

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

by

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at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

5. Firstly, Sierra Leone commends the remarkable progress on the legislative agenda of the Commission in the session under review. With disruptions to international trade owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and attendant legal ramifications, the work of UNCITRAL, as the United Nations subsidiary body mandated to assist with the progressive harmonization and modernization of the law of international trade, cannot be more beneficial.

6. We therefore welcome the completion and adoption by the Commission of the Legislative Guide on Limited Liability Enterprises; the Legislative Recommendations on Insolvency of Micro- and Small Enterprises; the Mediation Rules, the Notes on Mediation and the Guide to Enactment and Use of the Model Law on Mediation; and the adoption of the Expedited Arbitration Rules and the new article 1, paragraph 5, of the Arbitration Rules. We also commend the Commission on the approval in principle of the draft commentary to the Legislative Recommendations on Insolvency of Micro-, and Small Enterprises; and the Explanatory Note to the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules.

7. Secondly, Sierra Leone commends the progress being made by Working Group I - Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), notwithstanding the reported procedural difficulties. We take note of the October 4-8 meeting of the Working Group I - Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Access to credit for MSMEs, as mandate by the Commission to strengthen and complete the work on reducing the legal obstacles faced by MSMEs throughout their life cycles. My delegation in welcoming the work of

Working Group I supports the agreement to focus on micro - and small enterprises in line with the principle of
· W K - s m a I N I L U W e v a l s o support the position that the Secretariat be asked to prepare the Future Text on access to credit with the assistance from representative group of experts with due regard be given to the need to develop a balanced text .

8. On investor -state dispute settlement (ISDS) reform , Sierra Leone take s note of the progress made by the Working Group II, which had started to develop concrete reform elements to be recommended to the Commission . Given the importance of this issue to member S3(pp)-3ue t 0 g 0uG r(i)-2(n

stakeholders, would be government -led, with high -level input from all Governments, consen sus-based and fully transparent μ

10. We therefore deem its crucial and appropriate for participation of developing States to be enhanced and facilitated. In this regard, we urge that operative paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 75/133 be fully operationalized by the Secretariat making the process for participation in the meetings of Working Group III widely known, accessible and timeous.
11. Thirdly, on other matters relating to the work of the Commission, Sierra Leone welcomes the provisionally approval of the holding of the 55th session of the Commission in New York. We further take note of the schedule for the working group sessions. Notwithstanding the COVID -19 pandemic, all efforts must be explored and exhausted to ensure the New York in-person meetings are convened in New York. This is vital in not only keeping the good tradition of the Commission, but also to enhance representativeness in its work.
12. It is in view of this important representation principle that Sierra Leone lends its support to the recommendation of the Commission to the General Assembly on the enlargement of the membership of the Commission. We also fully endorse the call of the Chair of the Commission on States to host an inaugural series of UNCITRAL Africa Day in 2022.
13. In closing, Madam Chair, the delegation of Sierra Leone is pleased to inform of the preliminary engagements with the Secretariat of the Commission on cooperation with

Sierra Leone on experience sharing and expertise on the enactment, implementation, and uniform interpretation of UNCITRAL adopted legislative texts. The proposal was EDVHG RQ 6LHUUD /accession to the HFHQW Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Award, 1958 ; the signing of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreement Resulting from Mediation 2019, and the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts 2005 ; and the participation of Sierra Leone in UNCITRAL and its Working Groups. We note that this is a significant step in the overall work of the Commission and Secretariat on providing adequate capacity-building to implement legislative texts already adopted, increasing awareness of best practices in the application and interpretation of UNCITRAL texts.

14. In noting the importance of this aspect of the work of UNCITRAL, we thank all those who have made contributions to the technical and travel assistances Trust Fund, and ZH MRLQ WKH & RPPLVVLRQ LQ UH