

## United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

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### Key features

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**Type of organisation:** Intergovernmental (subsidiary Commission of the UN General Assembly)

**Charter/Constitution:** United Nations General Assembly by resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966

#### Membership

- Nature: governmental
- Number: 60

**Year of establishment:** 1966

**Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria

**Country offices:** Incheon City (Republic of Korea)

**Secretariat staff:** 23

**Total budget:** US\$ 3,802,000.00

**Type of activity:** rule-making, technical assistance

**Sectors of activity:** international trade law (contract law, dispute settlement, transport law, international payments, secured transactions, insolvency law, electronic commerce, corporate law, public procurement, PPPs).

**Website:** [www.uncitral.org](http://www.uncitral.org)

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### Members

Membership is rotating with seats assigned to the five UN geographic groups. The current members of the Commission are the following States, whose term of office expires on the last day prior to the beginning of the annual session of the Commission in the year indicated: Argentina (2022), Armenia (2019), Australia (2022), Austria (2022), Belarus (2022), Brazil (2022), Bulgaria (2019), Burundi (2022), Cameroon (2019), Canada (2019), Chile (2022), China (2019), Colombia (2022), Côte d'Ivoire (2019), Czechia (2022), Denmark (2019), Ecuador (2019), El Salvador (2019), France (2019), Germany (2019), Greece (2019), Honduras (2019), Hungary (2019), India (2022), Indonesia (2019), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2022), Israel (2022), Italy (2022), Japan (2019), Kenya (2022), Kuwait (2019), Lebanon (2022), Lesotho (2022), Liberia (2019), Libya (2022), Malaysia (2019), Mauritania (2019), Mauritius (2022), Mexico (2019), Namibia (2019), Nigeria (2022), Pakistan (2022), Panama (2019), Philippines (2022), Poland (2022), Republic of Korea (2019), Romania (2022), Russian Federation (2019), Sierra Leone (2019), Singapore (2019), Spain (2022), Sri Lanka (2022), Switzerland (2019), Thailand (2022), Turkey (2022), Uganda (2022), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2019), United States of America (2022), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2022) and Zambia (2019).

### Relationship with non-Members

In addition to member States, all other United Nations Member States are entitled to attend both UNCITRAL annual sessions and working group sessions as observers.

### Observers

International and regional organisations (both intergovernmental and non-governmental) with expertise in the topics under discussion are invited to attend both UNCITRAL annual sessions and working group sessions as observers.

#### Mandate

The mandate of UNCITRAL is to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade. UNCITRAL has since prepared a wide range of conventions, model laws and other instruments dealing with the substantive law that governs trade transactions or other aspects of business law which have an impact on international trade. [www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/about/origin\\_faq.html](http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/about/origin_faq.html)

## IRC processes taking place within UNCITRAL



## Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)	√	11
Legally binding decisions		
Recommendations	√	19
Political declarations		
Model treaties or law	√	21
Production of technical standards		
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	27

## Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction		Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments	√	Occasional	With Unidroit and Hcch: Guidance document in the area of international commercial contract law (on going)
MoU or other agreements	√	Frequent	EBRD/UNCITRAL Public Procurement Initiative (on-going)
Participate in co-ordinating institution	√	Frequent	Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Financing for Development (FfD)
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√	Frequent	12th UNCITRAL/INSOL/World Bank Multinational Judicial Colloquium on insolvency (Sydney, Australia, March 2017)
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√	Frequent	Hcch Council on General Affairs and Policy (The Hague, The Netherlands, 14-16 March 2017); Unidroit Governing Council (Rome, 20-24 March 2017)
Exchange information	√	Systematic	Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development (GFLJD) (Washington DC 14-17 November 2016)

### UNCITRAL history

UNCITRAL was established in 1966 as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Over the years, UNCITRAL has completed major international texts on the sale of goods, transport, dispute resolution, procurement and infrastructure development, international payments, electronic commerce and insolvency; some of which have become widely implemented standards in their respective fields. International arbitration, investor-State dispute settlement, small and medium enterprises, electronic commerce, insolvency law and secured transactions are the focus of current work.

Source: Data provided by UNCITRAL to the OECD as part of a data collection exercise, October 2017.