

Statement

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Since its founding, the Academic Forum has served a valuable role supporting the deliberations of UNCITRAL Working Group III. It has done this through the efforts of its members to provide the Working Group and the UNCITRAL Secretariat with doctrinal and empirical analysis of a wide range of technical and thematic issues. I have played an active role in the Academic Forum's work in this regard, heading a group of scholars in producing [a three-volume report](#) on the Domestic Measures Adopted by States to Give Effect to Processes of International Dispute Settlement.

My support of the work of the Academic Forum stems from my role as the head of delegation for the Centre for International at the National University of Singapore, an official observer to Working Group III since 2017. Having participated in all the Working Group's sessions since that time, I have seen the value of the Academic Forum's research in helping to inform and shape debate both directly in the plenary sessions and indirectly as a foundation for many of the Secretariat's reports.

The output of research already produced by the Academic Forum in support of Working Group III has been unprecedented: more than 20 working papers involving more than 75 authors. Notwithstanding this output, however, and especially as the Working Group approaches the end of its mandate in 2027, the Academic Forum has a continuing and important role to play.

As shown at the Working Group's 46th session in Vienna in October, and the inter-sessional meeting in Singapore in September, there remains a long list of issues for the Working Group's attention, especially [cross-cutting issues](#) as well as issues related to the [modalities of bringing reform options forward](#) for adoption and implementation. Many of these issues would benefit from the expert analysis that the Academic Forum is able to bring to bear. That said, as the Working Group's timeframes become increasingly short, it will be important for the Steering Committee, in consultation with Forum's membership, to consider whether to revisit its operational approach so as to enable it to provide targeted and timely ('rapid response') inputs and, ultimately, to ensure that the Forum remains relevant and useful for the remainder of the reform process.

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November 2023