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| United Nations Commission onInternational Trade LawWorking Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform) Fortieth session (resumed)Vienna, Online, [4-5] May 2021(TBC) |  |  |
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 Work and resourcing plan to implement investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) reform and resource requirements

 Note by the Secretariat

*Pursuant to the agreement reached at the thirty-ninth session, this note (in English, French and Spanish – not official translation) contains an initial draft of a work and resourcing plan for comments by all delegations of the Working Group by 1 March 2021. To facilitate the written-comment stage, the chair and the rapporteur intend to hold a number of informal explanatory sessions about the initial draft. The chair and the rapporteur will review comments received from delegations and prepare a revised draft of the Plan by mid-March.*

*The revised Plan will be submitted for consideration and approval by the Working Group at its resumed fortieth session in May. The Plan would then be revised to reflect the deliberations and decisions by the Working Group and subsequently be submitted to the Commission for its consideration.*

 I. Introduction

1. The Working Group may wish to recall that at its thirty-seventh session in April 2019, it had considered a number of proposals for a workplan and had agreed to discuss, elaborate and develop multiple potential reform solutions simultaneously. The Working Group had further agreed that a project schedule should be prepared to move the proposed solutions forward in parallel, to the maximum extent of the Working Group’s capacity and in light of the tools available (A/CN.9/970, para. 81). Accordingly, a project schedule was agreed by the Working Group at its thirty-eighth session in October 2009 (A/CN.9/1004\*, paras. 25 and 27). During the deliberations, the Working Group considered different means to implement the project schedule as outlined in document A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.158. It was agreed that the Working Group would consider the use of means and tools to enhance the efficient use of its conference time, when appropriate and in accordance with the practice of UNCITRAL, particularly in light of the complexity of the project and the need to develop multiple reform options.
2. The Working Group further agreed that such tools could include informal meetings on the margins of Commission and Working Group sessions, drafting groups, colloquiums, joint meetings with other international organizations, intersessional meetings, and further interactions with the Academic Forum and the Practitioners’ Group (A/CN.9/970, para. 58).
3. The Working Group was scheduled to consider, at its thirty-ninth session in the first half of 2020, among other things, how to plan its future work and whether to request additional session time from the Commission given its workload. However, that session could not take place as scheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, a number of informal consultations were conducted prior to the fifty-third session of the Commission on how to implement the work of the Working Group.
4. At its fifty-third session, the Commission considered the resource requirements for the implementation of the work programme with respect to investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) reform (referred to below as the “ISDS Project”) based on a note by the Secretariat (A/CN.9/1011).[[1]](#footnote-1) Due to the limited time available at that session and divergence in views, the Commission was not able to come to a consensus on a proposed way forward and agreed that the topic would be considered at its session in 2021. In the meantime, the Commission encouraged the Working Group to continue to make progress on its mandate.[[2]](#footnote-2)
5. The Working Group, at its thirty-ninth session in October 2020, agreed on the process to develop a work and resourcing plan to support its work (together, the “Plan”): (A/CN.9/1044, para. 113). Delegations interested in participating in the development of an initial draft of the work plan identified themselves in November 2020. With the support of the Secretariat, the chair and the rapporteur worked with all such delegations from November 2020 to January 2021 to prepare an initial draft. The Secretariat also coordinated closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) during the same period.

 II. Work Plan

**1. Schedule of work**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |   | **ADR Mechanisms and Dispute Prevention** | **Selection and Appointment of Arbitrators** | **Code of Conduct** | **ISDS Procedural Rules Reforms (Frivolous Claims, Multiple Proceedings, Reflective Loss, Counterclaims, Security for Costs, Third Party Funding, Treaty Interpretation)** | **Multilateral Advisory Centre** | **Appellate Mechanism** | **Multilateral Permanent Investment Court** | **Multilateral Instrument to Implement Reforms** |  |
| **2021** | **Working Group #40**  |   |   | First Reading (1 day) |   |   | Instructions (2 days) | Instructions (2 days) |   |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #40** |   |   | Other Meetings w ICSID (2 day) / Drafting Group (2 days) | Other Meetings - OECD (2 days) | Other Meetings (5 days) |   | Other Meetings (2 days) |   |  |
| **Commission #54 - Decision on Resource Request** |  |
| **Working Group #41**  |   |   | Second Reading (3 days) | Instructions (1 day) |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #41** | Other Meetings (3 days)/ Inter-Sessional Meeting - HK China (2 days) |   |   |   | Other Meetings (1 day) | Other Meetings (2 days) | Drafting Group (2 days) | Other Meetings (1 day) |  |
| **2022** | **Working Group #42** |   |   |   |   | Instructions (1 day) |   | First reading (3 days) |   |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #42** |   | Other Meetings (1 day) |   | Other Meetings (1 day)/Drafting Group (2 days) |   | Inter-Sessional Meeting ( 2 days) | Inter-Sessional Meeting ( 2 days) | Other Meetings (1 day) |  |
| **Working Group #43** | Instructions (1 day) |   |   | First Reading (3 days) |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #43** |  |   |   | Drafting Group (2 days) | Drafting Group (1 day) | Drafting Group (2 days) |   |   |  |
| **Commission #55 - Approval in Principle of Code of Conduct** |  |
| **Working Group #44** |   |   |   |   |   | First Reading (3 days) |   | Instructions (1 day) |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #44** | Drafting Group (2 days) |   |   | Drafting Group (2 days) |   |   | Drafting Group (2 days) |   |  |
| **Working Group #45** | First Reading (2 days) |   |   | First Reading (resumed) (2 days) |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #45** | Drafting Group (2 day) | Other Meetings (1 day) |   | Drafting Group (2 days) |   | Drafting Group (2 days) |   | Inter-Sessional Meeting (2 days) |  |
| **2023** | **Working Group #46** | Second Reading (2 days) |   |   |   | First Reading (2 days) |   |   |   |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #46** |   |  |   |   | Drafting Group (2 days) |   |   |   |  |
| **Working Group #47** |   | Instructions (1 day) |   | Second Reading (3 days) |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #47** |   |   |   |   |   | Drafting Group (2 days) | Drafting Group (2 days) |   |  |
| **Commission #56 - Approval in Principle of ISDS Procedural Rules Reforms and ADR Mechanisms and Dispute Prevention** |  |
| **Working Group #48** |   |   |   |   |   | Proc. Rules (2 days) | Proc. Rules (2 days) |   |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #48** |   | Inter-Sessional Meeting (2 days) |   |   |  | Drafting Group (2 days) | Drafting Group (2 days) |   |  |
| **Working Group #49** |   |   |   |   | Second Reading (3 days) |   |   | Instructions (1 days) |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #49** |   | Drafting Group (1 day) |   |   |   |   |   | Drafting Group (3 days) |  |
| **2024** | **Working Group #50** |   | First Reading (1 day) |   |   |   |   | Second Reading (3 days) |   |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #50** |   | Drafting Group (2 days) |   |   |   |   |   | Drafting Group (3 days) |  |
| **Working Group #51** |   |   |   |   |   | Second Reading (3 days) |   | First Reading (1 day) |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #51** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Drafting Group (1 day) |  |
| **Commission #57- Approval in Principle of Reforms Relating to the Creation of a Multilateral Advisory Centre, Appellate Mechanism and a Multilateral Permanent Investment Court** |  |
| **Working Group #52** |   | Second Reading (2 days) |   |   |   |   |   | First Reading (resumed) (2 days) |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #52** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Drafting Group (3 days) |  |
| **Working Group #53** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Second Reading (4 Days) |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #53** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **2025** | **Working Group #54** | **Held in Reserve** |  |
| **Inter-Sessional #54** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|  | **Commission #58 - Finalization of all reforms**  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Total** |
|  |  **Working Group days** | **5** | **4** | **4** | **9** | **6** | **10** | **10** | **9** | **57** |
|  |  **Other Meetings days** | **9** | **7** | **4** | **11** | **9** | **12** | **12** | **14** | **78** |
|  | **Subtotal**  | **14** | **11** | **8** | **20** | **15** | **22** | **22** | **23** | **135** |

**2. Commentary to the Work Plan**

1. Based on the inputs received from delegations, the Work Plan was prepared in light of the fact that a detailed schedule of work would be necessary to determine whether there was a need to request additional resources to support the ISDS project. In short, the Work Plan provides the basis for identifying necessary resources, allocating existing resources and requesting any additional resources.
2. The Work Plan is only notional and adjustments will need to be made as the work progresses. It can serve as a basis for the monitoring of the progress made by the Working Group and thus ensure both predictability and flexibility. The Work Plan takes into consideration the need to develop multiple reform options simultaneously, while maintaining a balance between structural reforms and non-structural reforms.
3. Establishing an end date or a goal is important in any project planning. The Work Plan foresees an end date of 2025 based on existing and additional resources, which would be approximately 8 years after the ISDS project begun in 2017. This is largely in line with a detailed assessment of previous legislative projects carried out by the Commission. And it takes into account that requests for additional resources should be limited in time, in light of the prevailing liquidity crisis in the United Nations.
4. The Work Plan envisages work to be undertaken through Working Group sessions as well as using various other means intersessionally. The Work Plan also foresees that certain reform options would be subject to approval in principal by the Commission in a staggered manner beginning in 2022. As is clear from the Work Plan, this could ease the workload on the Commission in 2025, as reaching such agreement in principle at earlier sessions would make it possible to formally adopt all of the reform options more efficiently at the Commission in 2025.
5. According to the Work Plan, a total of 57 days of Working Group session would be required to complete the ISDS Project (exclusive of days for the adoption of reports).[[3]](#footnote-3) This could be carried out in 15 one-week sessions of the Working Group over a period of 5 years beginning in 2021.
6. The Work Plan also foresees the use of other means or informal meetings (inter-sessional meetings, drafting groups, joint work with other organization as well as supporting webinars) during the intersessional period to further enhance the efficiency of deliberations while maintaining the role of the Working Group. In other words, they aim to reduce the overall time required at a formal Working Group session by facilitating a better understanding of the different positions of the delegations and keeping them informed of, and engaged in, the ongoing deliberations. They also provide the opportunity to overcome disagreements and to develop options for consideration by the Working Group. Overall, they assist in building consensus, thus ensuring that formal meetings are reserved for those issues, which require more extensive deliberations. The Working Group may wish to recall a series of informal webinars and consultations organized or facilitated by the Secretariat following the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic on a number of the reform options, some of which led to a more informed discussion during the thirty-ninth session.
7. The Working Group may wish to note that the Commission had invited delegations to resort to informal consultations prior to actual meetings, thus reserving conference time only for those issues which required extensive deliberation.[[4]](#footnote-4) At the same time, the Working Group should recognize the limitations of informal meetings, in particular, the lack of interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations.
8. The Work Plan foresees 78 informal meetings in total. As of the submission date of this note, an inter-sessional meeting is scheduled in the second half of 2020 in Hong Kong, China. Similar to the previous inter-sessional meetings, it is expected that the host State would report the outcome of such meetings to the Working Group. However, unlike previous inter-sessional meetings which focused on the regional context, the proposed inter-sessional meeting would aim at furthering the discussions on specific reform options, for example, on investment mediation and dispute prevention.
9. Joint work or meetings with other organizations are also envisaged in the Work Plan. For example, on the code of conduct, a joint meeting with ICSID is planned for the first half of 2021. Similarly, a joint meeting on shareholder claims and reflective loss is planned in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
10. The Work Plan suggests that these informal meetings are more actively utilized in 2021 and 2022 as they can be quite useful in information sharing and initial drafting. As the work progresses and the Working Group is called upon to make decisions, the number of informal meetings is scheduled to decrease.

 III. Resourcing plan

**1. Resources utilized from 2017-2020**

1. In 2017, the Working Group was entrusted with a broad mandate to work on the ISDS project. Since then, the Working Group has held seven one-week sessions. During the first four sessions, the Working Group identified and discussed concerns regarding ISDS, and further considered that reform was desirable in light of the identified concerns.[[5]](#footnote-5) During the previous three sessions, the Working Group considered concrete reform solutions.[[6]](#footnote-6)
2. Table 1 provides an overview of the conference[[7]](#footnote-7) and document[[8]](#footnote-8) resources utilized by the Working Group during the seven previous sessions. The table indicates that the third phase of the ISDS Project, where multiple reform solutions are expected to be developed simultaneously, will likely require more resources per session.

Table 1

**Overview of resources utilized by the Working Group**[[9]](#footnote-9)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Conference resources** | **Notes by the Secretariat** | **Submissions by States and others**[[10]](#footnote-10) |
| **First and second phase** **(34th to 37th sessions)** | 4 weeks | 8 working papers averaging 15.6 pages | 13 submissions averaging 8.1 pages |
| **Third phase****(38th, resumed 38th and 39th sessions)** | 3 weeks | 13 working papers averaging 11.9 pages | 18 submissions averaging 7.7 pages |
| **Total** | 7 weeks | 21 working papers averaging 13.3 pages | 31 submissions averaging 7.9 pages |

1. Compared to other working groups of the Commission, a slightly larger Secretariat team has provided servicing to Working Group III and its inter-sessional activities since 2017. The current team includes one secretary of the Working Group, two regular staff members, one junior professional officer[[11]](#footnote-11) and one administrative staff. The Working Group may wish to note that the same team also services Working Group II and further supports other areas of work of the Commission.

**2. Additional resource requirements**

1. This section provides an illustration of the additional conference time and resources that will be required if work is to proceed on the ISDS Project in accordance with the Work Plan.
2. Based on the Work Plan, two additional weeks of conference time is required for a period of three years from 2022 to 2024. This would allow for a total of 15 weeks of conference time until the first half of 2025 (9 within existing resources and 6 through additional resources), which would be followed by deliberations by the Commission to finalize the project in 2025 at its fifty-eighth session. Considering that certain reform options would be subject to approval in principle by the Commission prior to the fifty-eighth session, existing conference time would need to be allocated to those topics during the fifty-fifth to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.
3. Meetings of the Commission and its working groups are held using conference time allotted to UNCITRAL, which is currently a maximum of fifteen weeks per year. Therefore, the Woking Group could, in principle, request the Commission to allocate any unused conference time of the Commission[[12]](#footnote-12) or other working groups to the ISDS Project, which had been the case for the unused week of the Commission in 2019[[13]](#footnote-13) and the case of the Rotterdam Rules project.[[14]](#footnote-14)
4. However, this is subject to change on a yearly basis, as the Commission reiterated that the duration of each of its annual sessions was to be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the expected workload. For example, the Commission decided to hold a three-week session in 2021. Furthermore, determination by the Commission to allocate its unused conference time to a working group during its annual session (usually held in June or July) poses practical challenges of identifying a suitable conference time in the second half of the year and rescheduling other working group dates. It also leads to difficulties in planning, as the Working Group would not be able to know whether it would meet for one or two weeks in the second half of the year and if so, when.
5. If the Working Group decides to request additional conference time, it may wish to consider whether to retain the one-week session pattern or to hold two-week sessions. The Working Group may wish to further consider whether measures should be put in place to allow for remote participation by delegations to address concerns expressed about their costs of travel. Such changes in the pattern of meetings or introduction of means to facilitate remote participation would require further consultations with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM).

**3. Programme budget implications**

1. If the Working Group and eventually the Commission decides to recommend to the General Assembly that additional conference time be allocated to the Commission for advancing the ISDS project, this will then need to be reflected in the draft resolution submitted to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly. In that process, the budgetary implications of the request on the programme budget (mainly Section 2 - General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management and Section 8 - Legal affairs) would be reviewed by different bodies, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.
2. This section provides an overview of the programme budget implications so that the Working Group would be in a better position to make an informed decision. However, it should be noted that the budget implications could vary depending on the actual request made by the Commission (including the venue of the meetings, their format, and which duty station provides the relevant services). All figures in this section are subject to further verification by the Programme Planning and Budget Division (PPBD). The Working Group may wish to further note that the figures below relate to the formal meetings of the Working Group and do not take into resources required for translation or interpretation during informal meetings.

 Conference resources

1. An additional week of conference time would consist of 10 meetings (2 per day consisting of three hours) either in New York or Vienna. In addition to the provisions of the venue and conference servicing, these meetings would require interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations and would thus need to be reflected in the budget of DGACM. This would entail additional resource requirements for meetings services in the amount of approximately $170,000 per each additional week. According to the Work Plan, which requires two additional sessions per year, the amount required for conference resources would be $340,000 per year.

 Document resources

1. An additional week of conference time would increase the documentation to be handled by DGACM, mainly translation of the documents into the official languages of the United Nations. This would have to be reflected in the budget of DGACM. Based on previous sessions of the Working Group, the Secretariat would prepare an average of two to three working papers and would expect to process four to five submissions by States and others per a one-week session. Overall, the additional document workload would be 7 pre-session documents (total of 59,500 words),[[15]](#footnote-15) 5 in-session documents (total of 10,700 words) and one post-session document (total of 10,700 words). This would entail additional resource requirements for documentation services in the amount of $318,697.[[16]](#footnote-16) According to the Work Plan, which proposes two additional one-week sessions per year, the amount required for document resources would be $637,394 per year.
2. If the Working Group were to decide that the additional weeks would be held as an extension of scheduled sessions, the additional resource requirements for documentation services could be reduced to $243,000 per session, or $486,000 per year.[[17]](#footnote-17)

 UNCITRAL Secretariat resources

1. The servicing of additional sessions of the Working Group and providing continued support to an increased number of informal meetings would require the current team servicing Working Group III to be expanded. This can be achieved by either relieving the current team members from other duties or including other Secretariat members as new team members. However, both options would likely have a negative impact on the Secretariat’s role in supporting other work programmes of the Commission.
2. To ensure that the work programme of the Commission is not adversely affected by any additional conference time allotted to the Working Group, three new posts would be required as outlined in table 2. This would entail additional resource requirements ranging from $353,400 to $410,100 in 2022 depending on whether the post is to be funded by regular or extrabudgetary resources.[[18]](#footnote-18)
3. The Working Group may also take into consideration contributions to the UNCITRAL trust fund for granting travel assistance to developing countries, aimed at enabling the participation of representatives of developing States in the deliberations of Working Group III as well as in regional intersessional meetings.[[19]](#footnote-19) Should such contributions continue in the future, the administrative support for providing travel assistance to delegations to attend the additional Working Group session will also likely grow.

Table 2:

**Human resources**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Regular budget | Extrabudgetary resources |
| Legal Officer (P-3) | $ 139,600 | $ 169,500 |
| Associate Legal Officer (P-2) | $ 115,100 | $ 133,700 |
| Administrative Assistant (G-6) | $ 98,700 | $ 106,900 |
| **Total** | **$ 353,400** | **$ 410,100** |

1. Moreover, additional resources in the amount of $13,000 would be required to acquire furniture and equipment for the new staff members; $5,400 for ICT-related services; and $13,593 for travel expenses of staff to service working group sessions in New York.

 Summary

1. In conclusion, the programme budget implication for holding two additional Working Group sessions per year would be as follows:

Table 3:

**Programme budget implications per year**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Estimates |
| Section 2 - General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and Conference Management | Conference resources | $ 340,000 |
| Document resources | $ 486,000 to $ 637,394 |
| Section 8 - Legal affairs | Human resources | $ 353,400 to $ 410,100 |
| Other | $ 31,993 |
| **Total** | **$ 1,211,393 to $ 1,419,487** |

 IV. Concluding remarks

1. As mentioned in the introduction, the objective of this note is to provide the Working Group with information on the resource requirement to implement the ISDS project. Upon reviewing the work and resourcing plan, it may wish to determine whether to request the Commission to recommend to the General Assembly that additional conference and supporting resources be allocated to the Secretariat for advancing and completing the ISDS Project for a period of 3 years. Considering the budget situation of the United Nations, it will be challenging to obtain additional regular budget resources when the overall budget is being heavily scrutinized (A/CN.9/970, para. 49). Therefore, it would be important for the Working Group and the Commission to signal the importance of ISDS reforms and the need to deliver results within the set time frame in its recommendation to the General Assembly.
1. *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/75/17), paras. 102-118. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Ibid.,* para. 119. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Under the current pattern of meetings, Working Group III meets twice a year for a one-week session with four days dedicated to substantive discussion and one day dedicated to the adoption of the report. Working group are expected to hold substantive deliberations during the first nine half-day meetings (that is, from Monday to Friday morning), with a draft report on the entire period being prepared by the Secretariat for adoption at the tenth and last meeting of the Working Group (on Friday afternoon) (See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* and corrigendum ([A/56/17](http://undocs.org/A/56/17)), para. 381). However, considering the length of time required for adopting the reports of Working Group III, the practice has been that one full day would be dedicated for that purpose. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. General Assembly Resolution [61/31](http://undocs.org/A/RES/61/31) (2006), para. 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The deliberations and decisions of the Working Group at its thirty-fourth to thirty-seventh sessions are set out in documents [A/CN.9/930/Rev.1](http://undocs.org/A/CN.9/930/Rev.1), A/CN.9/930/Rev.1/Add.1; [A/CN.9/935](http://undocs.org/A/CN.9/935); [A/CN.9/964](http://undocs.org/A/CN.9/964); and [A/CN.9/970](http://undocs.org/A/CN.9/970), respectively. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The deliberations and decisions of the Working Group at its thirty-eighth, resumed thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions are set out in documents [A/CN.9/1004](https://undocs.org/en/A/CN.9/1004)\*; [A/CN.9/1004/Add.1](http://undocs.org/A/CN.9/1004/Add.1) and A/CN.9/1044, respectively. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Mainly the conference venue and related servicing (for example, document distribution and technical support) as well as interpretation into the official languages of the United Nations. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Mainly formatting, translation into the official languages of the United Nations as well as the publication and printing of documents. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. This table takes into account all official documents produced for the Working Group that have been translated into the six official United Nations languages. For the sake of simplicity, documents issued as addenda are counted as separate documents and the average length of the document is calculated based on their English version. For a breakdown of the average document resources utilized by the Working Group during its seven sessions, see Table 2 in document A/CN.9/1011. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. This includes three reports of inter-sessional regional meetings submitted by the host States. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. The post is funded by the government of Germany with the term expiring in 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. With regard to unused Commission time, the Commission had indicated its understanding that two weeks for its annual sessions would generally be sufficient. Ibid, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17 ([A/74/17](http://undocs.org/A/74/17)), para. 331. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Ibid., para. 329. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Ibid., Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/56/17), paras. 376–383 and 425(c). The Commission, in 2001, increased the number of working groups from three to six, each of which would generally hold two annual sessions of one week each. However, the working group tasked with the preparation of the Rotterdam Rules was authorized by the Commission to hold two-week sessions from 2002 to 2008, except for its session in September 2002, which met for one week. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. One provisional agenda, two to three notes by the Secretariat and four submissions by States and others, all estimated at 8,500 words. There is a limitation on documents originating in the Secretariat, which should be no longer than 16 pages (8,500 words). Intergovernmental bodies are invited to consider, where appropriate, reducing their report to 20 pages (10,700 words). See General Assembly Resolution 52/214, section B, paras. 4 and 7 (reiterated in 53/208, 59/265). [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Based on figures provided by document management services in Vienna. Cost of translation of one English Standard Page (ESP, which consists of 330 words) into one other language is set at 260 USD. The programme budget implication rate may vary depending on where the document services are to be provided. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. This is based on the assumption that there would be no need to produce a separate provisional agenda nor the post-session report. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Based on UNOV/UNODC Revised Standard Salary Costs (2020**–**2023) for Vienna. For the post funded by the regular budget, the figure for “continuing” staff cost in 2021 was used. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. *Official Records of the General Assembly*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17* ([A/74/17](http://undocs.org/A/74/17)), para. 165. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)