



UNCITRAL Colloquium on Digital Payments and Paperless Trade



Provisional Programme

[as of 29 December 2025]

Venue: Vienna International Centre

Date: 19-22 January 2026

At its fifty-eighth session (Vienna, 7-23 July 2025), the Commission requested the secretariat to undertake exploratory and preparatory work on digital payments and paperless trade respectively, including by holding colloquiums on these topics. In line with that request, the secretariat is organizing a Colloquium on Digital Payments and Paperless Trade: Part I on digital payments (20–21 January 2026) and Part II on paperless trade (21–22 January 2026). The Colloquium aims to advance the exploratory and preparatory work, consistent with UNCITRAL's efforts to provide an enabling legal framework and guidance supportive of end-to-end trade digitalization, of which digital payments and paperless trade are key components. The outcomes of the Colloquium will be presented to the Commission for consideration at its fifty-ninth session (New York, 22 June – 10 July 2026, dates to be confirmed).

Part I (Digital payments) aims to (i) map and analyze existing international and domestic legal frameworks that govern digital payments, to identify any legal issues, challenges and gaps relevant for future legislative work by UNCITRAL, and (ii) refine potential legislative options to consider the most suitable approach to addressing the challenges and gaps,



including whether there would be a need to revise the [UNCITRAL Model Law on International Credit Transfers](#) or to develop a new text. Attention will be paid to intersections with existing regulatory frameworks to clearly define the scope of possible future work within UNCITRAL's mandate and to future-proof such work, ensuring its adaptability to digital assets.

Part II (Paperless trade) aims to further explore and analyze the use of UNCITRAL electronic commerce texts for paperless trade and end-to-end trade digitalization. Given the broad scope of application of those texts, an enabling legal framework may be established on the basis of those existing texts. However, additional guidance may be desirable on the application of those texts to paperless trade and end-to-end trade digitalization and the preparation of dedicated provisions may also be useful. The discussions are intended to support preparation of a guidance text or possible model legislation for consideration by the Commission.

Registered delegations may attend the Colloquium in-person or participate online, and registered members of the general public may participate online. To register, please visit <https://indico.un.org/event/1021089/>. For online participants, the secretariat is arranging to broadcast the Colloquium via UN Web TV. Additional details, including information about accessing the Vienna International Centre and the UN Web TV links, will be communicated to registered participants by email in due course. More information about the Colloquium is available at: <https://uncitral.un.org/en/paymentspaperlesstrade>.

Monday, 19 January 2026: Part I – Digital payments

9:00	Registration of arrival of in-person participants
10:00-10:15	Welcome address and introduction ▪ Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCITRAL
10:15-11:30	<i>Panel 1 – Payments and payment systems: domestic approaches and digital advances:</i> This panel aims to take stock of domestic legal approaches, with a focus on recent developments and emerging trends, including with regard to electronic money and other forms of dematerialised transfers of value, as well as any challenges experienced with respect to cross-border payments and interfacing with other systems. Introduction ▪ Jae Sung Lee, UNCITRAL secretariat Speakers ▪ Mark Tamba Nyuma, Deputy Director, Foreign Trade and Regional Integration, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Sierra Leone ▪ Liu Yongsheng, General Manager, Technology Management Department, Cross-Border Interbank Payment System ▪ Tomonori Fujiike, Representative Partner, Hori & Partners



11:30-12:30	<i>Panel 2 – Payment-related provisions in international trade agreements and facilities: the current landscape:</i> This panel aims to take stock of provisions of international and regional free trade agreements and other facilities related to payments and identify issues that may be relevant to a new UNCITRAL text on digital payments, so as to support the development of international standards facilitating efficient, secure and inclusive cross-border digital payments. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Corentin Baslé, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Rodrigo Monardes, Head of International Affairs, International Finance and Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance of Chile ▪ Giuseppe Bianco, Lead Coordinator, Data Flows, Governance and Privacy Division, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	<i>Panel 3 – Understanding ongoing initiatives and work on digital payments and payment systems (part I):</i> This panel aims to take stock of emerging policy and legal trends on issues such as the treatment of stablecoins and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) for settlement and other purposes and the integration between settlements, trade finance and transfer of title to goods. It will consider how stablecoins and CBDCs, as well as other recent developments, are reshaping the landscape of payments and payment systems, including potentially offering faster, cheaper and more efficient payments and promoting financial inclusion. It will also consider their respective nature, issuance, control and role in payments and payment systems. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Neale Bergman, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Gérardine Goh Escolar, Deputy Secretary General of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) ▪ Holti Banka, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, Payments Team, Finance, Competitiveness & Innovation Global Practice, World Bank ▪ Jin Hui, Special Expert, Beijing Two-Zone Office and Dean, Beijing Borui Opening-up Policy Research Institute (Beijing Pilot Free Trade Zone)



15:30-17:00	<i>Panel 3 – Understanding ongoing initiatives and work on digital payments and payment systems (part II)</i> <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Neale Bergman, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Ricardo Salazar, President, Defensoría del Consumidor, El Salvador ▪ Juliet Wangui Maina, Africa Policy, Advocacy, and Partnerships Specialist on digital finance/financial inclusion at the Better Than Cash Alliance hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ▪ Qin En Looi, Managing Partner, Onigiri Capital & Saison Capital
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Tuesday, 20 January 2026: Part I - Digital payments (cont'd)

9:30-11:00	<i>Panel 4 – Rights and obligations of parties in cross-border payment systems and payment as contractual performance:</i> This panel will discuss the rights and obligations of the parties, the consequences with respect to failed, erroneous or delayed value transfers in cross-border payments and the interaction between modes of payment and discharging the payment obligation under contract law, in order to consider and assess whether there are any legal challenges or gaps to be addressed in these areas. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Luca Castellani, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Liliana Fratini Passi, Managing Director, CBI, and Vice Chair, UN/CEFACT Bureau ▪ Yan Xiao, Policy expert and former Project Lead for the Digital Trade Portfolio, World Economic Forum ▪ André Janssen, Professor of Private Law, Radboud University ▪ Louise Taylor Digby, Vice Chair ICC Commission on Banking, and former Global Head Sustainable Value Propositions, SWIFT
11:00-12:30	<i>Panel 5 – Interoperability issues and the role of identity management and trust services in cross-border digital payments:</i> The PSD3 Directive introduces several authentication mechanisms aimed at preventing fraud, money laundering and other misuse. The UNCITRAL Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services (MLIT) provides a general framework for identity management and trust services. Is the MLIT also fit for payments? To answer this question, the panel aims to discuss interoperability issues, including PSP authentication requirements, in order to identify any legal challenges or gaps. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Alexander Kunzelmann, UNCITRAL secretariat



	<u>Speakers</u> ▪ Nafis Alam, Ambassador, Emerging Payments Association Asia (EPAA); and Professor and Head of the School of Business, Monash University Malaysia ▪ Giusella Dolores Finocchiaro, Professor of Law, University of Bologna ▪ Emmanuel Khisa, Africa Director, Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure ▪ Clare Rowley, Head of Business Operations, Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF)
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Panel 6 – The 1992 Model Law: Its Impact and a possible way forward?: Building on existing literature, this panel will formulate proposals on whether it is desirable and feasible to update the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Credit Transfers (1992) or to consider another possible way forward. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Zelin Hao, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Nicola De Giorgi, Legal Counsel, Legal Department, Banca d'Italia ▪ Benjamin Geva, Professor of Law, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University ▪ Hisaei Ito, Professor of Law, Chuo University
15:30-17:00	Summary roundtable discussion and conclusion of Part I (Digital payments)

Wednesday, 21 January 2026: Part II – Paperless trade

9:30-11:00	Panel 1 – Regional experiences in establishing an enabling legal framework for paperless trade: This panel will discuss how regional organizations are working on different legal aspects of paperless trade. It aims to take stock of those experiences and discuss how UNCITRAL could effectively coordinate them. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Zelin Hao, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Lia Potec, Team Leader, European Commission ▪ Villu Varjas, Policy Officer, European Commission ▪ Vashti Maharaj, Adviser, Digital Trade Policy, The Commonwealth Secretariat ▪ Nitas Polachai, Senior Officer, Digital Trade and ASEAN Single Window, The ASEAN Secretariat
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11:00-12:30	Panel 2 – Cross-border recognition of electronic documents: Commercial documents have been used for decades across borders for commercial and trade-related purposes. Such documents may be issued under a treaty, such as the Hamburg Rules, the Rotterdam Rules and the Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents, or under the national enactment of a model law, such as the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records. This panel aims to explore the limits to the use of those documents in electronic form, and which legislative and other steps may assist in clarifying and removing those limits. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Neale Bergman, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Clément Combarieu, Senior Trade Finance Lawyer, Legal Banking Department, Natixis Corporate & Investment Banking ▪ Azar Aliyev, Professor, University of Halle ▪ Jose Raul Perales, Deputy Director, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation ▪ Goran Andreev, Border Crossing Expert, Permanent Secretariat, Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Panel 3 – Cross-border recognition of identity management and trust services (part I): Cross-border recognition of electronic documents calls for the recognition of the data contained therein. Regional (EU eIDAS Regulation) and global (UNCITRAL Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services) texts have been drafted to provide an adequate legal framework. This panel will discuss how those uniform laws may support paperless trade, drawing on examples such as the EU eFTI Regulation. Another component of cross-border commercial transactions is identity management. Although identity management and trust services are dealt with jointly in regional and global uniform texts, its implementation may differ from that of trust services. This panel also aims to take stock of the current legal landscape for identity management and to identify steps to increase uptake in light of practices and needs. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Luca Castellani, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Nikolay Dmitrik, Expert, International and Comparative Law Research Center ▪ Keith Jansa, Chief Executive Officer, Digital Governance Council, Canada ▪ Vicente Andreu Navarro, Policy Officer, European Commission ▪ Linda Kassem, Professor and International Trade Lawyer



15:30-16:45	Panel 3 – Cross-border recognition of identity management and trust services (part II) <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Luca Castellani, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ David Magard, Senior Advisor, the Swedish Companies Registration Office ▪ Adam Cooper, Director, Next ID ▪ Felipe Gonzalez-Zapata, Policy Lead, Digital Government, Public Governance Directorate, OECD
16:45-17:00	End of day summary

Thursday, 22 January 2026: Part II – Paperless trade (cont'd)

9:30-11:00	Panel 4 – Paperless trade and its legal challenges: regional views: This panel aims to explore the views of regional bodies on needs and measures to create an enabling legal framework for cross-border paperless trade. Special attention is given to the extensive work carried out by the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, which assists in assessing paperless trade needs, suggesting solutions and supporting their deployment, while leveraging UNCITRAL texts as legal enablers. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Maria Angeliki Giannakou, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Yann Duval, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, UN/ESCAP ▪ Johan (Nanno) Mulder, Chief, International Trade Unit, UN/ECLAC ▪ Maria Teresa Pisani, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, UN/ECE
11:00-12:30	Panel 5 – Paperless trade and its legal challenges: national experiences: This panel compiles significant national experiences in establishing a legal environment conducive to paperless trade, taking into account varying levels of economic and technological development as well as different legal traditions. This panel will enable identification of common trends, best practices and lessons learned on how to overcome legal obstacles to paperless trade. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Samira Musayeva, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Doh-uk Shin, Director, International Legal Policy Division, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea ▪ Iuliia Dragunova, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in New York



	▪ Franz Schwammenhöfer, Head of the Logistics Coordination Department, Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure, Austria ▪ Ken-Wei Chng, Deputy Director, Digital Identity and Document Attestation, Digital Utility Cluster, Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Panel 6 – Facilitating exchanges with public entities: One defining element of paperless trade is the need to submit information to public entities for regulatory and compliance purposes. There are increasing examples of submission of electronic documents and data for specific purposes (CITES, COO) or more generally (WTO). This panel aims to take stock of ongoing efforts and identify challenges and opportunities for establishing digital trade ecosystems at the national, regional and global levels. <u>Introduction</u> ▪ Benjamin Herisset, UNCITRAL secretariat <u>Speakers</u> ▪ Daniel Wright, Customs and R&D Manager, Fonterra ▪ José Benjamin Mayorga Osorio, Director General de Aduanas, El Salvador ▪ Yu Shiyuan, Level IV Principal Staff Member, Shanghai Customs, General Administration of Customs
15:30-17:00	Summary roundtable discussion and conclusion of Part II (Paperless trade)