

2023 UNCITRAL SOUTH ASIA CONFERENCE
NEW DELHI, INDIA
(14 – 16 September 2023)
(Thursday – Saturday)

Co-hosts: UNCITRAL, Ministry of External Affairs, UNCCI

Thursday 14 September / Inaugural Session - Welcome Reception

Emcee: Ms. Gurleen Kaur; Under Secretary, Economic Diplomacy, MEA

05:00 PM - 06:00 PM Registration

06:00 PM- 07:00 PM – Inaugural session

- Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret; Secretary of UNCITRAL
- Mr. R. Venkataramani; Attorney General for India
- Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh; Minister of State for External Affairs of India
- Hon'ble Dr. Justice DY Chandrachud; Chief Justice of India
- Mr. Fali S. Nariman; Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Chair of UNCCI

07:15 PM – Dinner hosted by India (SSB)

Friday 15 September / Conference Day 1

Emcee: Ms. Deepali Mann; Consultant, Economic Diplomacy, MEA

09:00 – 10:15 AM - Session 1 (Digital Economy)

Moderator: Mr. Siddharth Malik; Director, Economic Diplomacy, MEA

- Panel discussion (60 min)
 - o Mr. Luca Castellani; Legal Officer, UNCITRAL
 - o Mr. Abhishek Singh; Joint Secretary, Economic Diplomacy, MEA
 - o Dr. Chaichana Mitrpant; Executive Director, Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), Thailand
 - o Ms. Shaila Yasmin; Joint Secretary (FTA-2), Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh
 - o Ms. Laura Ho; Director, National Roadmap and Cross Border Rules, Digital Trade, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)
- Q&A (15 min)

10:15 – 11:30 AM – Session 2 (MSMEs and Access to Credit)

Moderator: Dr. James J Nedumpara; Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL)

- Keynote (10 min)
 - o Mr. P. Kumaran; Additional Secretary, Economic Relations, MEA

- Panel discussion (50 min)
 - o Mr. Jae Sung Lee; Senior Legal Officer, UNCITRAL
 - o Ms. Mercy Epao; Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME
 - o Ms. Hemalata Mahalingam; Advisor to the Regional Industry Director, Financial Institutions Group (FIG) South Asia
 - o Mr. Jinchang Lai; Principal Operations Officer, Financial Institutions Group Asia Pacific, International Finance Cooperation (IFC), World Bank Group
- Q&A (15 min)

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Coffee break

12:00 PM – 01:15 PM – Session 3 (ADR in the Context of Addressing Financial Difficulties and the Role of Courts)

Chair: Hon'ble Mr. Justice AK Sikri; Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court

- Panel discussion (60 min)
 - o Ms. Samira Musayeva; Senior Legal Officer, UNCITRAL
 - o Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indu Malhotra; Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Member of Court – Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
 - o Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anselmo Reyes; Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court
 - o Ms. Meg Kinnear; Secretary General, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
- Q&A (15 min)

01:15 PM – 02:15 PM – Lunch

Emcee: Ms. Radhika Bhakoo; Legal Consultant, MEA

02:15 PM – 03:30 PM – Session 4 (High-level Roundtable: Regional Perspectives on UNCITRAL)

Moderator: Dr. Prabhash Ranjan; Associate Professor, South Asian University

- Roundtable discussion (60 min)
 - o Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret; Secretary of UNCITRAL
 - o Mr. N Venkataraman; Additional Solicitor General of India
 - o Ms. Madhavi Divan; Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
 - o Mr. Promod Nair; Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, UNCITRAL-CLOUT National Correspondent, Member UNCCI
 - o Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol; Secretary General, Asian–African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

- o Ms. RV Anuradha; Partner, Clarus Law Associates
- Q&A (15 min)

03:30-4:00PM Coffee break

04:00 PM – 05:15 PM - Session 5 (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reforms)

Chair: Hon'ble Mr. Justice KV Vishwanathan; Judge, Supreme Court of India

- Panel discussion (60 min)
- o Mr. Jae Sung Lee; Senior Legal Officer, UNCITRAL
- o Mr. George Pothan Poothicote; Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Legal Consultant-MEA, Member UNCITRAL-CLOUT Steering Committee, Coordinator of UNCCI
- o Mr. Salim Moollan KC; Brick Court Chambers, Former Chair of UNCITRAL
- o Mr. Shane Spelliscy; Director General & Senior General Counsel, Trade Law Bureau, Department of Justice, Global Affairs Canada, Chair of UNCITRAL Working Group-III
- Q&A (15 min)

Saturday 16 September / Conference Day 2

Emcee: Mr. Arpit Mallick; Consultant (Legal), Economic Diplomacy, MEA

09:00 – 10:00 AM - Session 6 (Commercial Mediation)

Chair: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph; Former Judge, Supreme Court of India

- Panel discussion (50 min)
- o Ms. Tracy Choi; Legal Expert, UNCITRAL RCAP
- o Mr. Ajay Thomas; Arbitrator and Mediator, and UNCITRAL-CLOUT National Correspondent
- o Ms. Ruwanadini Kuruppu; Assistant Secretary (Legal), Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms, Sri Lanka
- o Ms. Iram Majid; Executive Director, Asia Pacific Centre for Arbitration & Mediation (APCAM)
- Q&A (10 min)

10:00 – 11:00 AM - Session 7 (Commercial Arbitration)

Chair: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant; Judge, Supreme Court of India

- Panel discussion (50 min)
- o Ms. Athita Komindr; Head of UNCITRAL RCAP
- o Ms. Manisha Singh; Advocate, Supreme Court of India and UNCITRAL-CLOUT National Correspondent

- o Dr. Chintan Chandrachud; Barrister, Brick Court Chambers
- o Ms. Andrea Menaker; Head of Public International Law Group, White & Case
- o Datuk Sundra Rajoo; Director, Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC)
- Q&A (10 min)

11:00 – 11:15 AM – Coffee Break

Emcee: Ms. Sindhu Acharya; Consultant (Legal), Economic Diplomacy, MEA

11:15 AM- 12:15PM Session 8 (Making India hub for international arbitration)

Chair: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath; Judge, Supreme Court of India

- Perspectives of India and implementation (50 min)
- o Hon'ble Mr. Justice Girish Kulkarni; Judge, Bombay High Court
- o Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhamed Mustaque; Judge, Kerala High Court
- o Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yashwant Varma; Judge, Delhi High Court
- o Hon'ble Ms. Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya; Judge, Calcutta High Court
- Q&A (10 min)

12:15-12:30 PM - Session on CLOUT

- Mr. Arjun Krishnan; Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India and UNCITRAL-CLOUT National Correspondent
- Mr. Sriharsha Peechara; Advocate, Supreme Court of India and UNCITRAL-CLOUT National Correspondent

12:30 – 1:30 PM - Valedictory Session

- Ms. Athita Komindr; Head of UNCITRAL RCAP
- Mr. Dammu Ravi; Secretary, Economic Relations, MEA
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice PS Narasimha; Judge, Supreme Court of India
- Mr. Gourab Banerji; Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Vice-Chair of UNCCI, UNCITRAL-CLOUT National Correspondent, Overseas Associate-Essex Court Chambers

Closing and requesting guests to proceed for lunch - Ms. Sindhu Acharya; Consultant (Legal), Economic Diplomacy, MEA

01:30 PM – Lunch