

## UNCITRAL Model Law

The **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)** facilitates international commerce through the modernization of trade rules and the harmonization of commercial laws, primarily through the drafting of treaties, model laws, and explanatory texts.

These documents are prepared by *ad hoc* committees of subject specialists known as working groups.

Since its inception, UNCITRAL's [Working Group on Electronic Commerce](#) has produced one treaty, three model laws, and two explanatory texts:

### Treaty

- [Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Commerce \(2005\)](#)  
The full text of the convention and an explanatory note are available for download in PDF format. Click on the **Status** link to see which countries have ratified the convention.

### Model Laws

- [Model Law on Electronic Commerce \(1996\)](#)  
The full text of the model law and a guide to its enactment are available for download in PDF format. Click on the **Status** link to see which countries have enacted legislation based on the model law.
- [Model Law on Electronic Signatures \(2001\)](#)  
The full text of the model law and a guide to its enactment are available for download in PDF format. Click on the **Status** link to see which countries have enacted legislation based on the model law.
- [Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records \(2017\)](#)  
The full text of the model law and a guide to its enactment are available for download in PDF format. Click on the **Status** link to see which countries have enacted legislation based on the model law.

### Explanatory Texts

- [Notes on the Main Issues of Cloud Computing Contracts \(2019\)](#)
- [Promoting Confidence in Electronic Commerce: Legal Issues on International Use of Electronic Authentication and Signature Methods \(2007\)](#)

## UNCITRAL Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution

UNCITRAL's [Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution](#) met from 2010 to 2016. Although it did not produce any treaties or model laws, the Working Group did publish its [Technical Notes on Online Dispute Resolution](#).

UNCITRAL has prepared a suite of legislative texts to enable and facilitate the use of electronic means to engage in commercial activities, which have been adopted in over 100 States.

The most widely enacted text is the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce (1996), which establishes rules for the equal treatment of electronic and paper-based information, as well as the legal recognition of electronic transactions and processes, based on the fundamental principles of non-discrimination against the use of electronic means, functional equivalence and technology neutrality. The UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Signatures (2001) provides additional rules on the use of electronic signatures.

The United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts (New York, 2005) builds on pre-existing UNCITRAL texts to offer the first treaty that provides legal certainty for electronic contracting in international trade.

Most recently, the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (2017) applies the same principles to enable and facilitate the use in electronic form of transferable documents and instruments, such as bills of lading, bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes and warehouse receipts.

In 2019, UNCITRAL approved the publication of Notes on the Main Issues of Cloud Computing Contracts, while continuing work towards a new instrument on the use and cross border recognition of electronic identity management services (IdM services) and authentication services (trust services).

Significant work in cooperation with other organizations has also been conducted in the field of legal aspects of single windows and paperless trade facilitation. The results of joint work with United Nations ESCAP in that field include the online Readiness Assessment Guide for Cross-Border Paperless Trade.

Recent advances in information and communications technology and the emergence of new technologies in digital trade pose new legal questions. Accordingly, UNCITRAL continues its efforts to legally enable emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data transactions, digital platforms and digital assets, including in connection with other areas of work such as dispute resolution, security interests, insolvency and the international transport of goods, as well as, more generally, digital trade.

- 1) Crypto Currencies and Security Issues
- 2) Metaverse, IOT & Cybersecurity
- 3) IP in Cyberspace

Meaning and types of IPRs • Copyright issues in cyberspace • Trademark issues in cyberspace • Other IPR related issues in cyberspace • Protection of IPR • International Law governing IP