



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: <http://uncitral.un.org>

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12 November 2020

Dear representatives,

On 19 August 2020, the States members of the United Nations Commission of International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) adopted a decision on the format, officers and methods of work of the UNCITRAL working groups during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic (see [A/CN.9/1038](#), available on the Working Group VI page of the UNCITRAL website: https://uncitral.un.org/en/working_groups/6/sale_ships). According to paragraph 3 of that decision, I have the honour to continue serving as Chair of Working Group VI (Judicial Sale of Ships) at its upcoming 37th session, which is scheduled to be held from 14 to 18 December 2020.

At the session, the Working Group is expected to consider the second revision of the “Beijing Draft” ([A/CN.9/WG.VI/WP.87](#)). Several States have responded to the invitation to submit comments to the Secretariat on the second revision. A separate pre-session document analysing these comments ([A/CN.9/WG.VI/WP.88](#)) will be available on the Working Group VI webpage in due course in all official languages of the United Nations. As noted in paragraph 3 of the decision, delegations wishing to make further written submissions are invited to do so in advance of the session to facilitate the discussions. Submissions should be made to the Secretariat at least two weeks in advance of the session in order to be translated into the other official languages of the United Nations. I will make efforts to ensure that written submissions are adequately reflected in our deliberations and in the summary.

Arrangements have been made by the Secretariat to allow delegations to participate at the session in person at the Vienna International Centre and remotely via an online platform, Interprefy. In accordance with paragraph 4 of the decision, 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 technical difficulties. Considering the limited time allocated for the session, I would urge delegations to make concise interventions not exceeding five minutes on a specific topic and also to make use of the chat and other functions available on the Interprefy platform. This will ensure that we make efficient use of the resources available to the Working Group. Further information on using the Interprefy platform will be communicated by the Secretariat to registered participants closer to the session.

A provisional agenda for the session has been prepared ([A/CN.9/WG.VI/WP.86/Rev.1](#)) and is available on the Working Group VI webpage. If I do not receive any objection or alternative proposals

from States members of UNCITRAL by 7 December 2020, the agenda will be considered adopted at the beginning of the session (item 2 of the provisional agenda). According to paragraph 3 of the decision, there will be no election of officers for the session. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the decision, the rapporteur, Mr. Vikum De Abrew, and I will prepare a summary reflecting the deliberations and any conclusions reached during the session, which will be circulated to the delegations for comment.

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.

- There will be two two-hour meetings per day from Monday, 14 December to Friday, 18 December.
- The meeting times will be 11:00–13:00 and 15:00–17:00 Vienna time (Central European Time).
- As a number of representatives participating remotely will be new to the Interprefy platform, the first meeting on Monday, 14 December will be partly dedicated to testing audio-visual connections. I would strongly urge delegations to make use of this opportunity so as to avoid delays during the deliberations. I would also recommend that delegations have adequate equipment ready (including a proper microphone) and ensure appropriate bandwidth when making their intervention (or if necessary, to use only audio).

Please feel free to convey any comments on the above to the secretary of the Working Group (Mr. José Angelo Estrella Faria, joseangelo.estrella-faria@un.org) copying myself (czerwenka-be@bmjv.bund.de) and the rapporteur (vikumab@gmail.com). I count on your constructive feedback despite such a short notice and on your kind cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Beate Czerwenka

Chair

UNCITRAL Working Group VI