



Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Telephone: (43-1) 26060-4060 Fax: (43-1) 26060-5813
E-Mail: uncitral.un.org Internet: uncitral.un.org

REFERENCE:

12 April 2021

Dear representatives of Working Group III,

I have the honor to write to you regarding the decision by the Member States of UNCITRAL dated 9 December 2020 (see [document A/CN.9/LIII/CRP.14, the “Decision”](#)) providing that the arrangements made with regard to the format, officers and methods of work of the UNCITRAL working groups during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic adopted on 19 August 2020 (reproduced in document A/CN.9.1038, Annex) shall be extended to the sessions of Working Group III to be held in the first half of 2021. According to the Decision, the fortieth session of Working Group III was held from 8 to 12 February 2021 and the Secretariat was further requested to arrange a resumed session of possibly one or two days in Vienna in May 2021 for consideration of the work and resourcing plan.

I have been informed that the arrangements have been made so that the resumed session can be held on 4 and 5 May 2021. I have been further informed that arrangements have been made to allow delegations to participate in the session in person at the Vienna International Centre and remotely via an online platform, Interprefy. This being said, in light of the travel restrictions, Ms. Morris-Sharma (Rapporteur) and I will unfortunately not be able to take part in the session in person.

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 five (5) minutes and also to make appropriate 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.

An advance copy of the provisional agenda for the session (A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.205) is available on the [website of Working Group III](#). If I do not receive any objection or alternative proposals on the agenda by 22 April 2021, the agenda will be considered adopted at the beginning of the session on 4 May.

According to the provisional agenda, the Working Group is expected to consider the work and resourcing plan on the basis of a draft contained in document A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.206, which is also available on the website of Working Group III.

As to the organization of the session, I hope that the following arrangements, made in consultation with the Secretariat in the light of the means currently available, will be agreeable to you.

- Two-hour meetings will be held respectively on Tuesday, 4 May and Wednesday 5, May.
- The meeting hours will be 13:00-15:00 Vienna time (Central European Daylight Time).

In accordance with the adopted procedure (see paragraph 6 of the decision in document A/CN.9/1038), the rapporteur and I will prepare a summary reflecting the deliberations and any conclusions reached during the session (the “Summary”), which will be circulated to you for comments. The Summary will be in a format similar to that of previous Working Group reports. My hope is that the Working Group will be satisfied with the Summary and will be willing to adopt it as its report to the Commission at its fifty-

fourth session in 2021.

Please feel free to convey all your comments on the above to the secretary of the Working Group (Ms. Corinne Montineri, corinne.montineri@un.org) copying myself (Shane.Spelliscy@international.gc.ca) and the rapporteur (Natalie.MORRIS-SHARMA@agc.gov.sg). I count on your constructive feedback despite such a short notice and on your kind cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Shane Spelliscy
Chair
UNCITRAL Working Group III