions.
4. A Legal Officer of the UNCITRAL Secretariat presented the recent work of UNCITRAL on MSMEs and access to credit. The work of UNCITRAL on Secured transactions, especially the Model Law on Secured Transactions (2016), the Guide to Enactment (2017) and the Practice Guide (2019), was then presented by an expert, formerly legal officer at UNCITRAL. The final intervention addressed digital platforms and how they facilitate access to credit for small businesses.
5. A broad range of conclusions were reached by the panel as a whole. In short, the panel was of the view that technological change and the harmonisation of laws – including through the work undertaken by UNCITRAL – could go a long way to assist under the right circumstances.

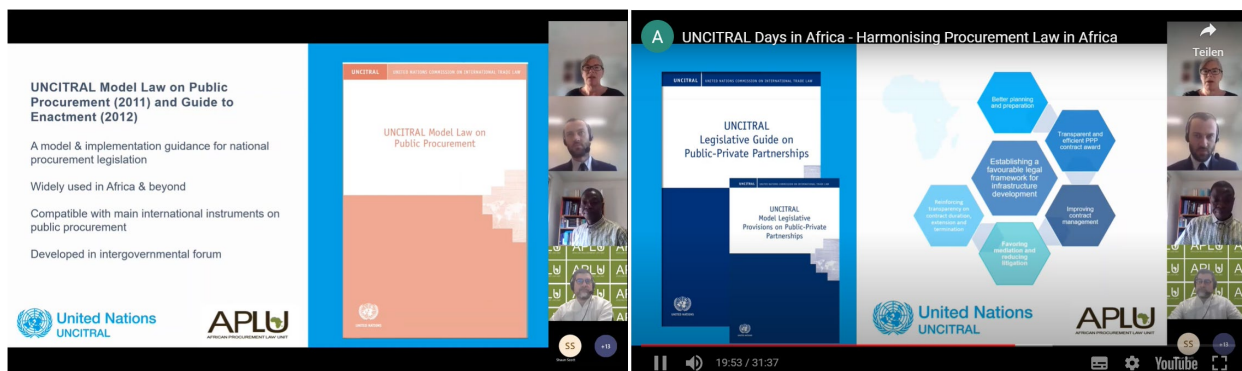


6. The discussion can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/3CFSgw7>

Stellenbosch University, African Procurement Law Unit

Stellenbosch, South Africa, 3 November 2022

1. UNCITRAL and the African Procurement Law Unit (APLU) at Stellenbosch University co-hosted a virtual workshop on “Public Procurement Dimensions of Modernizing and Harmonizing the International Commercial Law Framework in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)” on 3 November 2022.
2. The online event was attended by 55 participants in total, most of whom were students and early career scholars. The panellists included two legal officers of the UNCITRAL secretariat and two professors from the APLU/Stellenbosch University as well as a Professor from the George Washington University School of Law.
3. The workshop discussed a number of issues, including:
 - (i) how harmonisation of public procurement systems and rules on infrastructure development can contribute to a single market for trade and investment in Africa. protectionism and why public procurement is often excluded from regional free trade agreements.
 - (ii) challenges in relation to the harmonisation of public procurement in the context of the AfCFTA, including differences in legal traditions among African countries (comprising common law versus civil law traditions),
 - (iii) disorganized regional integration, plausible corruption, different levels of procurement maturity between countries, and lack of significant e-procurement mechanisms.
4. The event further raised awareness on several UNCITRAL texts, especially the UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement as a model instrument for the regulation of public procurement in Africa, having directly and indirectly influenced a significant number of African States’ domestic procurement laws and regional instruments.



5. The discussion can be viewed at: <http://africanprocurementlaw.org/uncitral-days-in-africa/>

Ain Shams University, Faculty of Law

Cairo, 5-6 November 2022

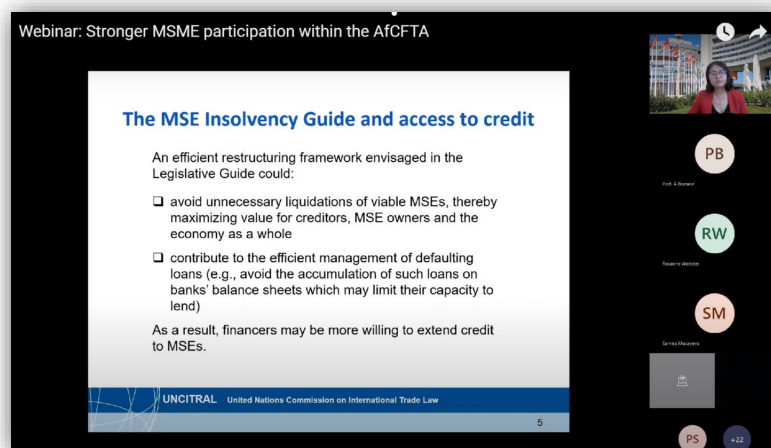
1. The Ain Shams University's Faculty of Law in Cairo in partnership with the University of Cambridge, the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law and the International Committee of the Red Cross organised the Ain Shams Law School's Annual Conference from 5 to 6 November 2022, with a fourth session specifically dedicated to UNCITRAL Days in Africa.
2. The conference took place both in person and remotely and featured 41 panellists/contributors. An estimated 500 persons attended (about 300 in person and 200 online). The session was the fourth UNCITRAL Days in Africa activity and was entitled "*Dispute settlement in the context of sustainable development*". It was chaired by the Chair of the International Law Department, Cairo University. The Director of studies at Law in Hugh Hall, University of Cambridge spoke on the subject of sustainable development in world investment law. The UNCITRAL secretariat representative was represented by the Head of the Legislative Branch. The Director of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration further provided insight on dispute settlement in climate change settings and a representative of an Egyptian Law firm discussed the role of investment arbitration in protecting the environment.
3. The UNCITRAL presentation focused primarily on the contribution of UNCITRAL to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and sustainable development and environmental disputes (UNEP Global Climate Disputes Report - 2020 Status Review). Reference was made to UNCITRAL's body of work and its potential application to environmental disputes (including in terms of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration, the UNCITRAL Mediation Rules 2021, UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement, the UNCITRAL Model Legislative Provisions on Public-Private Partnerships). A presentation was further made of UNCITRAL's possible future work on climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and the status of discussions at UNCITRAL on these matters.



Mandela Institute, Wits University

Johannesburg, South Africa, 8 November 2022

1. The fifth event of the series was a webinar organised on 8 November 2022 by the Mandela Institute of the Wits University in Johannesburg on the topic “*Stronger MSME participation within the AfCFTA: An effective and efficient insolvency law to improve access to credit*”.
2. This webinar was the second in a series of 4 webinars hosted by the Mandela Institute. The event was attended by 40 participants: 22 women and 18 men.
3. In her opening remark, the secretary of UNCITRAL Working Group V (Insolvency Law) indicated that the discussions of this second webinar were to supplement - with insolvency law as a perspective - those of the first webinar on elements needed to facilitate access to credit by MSMEs. This webinar brought the focus on the most recent instruments adopted by UNCITRAL on insolvency law, specifically for micro and small enterprises (MSEs).
4. Key facts of a case study involving a small South African enterprise in financial distress were presented and a practising lawyer addressed the scenario from the counsel’s perspective. A professor of the University of Pretoria explained the applicable insolvency rules to deal with to assist the enterprise, recalling from the outset the need to look first at the various interests at play (creditors, debtor society at large, and employees) and the fragmented system of insolvency legislation in South Africa.
5. The UNCITRAL representative also presented the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law and UNCITRAL legislative recommendations on Micro-and Small Enterprises (MSEs) designed to take the unique characteristics of micro-and small enterprises into account and to respond to the specific needs and circumstances of their financial distress.
6. The panel concluded that an effective and efficient insolvency law framework could help improve access to credit for MSMEs, and that UNCITRAL’s work on insolvency had a role to play in this regard.



7. The discussion can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/3ZwHQZL>

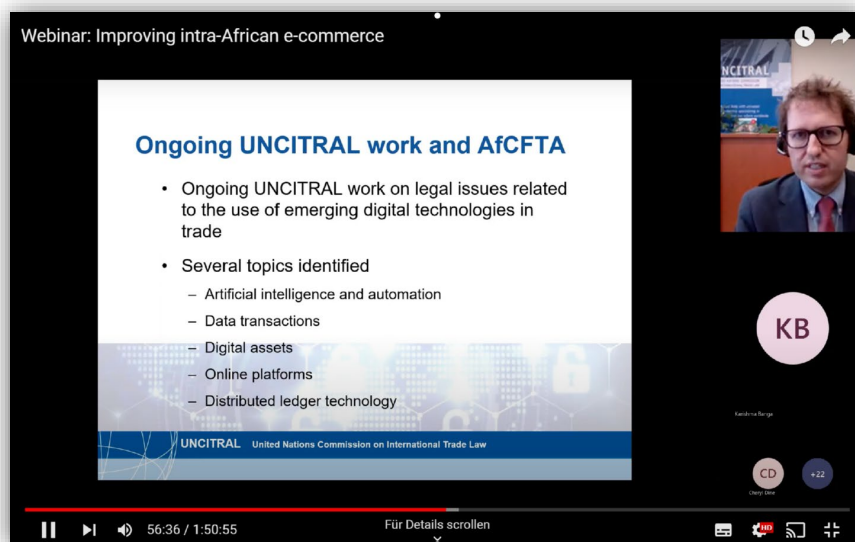
Cadi Ayyad University, Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences

Marrakech, Morocco, 8 November 2022

1. The Faculty of Law, Economics and Social sciences of the Cadi Ayyad University organised in Marrakech, Morocco, on 8 November 2022, an in-person conference as the sixth event of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa series.
2. The conference was held in French and was entitled “*Les modes de règlement des différends en matière d’investissement et de commerce international*” (Alternative dispute resolution methods in investment and international commercial arbitration).
3. Around a hundred participants attended, a majority of women among them. The participants included research professors, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral students in Law and Economics as well as private sector experts. The Dean and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law and the President of Cadi Ayyad University opened the event with welcoming words and remarks on the context of international trade and foreign direct investment in Africa, emphasizing the need for a harmonized legal framework.
4. The representative of UNCITRAL who was present at the event in Marrakech gave a general introduction to UNCITRAL, then provided background information on the UNCITRAL Days as a flagship annual series in other regions and their potential for African countries, concluding with the UNCITRAL internship programme and e-learning modules.
5. The opening session was followed by a roundtable in which several topics were discussed. The UNCITRAL secretariat representative delivered a presentation on “*The contribution of African States to the work of Working Group III of UNCITRAL: a thematic analysis for a consensual reform of the ISDS system*”. This presentation included information on the UNCITRAL Transparency Standards.
6. Other interesting topics discussed at the Roundtable included “*The law of E-commerce in Africa: What perceptions for dispute settlement mechanisms?*”, “*Criteria for the internationality of arbitration*”, “*Conflicts of Laws in International Trade*” and “*Tax harmonization and its role in investment attractiveness*”.

Mandela Institute, Wits University *Johannesburg, South Africa, 15 November 2022*

1. On 15 November 2022, the Mandela Institute of Wits University hosted its third webinar. This time, the topic was “*Improving intra-African E-Commerce: What role for the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade and for UNCITRAL?*”. The event was attended by 33 participants, 17 women and 16 men. After the opening remarks delivered by the UNCITRAL Secretary, a panel of speakers covered a range of topics related to digital trade against the backdrop of expected negotiations on the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade.
2. A representative of the Institute of Development Studies discussed provisions of existing regional digital trade agreements and lessons for South-South digital trade agreements (including a future AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade). This was followed by a presentation by a representative of UNCITRAL on how UNCITRAL texts can facilitate digital trade on the African continent, by establishing a harmonized legal framework that enables the use of digital technologies in commercial transactions.
3. The participants were also informed about (i) ongoing work by Working Group IV, (ii) recent work by the UNCITRAL secretariat on developing a “legal taxonomy” to promote common terminology for digital trade, and (iii) how recent trends in bilateral and regional digital trade agreements demonstrate the how past and ongoing work of UNCITRAL establish the legal infrastructure for implementing a future AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade.
4. The last intervention of the webinar was a presentation of a research paper by two researchers of the Mandela Institute entitled: “*Cross-border data flows in Africa: Policy considerations for the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade.*”



5. The discussion can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3kcpSeV>

Njala University's School of Social Sciences and Law

Bo, Sierra Leone, 16-18 November 2022

1. The 2022 UNCITRAL Days in Africa event in Sierra Leone, was organised by Njala University's School of Social Sciences and Law at the University's campus in Bo, Sierra Leone. It was entitled "*Modernization and harmonization of international commercial law framework under AfCFTA*" and covered numerous areas of work of UNCITRAL.
2. It was a three-day event starting from 16 and ending on 18 November 2022, which gathered 80 registered participants (inclusive of in-person and virtual), of which 56 men and 24 women.
3. This event raised awareness on numerous UNCITRAL texts with tailored dialogues on the AfCFTA, global trading systems and national issues and policies relating to and affecting international trade and economic development, over the course of three days:
 - (i) On Day 1 of the event, introductions to organisations working on international trade law and to the AfCFTA were provided to the participants.
 - (ii) On Day 2, the event participants watched pre-recorded videos presenting the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Limited Liability Enterprises (LLE) (in Session 1), the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records as a model for the digital trade provisions of AfCFTA (in Session 2), and UNCITRAL instruments in the field of dispute settlement (in Session 3), while each video was followed by a panel discussion and a Q&A session.
 - (iii) Day 3 was dedicated to a presentation of the outcomes of the discussions of the two preceding days and the closing ceremony.
4. The event was the occasion to discuss in detail the aspects of business development in Sierra Leone and highlighted the significance of MSMEs in Sierra Leone in respect to cross-border trade and the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA.
5. The event also discussed e-commerce and Sierra Leone's regulatory environment for stimulating a digital economy.
6. Among the concerns were: the importance of developing an infrastructure to support digital financial services; and the impact of the Sierra Leone arbitration framework (specifically the Arbitration Act 2022) on the resolution of commercial disputes, in Sierra Leone and in the context of the AfCFTA, and on foreign direct investment in Sierra Leone.



University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law

Kenya, 17 November 2022

1. The University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law in collaboration with UNCITRAL and the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration (NCIA) organised the seventh event of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa series in the form of an online event entitled “*Modernization and Harmonization of International Commercial Law Framework in the Context of the AfCFTA*”, and dedicated to alternative dispute resolution.
2. A total of 66 persons attended the event including students, law lecturers, lawyers, arbitrators and experts from the public and private sector. After the opening remarks by the Dean of the Faculty of law University of Nairobi and by the Secretary of UNCITRAL, a representative of UNCITRAL delivered a general introduction to UNCITRAL on its origin, mandate, structure, areas of work, its methods of harmonisation and its workflow.
3. The presenters then discussed the UNCITRAL instruments and their interaction, both with global institutions such as the Commonwealth, and local institutions like the NCIA. In particular, discussions addressed the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce. Speakers delivered presentations on the international commercial rule-making and arbitration; the Singapore Convention in the context of the AfCFTA; and the future of enforcing foreign judgments and arbitral awards in the context of the AfCFTA.
4. Some conclusions were that further efforts were needed to make UNCITRAL instruments known to various stakeholders in Kenya, and that events in the future could include basic introductions on UNCITRAL and its work, tailored to a general audience of lawyers, including non-specialists to further increase awareness of UNCITRAL.



 **United Nations**
UNCITRAL

 UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
FACULTY OF LAW

 **ncia**
— Nairobi Centre for —
International Arbitration

2022 UNCITRAL DAYS IN AFRICA

THEME

Modernization and Harmonization of International Commercial Law framework
in the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) Context

DATE: 17TH NOVEMBER, 2022 **TIME: 11:00AM**

SPEAKERS

Mrs. Anna Joubin Bret - UNCITRAL Secretary	Ms. Opeyemi Abebe - Advisor & Head of the Trade Competitiveness Section Commonwealth Secretariat
Mr Lawrence Mwiruri -Registrar, The Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration	Dr. Kariuki Muigua and Obura Aloo: Faculty Members University of Nairobi Faculty of Law

Registration Link:  <https://tinyurl.com/mr4bfmtm>  constance@uonbi.ac.ke
+254798234205

Mandela Institute, Wits University

Johannesburg, South Africa, 22 November 2022

1. On 22 November 2022, the Mandela Institute at Wits University held the tenth event of the series and its fourth webinar which was entitled “*In search of an inclusive AfCFTA: what role for advisory centres on international trade and investment law?*”
2. The webinar was attended by 27 participants, 14 women and 13 men. The UNCITRAL Secretary delivered opening remarks; a representative of the Advisory Centre on World Trade Organization Law presented on this entity, followed by the secretary of UNCITRAL Working Group III (working on the ISDS reform), who presented on the “*Advisory Centre on International Investment Law*”.
3. The presentation highlighted that there are a number of reforms being discussed by WG III in regard to an advisory centre, including the legal structure, financial structure, membership and entitlement to the service of the advisory centre.
4. The attention of the participants was drawn to the UNCITRAL website and the UNCITRAL Working Paper A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.212, concerning the advisory centre. The participants were provided with insight on the current work of WG III and on the opportunities available through the ACWL in relation to the AfCFTA.



5. The discussion can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3H2WccU>

École des Hautes Études Commerciales d'Alger

Algiers, 24 November 2022

1. On 24 November 2022, the School of Higher Commercial Studies (EHEC Algiers) in Algeria organised an in-person event in French entitled “*La mise en oeuvre de la ZLECAf: de la phase 1 à la phase 2 de sa négociation*” (Implementation of the AfCFTA, from phase one to phase two of the negotiations). There were 74 participants, including a significant majority of female students (52): professors, experts of the private sector and governmental officials in charge of the AfCFTA portfolio.
2. In light of the economic expertise and profile of most of the participants, the main topics were addressed from an economic perspective while drawing linkages to legal implications of the topics. The event thus allowing for a better understanding of the legal issues surrounding the AfCFTA.
3. The EHEC Director opened the event and welcomed the participants who then watched the pre-recorded video of the UNCITRAL Secretary’s opening remarks. An introductory session set the scene with two general presentations. A first intervention presented UNCITRAL to the audience, including its origin and mandate, organisation and methods of work and main instruments as well as the relevance of its work in the context of the AfCFTA implementation. A second presentation provided an overview of the AfCFTA in context and identified concerns and expectations for the future.
4. The discussions then focused on the AfCFTA from three perspectives:
 - (i) On the institutional side, issues discussed included the understanding of the content of the agreement and its implementation.
 - (ii) Addressing economic concerns, discussions predominantly related to the comprehension of trade and investment challenges in Africa, but also brought to light certain challenges in the AfCFTA’s negotiations. Algeria’s approach in these negotiations was mentioned. The perspective of Algerian business executives was also shared.
 - (iii) With respect to legal issues, the discussions focused on the need for an harmonized legal framework to facilitate international trade and for the success of the AfCFTA. UNCITRAL representatives, intervening remotely, stressed the relevance of specific UNCITRAL instruments that could inspire future reforms in Algeria, such as the UN Convention on International Sales of Goods.
5. Attention was also drawn to the ISDS reform discussed at UNCITRAL, which could help to improve the business climate in Africa and the investment framework within the AfCFTA area; and to the relevance of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-Based Investor-State Arbitration, in that context.

Monash University, Mandela Institute at Wits University, and Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law

Johannesburg, South Africa, 24-25 November 2022

1. In the context of an academic research project, Monash University, Mandela Institute (Wits University) and the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law partnered to facilitate a workshop entitled “*Making a Multilateral Investment Court Beneficial for Sub-Saharan Africa?*” that constituted the 12th activity of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa series.
2. This two-day in-person event funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung gathered 27 participants (17 men, 10 women) who were keynote speakers, including the UNCITRAL Secretary and senior and junior scholars.
3. The workshop consisted in presentations by young African scholars of their respective research papers on topics related to the workshop theme. Each presentation was then commented upon by a senior scholar and followed by discussions among experts.
4. Several questions were discussed, including:
 - (i) How could the proposed Multilateral Investment Court be shaped to reflect the interests of Sub-Saharan Africa?
 - (ii) Does the reform of the investor-State dispute settlement have to include reform of substantive rules to benefit Sub-Saharan Africa?
 - (iii) What does it mean to ‘Africanise’ potential Multilateral Investment Court?
5. Several aspects of UNCITRAL work were also discussed. In her first address, the UNCITRAL Secretary presented to the audience the UNCITRAL Days as a project with an impact in terms of capacity building. The UNCITRAL Secretary informed the participants on useful resources developed or maintained by the UNCITRAL secretariat such as e-learning modules and the CLOUT database.
6. In her second intervention, the UNCITRAL Secretary presented the work of UNCITRAL Working Group III on the ISDS reform with a particular focus on the 2017 Working Paper (A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.142), entitled “*Possible Reform of investor-State dispute settlement (‘ISDS’)*”.



Académie Africaine de la Pratique du Droit International (AAPDI)

Online, 30 November 2022

1. On 30 November, 2022, the African Academy for International Law Practice (French acronym: AAPDI) co-organised with UNCITRAL a hybrid event held in French, under the theme: “*Modernisation et harmonisation du cadre juridique pour le droit commercial international à l’aune de l’accord ZLECAf*”. The speakers intervened from the premises of a partnering Law firm in Paris.
2. 70 persons and 9 key speakers, including law professors, practitioners and representatives of UNCITRAL together with the Permanent Secretary of OHADA. The event addressed key aspects of trade law harmonisation in Africa and the role of UNCITRAL in that regard as well as several areas of the work of UNCITRAL.
3. The UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency was presented as an efficient model to address the need to harmonise insolvency laws in Africa. Participants were made aware of available tools to increase uniform interpretation of UNCITRAL instruments, such as the CLOUT database, the Digest of Case Law on the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (2021), the recently updated Judicial Perspective (2022), as well as the Practice Guide, currently under revision.
4. One panelist addressed the general need of increased capacity building in Africa and the efforts of several stakeholders in that regard. The discussions and presentations also covered arbitration related topics, including:
 - (i) A presentation of the UNCITRAL instruments on Transparency in Treaty-based investor-State arbitration, noting the AfCFTA Investment Protocol under negotiation;
 - (ii) Presentations from practitioners on their experience of BIT negotiations and counselling on ISDS in Africa; and
 - (iii) The outcome of a research paper on solutions provided by the United Nations Convention on Independent Guarantees and Stand-by Letters of Credit in relation to the execution phase of arbitral awards (the research paper also addressed why States would benefit from signing and ratifying that Convention).



JOURNÉE DE LA CNUDCI EN AFRIQUE :

MODERNISATION ET HARMONISATION DU CADRE JURIDIQUE POUR LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL A L'AUNE DE L'ACCORD ZLECAF



Nations unies
CNUDCI



HUGUES KENFACK
(Président de l'Université Toulouse Capitole depuis 2020, Professeur de droit international et Doyen Honoraire)



ANNA JOUBIN-BRET
(Secrétaire de la Commission des Nations Unies pour le droit commercial international (CNUDCI), Directrice de la Division du droit commercial international du Bureau des affaires juridiques des Nations Unies)



MAMADOU ISMAILA KONATE
(Ancien Ministre de la justice de la République du Mali, Avocat inscrit aux Barreaux du Mali et de Paris, et Arbitre accrédité)



MIRIANA BELHADJ
(Juriste au secrétariat de la CNUDCI depuis 2013)



BENJAMIN HÉRISSET
(Juriste au secrétariat de la CNUDCI depuis 2017)



PIERRE-OLIVIER SAVOIE
(Associés fondateurs de Savoie Laporte, un Cabinet boutique spécialisé dans l'Arbitrage international et la résolution de conflits internationaux)



EMMANUEL SIBIDI DARANKOUM
(Secrétaire Permanent de l'Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires (OHADA) depuis septembre 2019. Professeur titulaire à la Faculté de droit de l'Université de Montréal, Expert, consultant et Membre au sein d'UNIDROIT et de la Conférence de La Haye)



KOUAMI NESTOR
(Chercheur à la Faculté de Droit de l'Université de Rouen et Expert auprès des projets de l'Union Européenne, Membre de l'Académie Africaine de la Pratique du Droit International, Responsable du pôle arbitrage de la section des jeunes chercheurs de l'AAPDI)



ANTOINE LEROSIER
(Collaborateur au sein de l'équipe d'Arbitrage International du bureau de Paris et Membre du Cabinet CLYDE&Co)

30 NOVEMBRE 2022
15:00 - 18:00 HEURE DE PARIS
AU CABINET CLYDE & CO
134 BD HAUSSMANN, 75008 PARIS
info@aailp.org





Formation doctorale de l'UFR de Sciences Juridiques et Politiques, Université Gaston Berger

Saint Louis, Senegal, 7-8 December 2022

1. The University Gaston Berger in Saint Louis, Senegal, organised on 7 and 8 December 2022, a two-day training workshop in French entitled, “*Enjeux et défis du commerce international pour le Sénégal*” (“*Major Issues and Challenges of International Trade for Senegal*”).
2. Fifty persons (including 10 women) attended this event, most of them students at the University Gaston Berger.
3. The workshop was part of the agenda of doctoral activities of the University and particularly of the Department of Private Law.
4. It was addressed in particular to doctoral students, students in the Master of Economic and Business Law, teaching and research staff, and professionals in the fields of international trade and investment, who actively participated in this event, which was held over two days.
5. On Day 1, after welcoming remarks, including a video recording of the opening statement by UNCITRAL Secretary and a general introduction to UNCITRAL by the UNCITRAL in-person representative, several instruments and subject areas of the work of UNCITRAL were addressed during remote or recorded presentations by UNCITRAL experts.
6. The presentations included the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Limited Liability Enterprises, cross-border insolvency and the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records as a model for the digital trade provisions of AfCFTA.
7. Each of these presentations were followed by interventions of local experts on related topics with a regional focus.
8. Day 2 was dedicated to investment law and ISDS. The participants heard presentations on the work of UNCITRAL on the ISDS reform, including on mediation in the field of ISDS and on the UNCITRAL Transparency Standards.
9. These presentations were supplemented by analysis, provided by local experts, of specific issues relevant to Senegal, such as the options available for harmonizing investment law in the OHADA area and the issue of access to investment arbitration by populations affected by extractive activities.



**Unité de recherche en Droit, Institutions et Intégration
communautaire, Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques,
Université de Dschang**

Dschang, Cameroon, 8 December 2022

1. On 8 December 2022, the University of Dschang in Cameroon, in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of OHADA and the UNCITRAL Secretariat, organised the last event of the UNCITRAL Days in Africa inaugural series.
2. This was a hybrid event entitled, “*La pertinence des règles de la CNUDCI et du droit de l’espace OHADA à l’aune de la mise en oeuvre de l’accord ZLECAf*” (“*The relevance of the law developed by UNCITRAL and OHADA to the implementation of the AfCFTA*”).
3. There were 172 participants (100 men, 72 women): students, professors, attorneys and in-house legal counsels. Most of the participants attended this event in person.
4. A video recording of the opening remarks by the UNCITRAL Secretary was shown, followed by substantive discussions structured around two main topics:
 - (i) The relevance of OHADA law and UNCITRAL standards in the implementation of the AfCFTA, and
 - (ii) The relevance of UNCITRAL texts for the elaboration and interpretation of OHADA uniform instruments.
5. In the first part, experts presented on the topic of dispute resolution in the OHADA area in the context of the AfCFTA; on transparency in the settlement of Investor-State disputes, as an asset for the AfCFTA; and on legislative projects underway within OHADA to support the implementation of AfCFTA.
6. The second part focused on several UNCITRAL texts that had been used as a model for, or that inspired, several of the uniform acts of OHADA. These included the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency, the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, and the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Mediation and International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation.
7. A last presentation highlighted the relevance, in this context, of the tools available online and in the six UN official languages for the uniform interpretation of UNCITRAL instruments, including the CLOUT database, the Digest of Case Law on the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (2021), the recently updated Judicial Perspective (2022), as well as the Practice Guide, currently under revision. The event not only raised awareness on the work of UNCITRAL but also highlighted issues being discussed in parallel by UNCITRAL and OHADA and the need to ensure coordination when possible.

Journée de la CNUDCI en Afrique
Université de Dschang (Cameroun)

JEUDI 8 DÉCEMBRE 2022
9H-12H

FORMAT HYBRIDE : PRÉSENTIEL & DISTANCIEL

Organisée par l'Unité de recherche en Droit, Institutions et Intégration communautaire (URDIIC) de la Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques

THÈME
LA PERTINENCE DES RÈGLES DE LA CNUDCI ET DU DROIT DE L'ESPACE OHADA À L'AUNE DE LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE L'ACCORD ZLECAF

INTERVENANTS

Mme Anna JOUBIN BRET	M. Le Recteur
Mme BELHADJ Miriana HERISSET Benjamin (CNUDCI)	Pr KEUGONG WATCHO Rolande
Sécrétaire Permanent (OHADA)	Pr LOWE GNINTEDEM Patrick
	Dr TSAFACK Cédric
	Dr TCHABO SONTANG Hervé
	Dr ASEK Evelyn (UNIVERSITE DSCHANG)

MODERATEURS
Pr KALIEU ELONGO Yvette Rachel / Pr NIEUFACK TEMGWA René (UNIVERSITE DSCHANG)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2526418605?pwd=YURETUtpSIBZVDJlU3l4dk1jaU1wdz09>

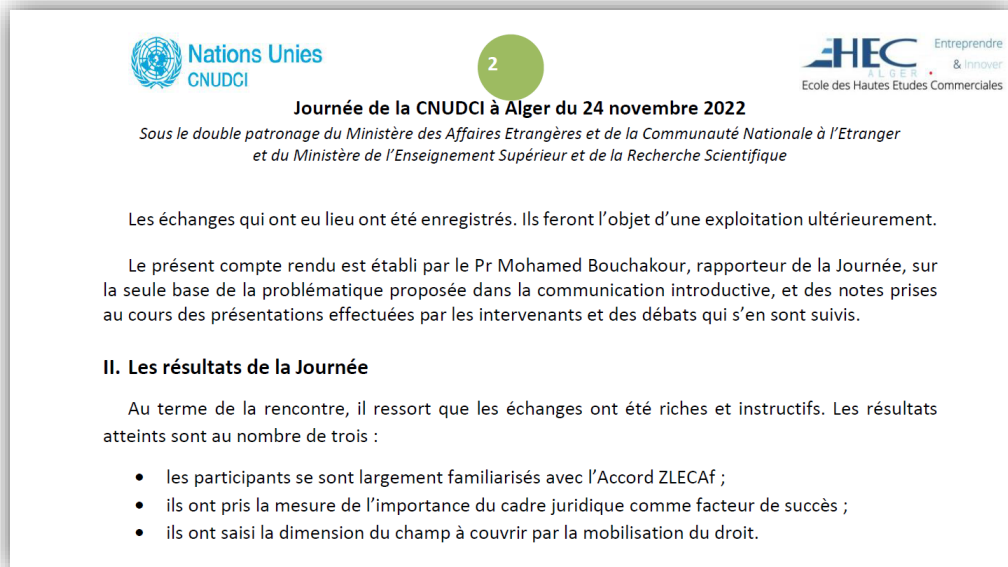


*Photographs provided by the Organisers
Université de Dschang, 8 Dec. 2022*

Annex 3 - Testimonies from Beneficiaries

ALGERIA:

Mr. Mohamed Bouchakour, Professeur, École des Hautes Études Commerciales, excerpt of the conference deeds



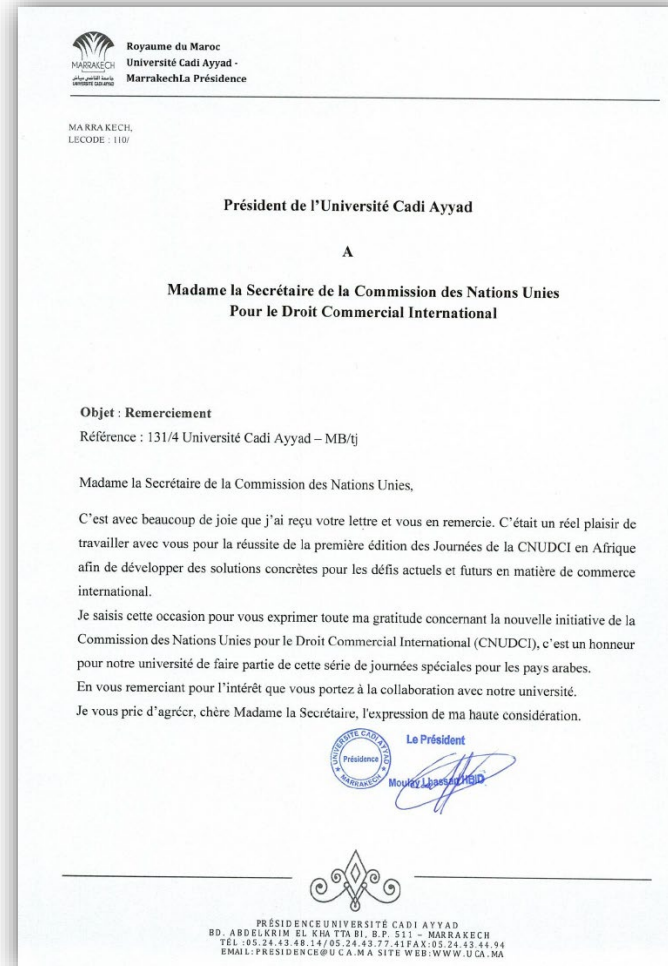
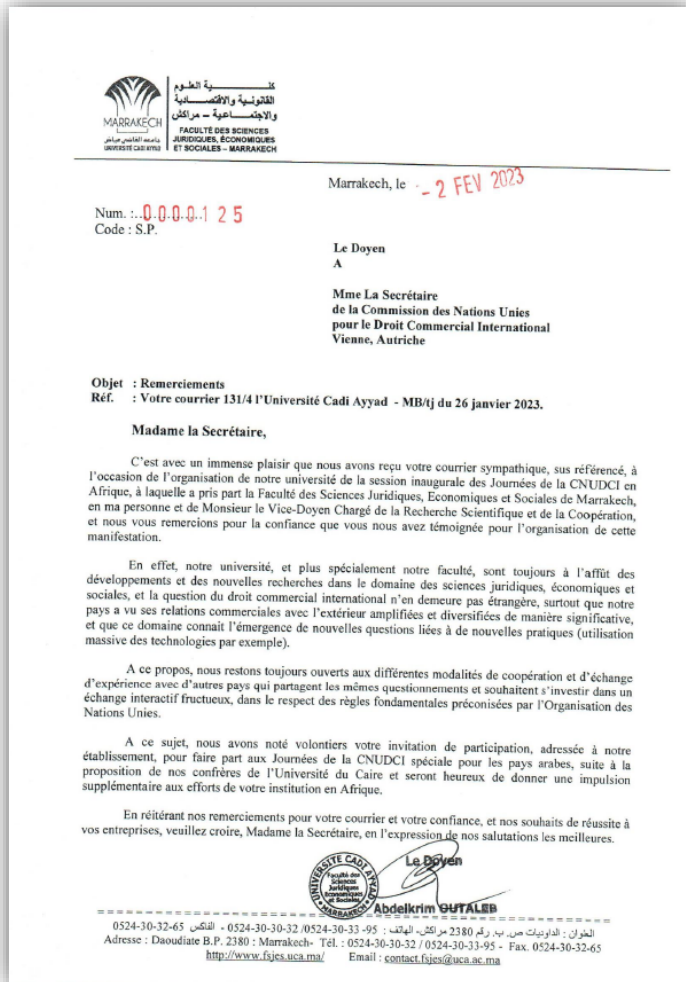
CAMEROON:

Mrs. Yvette Rachel KALIEU ELONGO, Professeur, Unité de recherche en droit, institutions et intégration communautaire, Faculté de Sciences juridiques et politiques, Université de Dschang, Cameroon

« Il s'est agi d'une expérience riche et enrichissante pour nous et notre laboratoire parce qu'il s'agit d'une première avec une organisation des Nations Unies.

La procédure mise en place pour l'organisation des journées était assez facile et nous a permis d'organiser cette activité sans trop de difficultés »

MOROCCO



SENEGAL

Mr. Alioune Badara Thiam, Enseignant Chercheur, Université Gaston Berger de Saint Louis, Senegal

« La journée CNUDCI a suscité un engouement et une volonté manifeste des autorités gouvernementales et universitaires pour une collaboration accentuée sur l'institution d'une formation interdisciplinaire bimodale.

En effet, l'UGB porte un nombre important de projets pédagogiques novateurs, en adéquation avec les problématiques de développement du Sénégal et de l'Afrique en général. Ainsi, accorde-t-elle un intérêt particulier à maintenir et à consolider la collaboration avec la CNUDCI, dans l'optique d'améliorer les capacités d'apprentissage et d'enseignement dans les domaines du droit commercial international et de l'investissement.

En outre, avec son potentiel minier et gazier, la région de Saint-Louis verra son attractivité économique croître ainsi que de l'intérêt des investisseurs pour cette destination augmenter. Dès lors, il est opportun pour l'UGB de s'engager dans une dynamique d'adaptation des règles en matière de commerce et d'investissement. Elle doit, en conséquence, s'ériger en cadre de rencontres pour les experts de renommée internationale sur les sujets traités par la CNUDCI.

L'objectif est de favoriser la coopération et la mobilité à la fois des enseignants-chercheurs et des étudiants, d'accroître l'accès aux bases de données scientifiques, aux formations de la CNUDCI, et surtout de servir de point d'ancrage pour une meilleure formation et une maîtrise des domaines d'activité de la Commission.

Dans une démarche inclusive, l'UFR des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques souhaite engager les universitaires, acteurs locaux et experts pour la mise en place d'un master interdisciplinaire bimodal avec le soutien institutionnel de la CNUDCI. Les modèles économiques et les modalités de la formation pourront faire l'objet d'une discussion plus approfondie par les deux parties. Il convient de préciser que le Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur du Sénégal adhère parfaitement à ce projet dont les fondements ont fait l'objet des discussions en marge de la journée de la CNUDCI. »

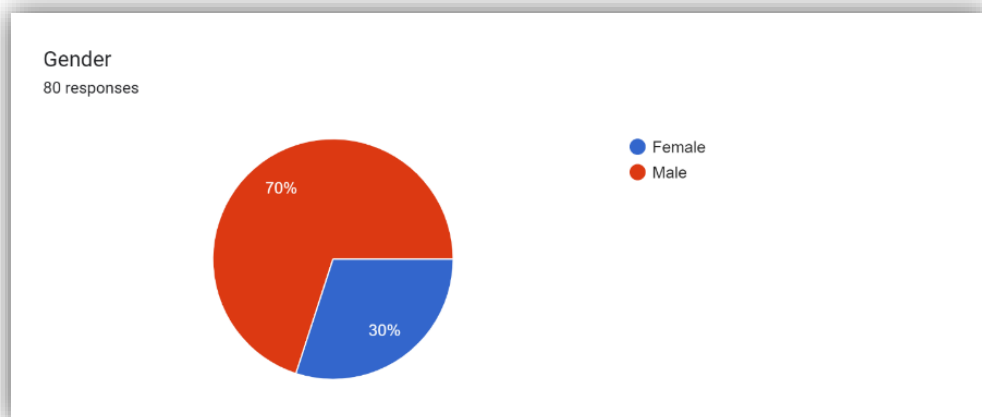
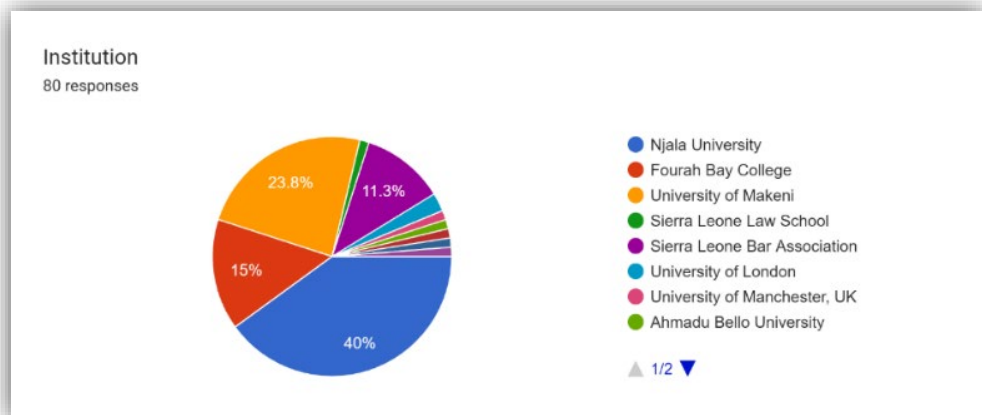
SIERRA LEONE

Mrs. Ebunoluwa Tengbe, Associate Lecturer, Njala University

“This was the first time organizing this event in Sierra Leone. For many of the participants, this was their first time also learning about the United Commission on International Trade Law, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement and international trade law in general. As such, our Facilitators and Speakers were a helpful in providing resources to learners ahead and during the course of the events and Introduction to International Trade Law and

AfCFTA. Although the initial target audience was law students and young lawyers, there was significant interest expressed by industry professionals such as civil servants and entrepreneurs, who also joined our sessions. Our diverse range of subtopics on Cross Border Trade, Electronic Commerce and Arbitration attracted a wide audience with interesting debates and discussions. Our Panelists and Speakers made the event very engaging and informative, and participants have continued to access and seek resources from the event. The support of the team at UNCITRAL secretariat was vital leading up to the event and their participation through pre-recorded messages and presentations set the scene for event. Many thanks for all the support. There were lessons learnt from putting together the events, but the discussions were invaluable, and I look forward to coming events.

Kindly see attached data on registered participants. (During the course of the events, we had walk in (log in) participants who had not previously registered especially, on sub topic discussions)”





SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Alexander Beyleveld, Senior Researcher, Mandela institute at Wits University, Johannesburg

“The Mandela Institute was really pleased to be part of the inaugural UNCITRAL Days in Africa initiative in partnership with UNCITRAL. We are of the view that the four webinars and conference we organised with the assistance of UNCITRAL were highly informative and provided valuable insights on the importance of UNCITRAL texts for facilitating international trade and investment, particularly in African contexts. As host, we were pleased to see a diverse range of attendees from academia, legal practice, and government, who all engaged actively with the topics discussed.

The theme of the event, 'Modernizing and harmonizing international commercial law framework in the AfCFTA context', was particularly relevant given the fairly recent launch of the AfCFTA. The events helped to shine a light on the potential benefits of UNCITRAL texts for making the operation of the free trade area a success. UNCITRAL texts can play a critical role in promoting legal harmonisation and enhancing legal certainty in cross-border trade and investment.

We are grateful to UNCITRAL for partnering with us on this initiative and for providing valuable resources and expertise to support the success of the event. The UNCITRAL Days in Africa was an excellent platform for sharing knowledge and building networks. With the inaugural edition having been a success in our view, we would love to see the UNCITRAL Days in Africa set of events become a regular fixture in the calendar.”

Mr. Martin Jarrett, Dr. iur., Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law :

“I worked as the principal investigator for the research project ‘Making a Multilateral Investment Court Beneficial for Sub-Saharan Africa?’.

A fundamental goal of this project was to give the participating junior scholars a platform to stand on and contribute their research. By partnering with UNCITRAL, they were given the best platform that they could have been given. The building of this platform was made possible through a productive collaboration with UNCITRAL. The responsible UNCITRAL officers competently worked with me to develop the workshop-concept. The fruit of this labour was a highly successful event, which the whole world can now enjoy because it was recorded and will soon be available online. Moreover, the success of workshop has translated into an appetite for other similar events; for example, at an upcoming meeting of UNCITRAL Working Group III, I have partnered with an African delegation to put a side-event relating to the theme of the research project.

I conclude with one thought upper most in my mind: the UNCITRAL Days in Africa are events that deliver great returns for their beneficiaries, namely current and future African jurists.”