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Address

by

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of jurisdictions where it constitutes a credible alternative to litigation - encouraged by courts - or even a mandatory form of settling certain types of disputes.

In other regions, mediation has always been a traditional means of dispute settlement that has developed way before arbitration became known and was used. However, what the international mediation framework has clearly been lacking is the important element of cross border enforcement.

With the draft Convention before you and the draft Model Law, a settlement agreement obtained with the assistance of a mediator will be enforceable in all the States Members to the Convention and a mediated settlement agreement can be invoked in order to prove that the matter has already been resolved.

During this session, you will also deliberate the first chapter of an ambitious project to promote an enabling legal environment for the operation of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), in the form of a legislative guide on key principles of a business registry. MSMEs are the largest employers in many regions and the main actors of domestic trade.

Referring to studies by the International Finance Corporation and the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, UNCITRAL took note that 90% of the MSMEs in developing countries operate in the informal sector despite the need for a formal status to enter into contracts, to obtain financing, to operate and to grow. This makes up workers employed by the informal sector according to the OECD.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises also play an important role for the Sustainable Development Goals. The Agenda 2030 encourages the development and growth of MSMEs to promote inclusive and sustainable growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



It is precisely in the



In this connection, I look forward to an in-depth debate and count on your support for the instruments. A lot of work is needed to ensure the distribution of those instruments in all countries and a concerted effort is necessary. To this effect, the Secretariat has organized a round table discussion to consider the best way forward in this important endeavour.

I will have another opportunity to address you on the 28th of June on the occasion ne