

9 December 2020

Original: English

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**United Nations Commission  
on International Trade Law  
Fifty-third session**

**Decision on the dates and place as well as the arrangements  
for the sessions of UNCITRAL working groups in the first  
half of 2021 during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
pandemic**

On the proposal of the Chair of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) at its fifty-third session upon consultation with all States members of UNCITRAL on 1 December 2020, States members of UNCITRAL adopted the following decision on 9 December 2020:

*“States members of UNCITRAL,*

*Recalling* the Commission’s decision on 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,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling also* the Commission’s decision on the dates and place of the sessions of Working Groups to be held in New York in the first half of 2021,<sup>2</sup>

*Noting* the impact of prevailing travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic on the participation of delegations at the working group sessions,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of advancing work of all working groups to the extent possible in light of the relevance and importance of that work, including for the COVID-19 response and recovery,

*Generally satisfied* with the arrangements made by the Secretariat, which are temporary and exceptional in nature, to allow delegations to participate in person or remotely at the working group sessions held in the second half of 2020, including the choice of meeting hours that took into account the participation of delegations from various time zones;

*Recalling* the methods of work of the Commission and its working groups as summarized in annex III to the report of the forty-third session of UNCITRAL<sup>3</sup> and in document [A/CN.9/638](#), in particular paragraphs 27 to 32,<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [A/CN.9/1038](#), Annex I.

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No.17 (A/75/17)*, part two, para. 101.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Forty-third Session, Supplement No.17 (A/65/17)*.

<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://uncitral.un.org/en/about/methods/officialdocs>.

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*Stressing* the need to preserve transparency, inclusiveness, flexibility, effectiveness and equality in carrying out the work of the working groups.

*Decide:*

1. The decision on the format, officers and methods of work of the UNCITRAL working groups during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic<sup>5</sup> adopted on 19 August 2020 shall be extended to all sessions of the working groups in the first half of 2021.

2. The new dates and place of Working Groups I, II and III during the first half of 2021 shall be as follows:

Working Group I (Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) Thirty-fifth session	25–29 January 2021 (Vienna, in-person & online)
Working Group II (Dispute Settlement) Seventy-third session	22–26 March 2021 (New York, in-person & online)
Working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform) Fortieth session	8–12 February 2021* (Vienna, in-person & online)

\* Possibly one or two additional days in Vienna in May 2021 for consideration of the workplan and resourcing plan - To be arranged by the Secretariat on an “as available” basis of UNOV Conference Management Services and within existing resources.

3. The dates and place of Working Group IV, V and VI scheduled to be held during the first half of 2021 shall remain unchanged.

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<sup>5</sup> [A/CN.9/1038](#), Annex I.