

REPORT ON THE UNCITRAL ACADEMY 2022

19 May 2023



UNCITRAL ACADEMY 2022



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On 7 August 2019,
ministers and senior officials
representing 70 countries, and
1,500 delegates in total,
convened in Singapore to
commemorate the signing of
the Singapore Convention
on Mediation.

46 States signed the Convention on the day it opened for signature, the highest number of first-day signatories of a UN trade convention to-date.

56 States have signed and 11 States have become Party to the Convention.

UNCITRAL ACADEMY

The 2022 edition of the Singapore Convention Week brought together over 4,000 participants from more than 100 countries.

The UNCITRAL Academy is a dynamic and vibrant event, with global reach, and there have been 3 editions thus far, in 2019, 2021 and 2022, as part of the Singapore Convention Week.

The UNCITRAL Academy, jointly launched in 2019 by UNCITRAL and the Ministry of Law of Singapore, promotes the development, understanding and use of international dispute resolution methods and instruments.

Through a flagship Conference and three capacity-building workshops, the UNCITRAL Academy has:

- Raised awareness of UNCITRAL instruments and ongoing work at UNCITRAL among government and industry users
- Convened leaders from governments and legal and business communities around the world to examine the latest trends in international dispute resolution, globally and for Asia
- Provided training in international mediation and the Singapore Convention on Mediation, including in investor-State dispute settlement



Introduction

1. This report on the 2022 edition of the UNCITRAL Academy, co-organised by the Singapore Ministry of Law and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), provides a detailed summary of the objectives, deliverables and outcomes of the event. An introduction of the events leading up to the Academy is followed by salient details on its involvement and participation and finally, the highlights from each activity during the event. The report also includes testimonials collected from participants and lessons learnt for future editions of the UNCITRAL Academy as well as other related events.

The Singapore Convention on Mediation and UNCITRAL Academy so far

- Adopted in December 2018, the United Nations (UN) Convention on International Settlement
 Agreements Resulting from Mediation, is also known as the Singapore Convention on
 Mediation. The Convention established a harmonised legal framework for the enforcement of
 settlement agreements and allow parties to invoke such agreements.
- 3. On 7 August 2019, ministers and senior officials representing 70 countries, and 1,500 delegates in total, convened in Singapore to commemorate the signing of the Convention (Fig. 1). Of the 70 States, 46 signed the Convention during the historic ceremony on 7 August, the highest number of first- day signatories of any UN trade convention. As of May 2023, 56 States have signed and 11 States have ratified the Convention.



Fig. 1

4. During the ceremony, which was attended by Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong and UN Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Mr Stephen Mathias, Singapore and the UN also inked a momentous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate for the organisation of an UNCITRAL Academy in Singapore (Fig. 2). The Academy is aimed at promoting the development, understanding and usage of international dispute resolution instruments on a global scale. The ceremony was followed by a



Conference, which included keynote addresses and panel discussions involving thought leaders, leading practitioners, business leaders and senior officials from around the world.



Fig. 2

5. A year on in September 2020, the Singapore Ministry of Law and UNCITRAL, commemorated the entry into force of the Singapore Convention on Mediation with a digital entry-into-force celebration. The event, viewed by many from around the world, featured a series of high-level speeches by signatories to the Convention, followed by a commemoration ceremony. This entry into force marked a significant development in international commercial dispute resolution.



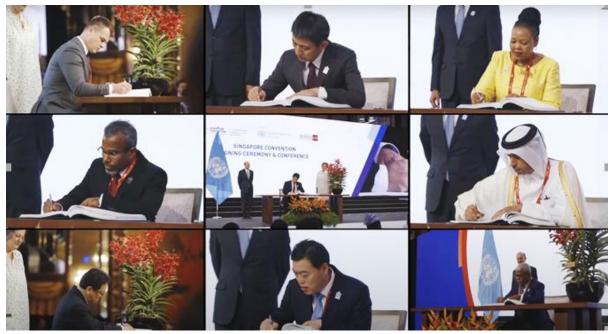


Fig. 3

6. In September 2021, the UNCITRAL Academy, themed "A World in Transition", was held in Singapore over two days, co-organised by the Singapore Ministry of Law and UNCITRAL. Under the pandemic circumstances, the UNCITRAL Academy Conference and Workshops were held in a hybrid format, with a small group of speakers and attendees appearing in person, and others dialling in from around the globe through a customised virtual platform (Fig. 4). Besides bringing together many key industry figures to speak on the evolution of cross-border alternative dispute resolution solutions through a series of fireside chats and panel discussions, the Academy also provided a platform for leading global experts to discuss ways in which companies and practitioners could navigate a complex business environment through three Capacity-Building Workshops geared towards industry users, government officials and investor-state dispute settlement practitioners respectively.



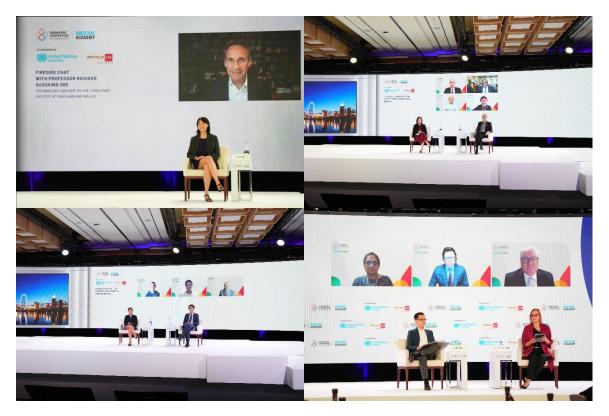


Fig. 4

7. In particular, the Academy focused many of its discussions around how the pandemic had affected businesses, and how dispute resolution had evolved accordingly through new mechanisms such as the Singapore Convention on Mediation. Relatedly, the increasing importance of technology in the dispute resolution scene was a common theme among the discussions. For example, speakers highlighted how legal technology could be used to increase access to justice and accuracy of outcomes and reduce costs.



Snapshot of UNCITRAL Academy 2022

8. The UNCITRAL Academy returned with a full in-person audience in Singapore from 30 August to 1 September 2022, while being concurrently broadcasted to participants and attendees worldwide through a customised virtual platform (Fig. 5). The Academy, which comprised a Conference and three Capacity-Building Workshops, formed part of Singapore Convention Week 2022, a week-long series of legal and dispute-resolution events. In total, the Week brought together over 4,000 participants from more than 100 countries, representing the legal, business and government sectors.

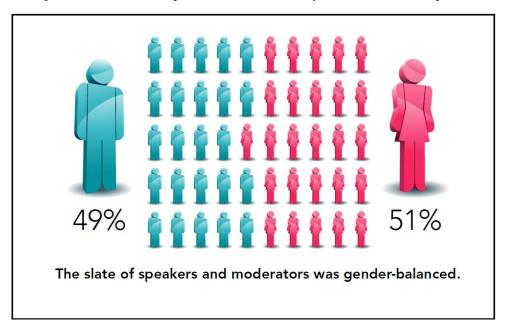


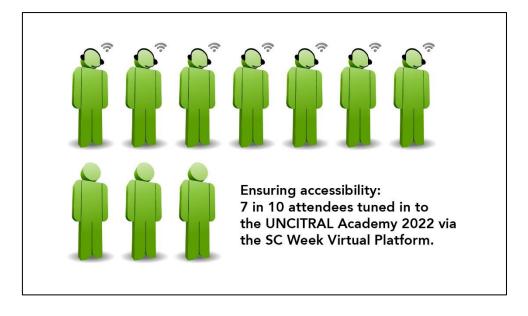
Fig. 5

- 9. Themed "Embracing Global Change, Navigating New Possibilities", the Academy centred on current trends and challenges in cross-border dispute resolution amid the quick-changing global landscape, as well as breakthroughs in dispute resolution practice. The event programme included:
 - a. Keynote addresses and remarks by senior government and UNCITRAL officials
 - b. A fireside chat on the evolution of dispute resolution in Asia
 - c. Panel discussions on reforms in investor-state dispute settlement, mediation, adjudication and arbitration in specialised fields, dispute settlement and climate change and dispute resolution in the digital economy
 - d. The launch of a commentary book on the Singapore Convention on Mediation by the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy
 - e. Three Capacity-Building Workshops focusing on industry, government and investorstate dispute settlement users respectively.



10. Highlighting the globalised nature of dispute resolution and its worldwide applicability and usefulness, the organisers continued to emphasise gender and geographical diversity amongst its participants, and accessibility for its audiences. The following graphics provide a snapshot of the speakers and audience profiles for the three-day event, which was open to all attendees:





UNCITRAL ACADEMY 2022



Secretariat Support

11. The UNCITRAL Secretariat worked closely with the Singapore Ministry of Law in the organisation of the UNCITRAL Academy. The Secretariat provided support through speeches and live video presentations on UNCITRAL's work, and contributed their technical expertise in co-designing the capacity-building workshops. The Secretariat also actively improved the reach and visibility of the event through its membership channels.



UNCITRAL Academy Conference 2022

Welcome Address

12. The event was kicked off by Singapore's Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K Shanmugam SC (Fig. 6). Elaborating on the global challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, which affected economies, businesses and individuals deeply, he noted that mediation was probably even more important in this more fractured landscape, as it offered a relatively faster, cheaper, and more flexible means of resolving disputes, and helped preserve business relationships. In this regard, he highlighted the Singapore Convention on Mediation as an example of providing businesses with greater assurance of enforcing cross-border mediated settlement agreements. Minister Shanmugam encouraged countries to come together to keep the global trading environment healthy, and emphasised the importance of rules-based multilateralism.



Fig. 6



Opening remarks

13. This was followed by an introduction to the Academy by **Ms Anna Joubin-Bret**, Secretary of UNCITRAL (Fig. 7), who harked back to the changes observed in 2021's UNCITRAL Academy of the world in transition and noted that the world was now in the "new normal". In this regard, she said that the discussions at the event helped to examine the latest trends in international dispute resolution and address the impact of the transition to the "new normal". The discussions not only identified the challenges posed, but also recognised the opportunities that technology could bring to facilitate adaptation to the new conditions. She also highlighted the suitability of international mediation in times of crisis, and expressed her hope to see greater implementation and use of the UNCITRAL Mediation Framework.



Fig. 7



Fireside Chat on Evolution of Dispute Resolution in Asia: Growth and Opportunities

- 14. Next up was a fireside chat with Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law **Mr Edwin Tong SC**, moderated by **Ms Alison Ross**, Editor-At-Large and Chief Correspondent of the Global Arbitration Review (Fig. 8).
- 15. During the chat, Minister Tong shared insights into Singapore's drive to become a leading centre for international commercial dispute resolution, and expressed optimism about growing opportunities for young practitioners in Asia, as new areas and opportunities emerged. In this regard, he noted that the Singapore Convention on Mediation addressed a feature of mediated agreements that had been previously unattractive, and that it would not be surprising to see a rise in mediation cases therefrom. Citing the upward trajectory of growth in the region, he also pressed the importance of remaining adaptable and responsive to economic and technological changes in order to remain relevant.



Fig. 8



Panel Discussion on Reforms in Investor-State Dispute Settlement – Perspectives from the Asia-Pacific Region

16. Highlighting the ongoing work in UNCITRAL's Working Group III on investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) reform, this multistakeholder panel discussed the merits and prospects of a possible permanent multilateral investment tribunal and advisory centre, among other reform options. Particular focus was given to mediation, with panellists sharing insights on how it could play an even greater positive role in the ISDS context. The recently launched ICSID Mediation Rules 2022 were also highlighted and discussed.

17. The panel was made up by:

- a. **Professor Manjiao Chi**, Professor and Founding Director, Center for International Economic Law and Policy, School of Law, University of International Business and Economics, China;
- b. **Mr Shreyas Jayasimha**, Co-Founder, Aarna Law (India) and Simha Law (Singapore);
- c. Ms Koh Swee Yen SC, Partner, WongPartnership LLP, Singapore;
- d. **Dr Vilawan Mangklatanakul**, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand;
- e. **Ms Martina Polasek**, Deputy Secretary-General, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes;
- f. And moderated by **Ms Natalie Morris-Sharma**, Deputy Senior State Counsel, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore; Rapporteur, UNCITRAL Working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform).





Fig. 9

Launch of the Second Edition of the Singapore Convention on Mediation Commentary Book by the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy

- 18. Following on from the launch of the successful first edition of the Singapore Convention on Mediation Commentary during the Signing Ceremony in August 2019, then the first book and article-by-article commentary written on the Convention, the second edition was launched during the Conference to take into account the many positive developments since.
- 19. The launch of the book was officiated by **Ms Rahayu Mahzam**, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Law, Singapore, and **Professor Nadja Alexander**, Professor of Law, Singapore Management University Yong Pung How School of Law and Director, Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy.



Fig. 10





Fig. 11



Panel Discussion on Mediation, Adjudication and Arbitration in Specialised Fields

20. Complementing UNCITRAL's Working Group II (Dispute Settlement)'s ongoing work on technology-related dispute settlement, the panel on specialised fields explored new trends and best practices in the fields of financial, insolvency, high-tech and construction disputes. Panellists shared anecdotes from practice and approaches taken by their jurisdictions and dispute resolution institutions, including the establishment of novel legal frameworks to harmonise the use of mediation and their predictions for further development.

21. The panel comprised:

- a. **Professor Dr Mohamed Abdel Wahab**, Professor of Law, Cairo University; Legal Counsel and International Arbitrator, Zulficar & Partners, Egypt;
- b. Mr Ji Nuo, President, Shanghai Bar Association; Partner, Fangda Partners, China;
- c. **Ms Andrea Maia**, Partner, Mediar360 Dispute Resolution Center, Brazil;
- d. **Mr Yoshihiro Takatori**, International Arbitrator and Mediator and Attorney-at-Law, Kasumigaseki International Law Office, Japan;
- e. **Mr Abraham Vergis SC**, Senior Counsel & Managing Director, Providence Law Asia, Singapore;
- f. And was moderated by **Dr Matthew Secomb**, Partner, White & Case, Singapore.



Fig. 12



Panel Discussion on Dispute Settlement and Climate Change

22. Next, panellists observed how climate change had raised new and increased legal risks, resulting in a rise in disputes. The diverse panel noted how climate change disputes differed from others, and offered perspectives from around the globe, including Africa, Europe, India, Singapore and the United Kingdom. While the ecosystem of climate change is still nascent, there were opportunities for lawyers and mediators to capture work in the area by developing knowledge of domestic and international environmental rules.

23. The panel comprised:

- a. Ms Aisha Abdallah, Partner, ALN Kenya, Anjarwalla & Khanna, Kenya;
- b. Ms Ipshita Chaturvedi, Partner, Dentons Rodyk, Singapore;
- c. **Ms Annette Magnusson**, Co-Founder, Climate Change Counsel, Sweden;
- d. Ms Wendy Miles KC, Barrister, Twenty Essex, United Kingdom;
- e. And was moderated by **Dr Joseph Chun**, Partner, Shook Lin & Bok LLP, Singapore.



Fig. 13



Panel Discussion on Dispute Resolution in the Digital Economy

- 24. On the topic of dispute resolution in the digital economy, the last panel of the day noted that with greater use of technology in dispute resolution proceedings, issues such as confidentiality, due process, infrastructural gaps between jurisdictions, and cybersecurity have come to the forefront. The panel comprised:
 - a. Ms Lise Alm, Chief Strategy Officer, Worldfavor, Sweden;
 - b. **Ms Stephanie Cohen**, Independent Arbitrator, New York; Chair, ICC Commission Working Group on Leveraging Technology for Fair Effective, and Efficient International Arbitration Proceedings;
 - c. **Professor Jaemin Lee**, Professor of Law, School of Law, Seoul National University, South Korea;
 - d. Mr Erik Wilbers, Director, WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center;
 - e. And was moderated by **Mr Rakesh Kirpalani**, Director, Dispute Resolution & Information Technology and Chief Technology Officer, Drew & Napier LLC, Singapore.
- 25. Panellists discussed the need to raise the level of technology competence and subject matter expertise among practitioners and arbitrators, the use of tools such as online case management platforms and online dispute resolution platforms, and how legal regimes were increasingly taking into account emerging technologies such as cryptocurrency.



Fig. 14



UNCITRAL Academy 2022 Capacity-Building Workshops

UNCITRAL Academy Government Capacity-Building Workshop

- 26. The Government Capacity-Building Workshop, supported by the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy and attended by invited government officials, gave participants a primer on the Singapore Convention on Mediation and featured a panel of speakers who shared their experiences in their respective jurisdictions in signing and ratifying the Singapore Convention on Mediation.
- 27. Led by experts from various jurisdictions, participants exchanged views on topics relevant to the implementation of the Singapore Convention on Mediation, such as mediator standards, rules of procedure for the enforcement of international mediated settlement agreements and grounds for refusal of relief under the Convention.



Fig. 15

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28. Speakers at this workshop included:

- a. **Professor Nadja Alexander**, Professor of Law, Singapore Management University Yong Pung How School of Law; Director, Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy
- b. Mr Vakhtang Giorgadze, Deputy Counsel, Singapore International Arbitration Centre
- c. **Ms Irene Alogoc,** Executive Director V, Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Department of Justice, Philippines
- d. Dr Ellen Deason, Professor in Law Emerita, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
- e. **Ms Mariam Gotsiridze**, Principal Research Fellow, Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy
- f. Mr William Marsh, Independent International Mediator
- g. Ms Sharon Ong, Director-General (International & Advisory), Ministry of Law, Singapore
- h. **Ms Eunice Chua,** Research Fellow, Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy; CEO, Financial Disputes Resolution Centre
- i. **Ms Angela Abala,** Research Associate, Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy
- j. **Ms Sapna Jhangiani KC,** International Legal Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore
- k. Ms Gloria Lim, CEO, Singapore International Arbitration Centre;
- 1. Ms Kamal Sidhu, Senior Counsel, Chevron
- m. Ms Lee Seung Min, Partner, Peter & Kim
- n. Mr Sun Wei, Partner, Zhong Lun Law Firm
- o. **Mr Itai Apter,** Member of UNCITRAL Working Group II during the negotiations on the Singapore Convention (2015-2018)
- p. Mr Khory McCormick, Consultant, Bartley Cohen Litigation Lawyers



UNCITRAL Academy Industry Capacity-Building Workshop

- 29. The Industry Capacity-Building Workshop, supported by the Singapore International Mediation Centre, provided participants with an opportunity to hear views on common concerns of users of mediation, including time and potential costs incurred by mediation, confidentiality and drafting settlement agreements to avoid enforceability issues.
- 30. New trends and innovative solutions were also discussed as speakers shared their experiences in resolving complex situations in financial, insolvency, high-tech, construction and shareholder disputes. Valuable insights and views on the latest progression of arbitration and mediation were exchanged, including how dispute resolution had taken on a customised approach in catering to the diverse needs and priorities of different industries and jurisdictions.



Fig. 16

31. Speakers at the workshop included:

- a. **Professor Jair Gevaerd**, Founding Partner, Gevaerd & Associates; International Director for Academic Affairs, Brazilian Center for Mediation and Arbitration
- b. Ms Marina Chin SC, Joint Managing Partner of Tan Kok Quan Partnership
- c. Mr Kyung Yoon Lee, Attorney, Kim & Chang
- d. **Mr Haruo Okada**, President, Japan Association of Arbitrators; Chief Director, Japan International Mediation Center, Kyoto; Haruo Okada International Law Offices



UNCITRAL Academy Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Capacity-Building Workshop

32. At the ISDS Capacity-Building Workshop, supported by the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), invited government officials were taken through both the institutional and practical dimensions of investor-State mediation. Officials from UNCITRAL and ICSID gave presentations on ICSID's Mediation Rules 2022 and the draft UNCITRAL treaty provisions and guidelines on investment mediation. Other panellists shared their experiences and research on how to shape law and policy to support investor-State mediation, and took a deep dive into the practical considerations surrounding such mediation from a multi-stakeholder perspective.



Fig. 17



33. Speakers at the workshop included:

- a. **Mr Darius Chan**, Associate Professor of Law (Practice), Singapore Management University Yong Pung How School of Law; Deputy Director, Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy
- b. **Ms Frauke Nitschke**, Senior Counsel / Team Leader, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- c. **Dr Judith Knieper**, Legal Officer, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
- d. **Ms María Gabriela Muñoz Crespo**, National Director of Mediation, Attorney-General's Office, Ecuador
- e. **Dr Anna Howard**, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London
- f. **Professor Nadja Alexander**, Professor of Law, Singapore Management University Yong Pung How School of Law; Director, Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy
- g. Mr Jose Angelo A. David, Foreign Associate, GST LLP
- h. Dr Martin Hauser, International Mediator, Martin Hauser Mediation
- i. **Dr Michael Imran Kanu**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative for Legal Affairs, Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations
- j. **Mr George Lim SC**, Consultant, Messrs Wee, Tay & Lim LLP; Chairman, Singapore International Mediation Centre
- k. **Dr Mark McLaughlin**, Global Visiting Assistant Professor, Singapore Management University Yong Pung How School of Law and Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy
- 1. **Ms Mercedes Tarrazon**, Founding Partner, Dispute Management SL



Testimonials

Mr Shreyas Jayasimha, Co-Founder of Aarna Law (India) and Simha Law (Singapore): This year's Singapore Convention Week has been a refreshing gathering of practitioners and experts from all over the world post-COVID. It has been an amazing interaction and the choice of curated topics is excellent. As a practitioner of mediation, I am very grateful to Singapore – for not only lending its name, but organising events like this, such that the mediation practitioners can come together and grow. This kind of support is critical.

Mr Ng Jern-Fei KC, Barrister at 7BR (London, UK) and Arbitrator at Temple Chambers (Hong Kong, China): The Singapore Convention Week 2022 is a celebration of the progress that Singapore has achieved in the dispute resolution sector – from when the Singapore International Arbitration Centre was first established, to its milestone achievement which is the Singapore Convention on Mediation. It is also a useful forum for thought leaders in our sector to assemble and chart new trends, and to discuss possible areas of reform and dispute resolution, for example, investor-state dispute settlement and initiatives that could be deployed to promote sustainability, diversity, and a greener arbitration.

Ms Alison Ross, Editor-at-Large and Chief Correspondent of Global Arbitration Review: Interesting content, an impressive line-up of speakers, very enjoyable social events in spectacular settings with wonderful views of Singapore, and a lot of attention to detail.

Ms Annette Magnusson, Co-Founder, Climate Change Counsel, Sweden: I think I speak for everyone when I say all guests were highly impressed with the level of engagement from everyone involved, and by the amazing events.

Mr Yoshihiro Takatori, International Arbitrator and Mediator and Attorney-at-Law, Kasumigaseki International Law Office, Japan: Really appreciated such an excellent opportunity. I really enjoyed and was very honoured to be on the panel. I also got a lot of good feedback of our presentations and discussions.

Mr Ji Nuo, President, Shanghai Bar Association; Partner, Fangda Partners, China: It has been my great honour to participate in the Singapore Convention Week 2022. I enjoyed the panel session greatly. ... Thanks are also given to Dr Secomb and the panellists who made the panel session lively and successful. It was nice learning about developments of dispute resolution occurring in various parts of the world and your insights on the shifts.

Mr Turki Alsulaim, Ministry of Justice, Saudi Arabia: It was exciting to be part of the Singapore Convention Week 2022 along with my MOJ colleagues and attending a great conference and workshops offer much insights on how the mediation industry and ADR have evolved and will continue to transform and innovate. This event proves how mediation and other ADR are important and how they could support the smooth running of local and international contractual relations.

Ms Lara Quie, ThinkLAW: The presentation and panels were excellent. I was particularly impressed to notice that more women than men were the presenters and panellists. There were even two panels that had 4 women and 1 man. And how eloquent and learned they all were. Just goes to show that given the chance, women really do have brilliant insights to share. The world of dispute

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resolution is leading the way in being a more inclusive space.

Mr Aziz Tayabali Samiwalla FSIArb, Aziz Tayabali & Associates, Singapore: Glad to have this opportunity to attend UNCITRAL Academy 2022. More important, the opportunity to meet and interact with many others who the share same passion with me in ADR, especially in the areas of negotiations, conciliations, mediation and of course arbitration.

Ms Nicole Davidson, Nicole Davidson Negotiation, 2022 Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards Mediator of the Year: How great is it that technology allows me to attend this conference from the comfort of my home without the cost and disruption of flying to Singapore. I looked forward to attending several sessions including best practices in international commercial dispute resolution and complex mediations for a digital age.

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Concluding Remarks

- 34. As the first UNCITRAL Academy to be held without pandemic-related restrictions, the event, which was available in full to both online and in-person participants, greatly expanded its jurisdictional and geographical reach, welcoming experts and attendees from all over the globe to create the most diverse and dynamic turnout yet. As the flagship event of the Singapore Convention Week, the Academy is a strong statement of the organisers' commitment to multilateralism and the promotion of the benefits of UNCITRAL's work, and plays a pivotal role in bringing together thought leaders to share insights and best practices amidst a changing operating landscape. It is envisaged that the next edition, scheduled for August- September 2023, will continue the capacity-building and forward-looking discussions in an equally accessible and diverse context.
- 35. More information, including videos of the UNCITRAL Academy highlights, events and panel discussions are available at https://www.singaporeconventionweek.sg/.



About the Organisers

Singapore Ministry of Law



The mission of the <u>Singapore Ministry of Law</u> is to advance access to justice, the rule of law, the economy and society through policy, law and services. Amongst other key roles, the Ministry oversees the policy for development, promotion and regulation of Singapore's legal sector to strengthen Singapore's position as a leading international legal services and dispute resolution hub, and promotes and protects Singapore's interests through cooperation and engagement with key international and regional organisations and bilateral partners on a range of international legal policy issues, including transnational criminal and civil justice.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law



The <u>United Nations Commission on International Trade Law</u> is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law. A legal body with universal membership specialising in commercial law reform worldwide for over 50 years, UNCITRAL's business is the modernisation and harmonisation of rules on international business.