

[I. INTRODUCTION]

effects of judicial sales of ships. A Committee of the Whole was established in accordance with the rules and procedures of UNCITRAL to consider the draft *Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services*. Ms. Giusella Finocchiaro, from Italy, chaired the Committee of the Whole. The Vice-Chair Ms. Eva Isabelle Eliette Niamke from Côte d'Ivoire, chaired the session adopting the report of the Committee of the Whole. Let me also thank the session's rapporteur Mr. Felipe Augusto Ramo for his efficient support to the adoption of the report.

A word of thanks also goes to my predecessor, Ambassador Philbert Abaka Johnson from Ghana, who has prepared the ground and the conditions that have allowed us to hold our 5th session.

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

We had three legislative texts before us to be adopted, several future legislative projects to be discussed, and a number of non

Please allow me to give you an overview of the texts finalized at the 55th session.

[II. TEXTS APPROVED OR ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION]

Judicial sales of ships

The Commission approved a draft convention on the international effects of judicial sales of ships. Considering the crucial role of shipping in international trade and transportation, and the high economic value of ships, a harmonized regime established by the draft convention will be significant within its sphere of application. The draft convention offers adequate legal certainty and protection for purchasers, which can positively impact the price realized by a judicial sale to the benefit of both shipowners and creditors, provided that adequate safeguards are implemented and enforced in the conduct of the sale.

The convention complements other international efforts to harmonize private law aspects of maritime law

within the international law framework reflected in the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (including its provisions relating to the nationality and status of ships). It also promotes institutional cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, which will assume the role of “repository” under the convention.

Mediation

The Commission also adopted

Electronic Commerce

In the area of electronic commerce, the Commission adopted the *Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services*, which highlights the importance of digital identity and authentication of the actors of digital trade and trust services in the digital age. It also provides an opportunity to validate the principles and approaches that UNCITRAL has applied in this space for several decades, namely non-discrimination, technology neutrality and functional equivalence.

[III . FUTURE WORK BY WORKING GROUPS]

In addition to finalizing these texts, the Commission also took note of the progress made by its working group during the last cycle, always working under the difficult hybrid conditions. It confirmed the work programme of six working groups

- Working Group I will continue working on access to credit for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
- Working Group II will start working on the topics of technology-related dispute resolution and adjudication, and develop a guidance text on early dismissal and preliminary determination
- Working Group III will continue its work on the reform of investor-State dispute settlement
- Working Group IV will begin new work on automated contracting (and smart contracts) and will also start working on data provision contracts
- Working Group V will continue its work on civil

[IV. OTHER FUTURE WORK]

As regards future work not assigned to any working group, the Commission requested the secretariat to continue to work on legal issues related to digital economy and digital trade through the development of a guidance document on legal issues relating to the use of distributed ledger systems in trade, in cooperation with other concerned organizations, as appropriate. The Commission also authorized the secretariat to publish the revised legal taxonomy of emerging technologies and their applications in the six official languages of the United Nations. This will further establish the Commission's central and coordinating role within the United Nations system in addressing legal issues related to the digital economy and digital trade.

The Commission further requested the secretariat to continue to implement the stocktaking project on dispute resolution in the digital economy, for which it has received support by the Government of Japan and to continue to take part in the Inclusive Global Legal

avoiding duplication of efforts and promoting efficiency, consistency and coherence ~~in~~ the unification and harmonization of international trade law

When formulating or considering proposals for future work and when taking up new projects, the Commission emphasized the importance ~~of~~ ~~of~~ coordination among the organizations concerned, order not only to prevent inconsistency but also to avoid unduly burdening their respective secretariats with commitments to participate in and follow up on concurrent projects carried out simultaneously by other organizations. This issue, central to UNCITRAL's mandate, was extensively discussed during the session.

[VI. NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES]

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

UNCITRAL's work programme consists not only ~~of~~ legislative activities but also a widerange of non-legislative activities aiming at raising awareness and promoting the effective understanding of UNCITRAL

event for the UNCITRAL Africa Day was held in Accra, Ghana in May

- the expanded online and social media presence and the greater use of videoconferences and webinars which increased the interest in UNCITRAL from a broader audience and
- the issuance of the Chinese language version of an online training

Emphasizing the benefits of the Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (CLOUT) system as a tool to support continued and sustained capacity building in the use and implementation of UNCITRAL texts, the Commission noted with interest the progress made in the effort towards a rejuvenation of the CLOUT system, and expressed its gratitude for the compilation of cases and the establishment of CLOUT partnerships. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its continued efforts to update the existing digests of case law on UNCITRAL texts and ensure their wide dissemination.

As has been the practice since 2008, the Commission, in response to the General Assembly's invitation, transmits to the Assembly comments on the Commission's current role in promoting the rule of law. They draw on a note by the secretariat on the subject and the deliberations at the session on the UNCITRAL legislative and non-legislative programme. Those materials explain the contribution of UNCITRAL texts and its ongoing work to the promotion of the rule of law.

and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as I mentioned at the outset of my report to you.

[VII. WORKING METHODS

In addition, working groups were encouraged to avail themselves of various tools in order to enhance the efficiency and productivity of deliberations during the formal sessions, including by holding informal consultations between or in conjunction with working group sessions

[VIII]

