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**Mr Chairman,**

Sierra Leone thanks the Distinguished Chair of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) for introducing the report A/73/17 on the work of UNCITRAL in its 51<sup>st</sup> session; and further congratulates the Commission for the successful completion of the session and the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the 'New York Convention').

Sierra Leone welcomes the report and pays tribute to the Commission, its Secretariat and working groups (WGs), especially WGs I, II and V on the completion of allocated items within their respective mandates as contained in the report. The progress made by the other WGs on other topics is also well noted with appreciation.

Sierra Leone appreciates the working methods of UNCITRAL and notes its appetite to solicit as much diverse views, perspectives and comments, even to the extent of including (as observers) non-state actors in a State led process. In this spirit of begetting the broadest views possible, the limitations on small and developing States are well documented, and paragraph 5 of A/73/17 is a manifestation of those limitations. That said, Sierra Leone, in acknowledging the urgency to add our perspective and context to some aspects of the report, will briefly comment on the following: the finalization of the

... of a business register. IATC further notes that

WG I will resume work on the UNCITRAL limited liability organisation. Sierra Leone

acknowledges the importance of reducing legal obstacles and barriers in promoting the progressive harmonization of international trade law and wishes to underscore the nexus between need to minimize the barriers faced by MSMEs, in this sense by affording them limited liability protection, and the cross-cutting challenge associated with limited liability in international trade. An issue for consideration by the

Commission is the prevalent use of limited liability protection to shield parent entities

significance, as recognized by the Commission, having competing models within the United Nations systems places a clog in the progressive harmonization drive.

Mr Chairman,

As an outgoing member of the Commission in 2019, Sierra Leone seeks to share experience on the limitations on active engagement in the work of the Commission. The ideal of progressive harmonization and unification of the normative frameworks of States to promote international trade 'in the interests of all peoples' in particular those

of developing countries' expressed in General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17

December 1966 is underpinned by the commitment to solicit the broadest global view in the negotiation and eventual drafting of model laws, guides and not to acclaim a certain paradigm, perspective or system. The purport of harmonization will be lost if the