

Proposal by Switzerland and the United States of America for Alternative Dates for Working Group Sessions during Spring 2023 (proposed changes in **bold**)

SPRING 2023:

WG III -- 23-27 January 2023 (Vienna): no change

WG II -6-10 Feb. 2023: no change

WG I – 13-17 Feb. 2023: early Spring meeting consistent with early Fall meeting and WG is not considering a new project.

WG III – 27-31 March 2023: later Spring meeting allows time for preparation following January 2023 meeting; allows sufficient time to address any additional matters related to the Code of Conduct or ADR reforms so that Commission can consider the instruments at its 56th session; keeps WG III on track for meeting quarterly during the year, allowing delegations sufficient time to prepare; avoids WG III meeting less than a month after it meets in Vienna in January; avoids back-to-back meetings for WG II with WG III, where multiple delegations have common representation.

WG IV – 10-14 April 2023: no change

WG V— 17 – 21 April 2023: no change.

WG VI – 8-12 May 2023: no change

Rationale:

The exchange of meeting dates between WG I and WG III will not interfere with WG I's continued consideration of its current project and is consistent with its early Fall 2022 meeting. WG III's meeting in March will still allow WG III ample time to complete its Spring work in order to submit reform proposals to the Commission at its 56th session but do so in a way that allows delegations sufficient time to prepare between meetings.

The rescheduling will also put WG III on a quarterly schedule, which will facilitate its efficient consideration of multiple projects without having to require too many topics on any single agenda. The rescheduling avoids having WG II and III scheduled back-to-back, which has implications for the workload of a number of delegations that have delegates and experts who attend both Working Groups, in particular in terms of ability to prepare for the two different sessions that will be meeting back-to-back.