

Talking Points – Singapore Convention Signing Ceremony

- I am very glad for the opportunity to represent Israel in this roundtable discussion. This day is a milestone in the development of international commercial law. It marks a historic starting point for making cross-border mediation a hallmark for the conduct of global trade.
- For Israel, our attendance here today reflects the strong bonds we share with Singapore over the years. It is truly an honor and source of joy to be here as part of this momentous day for Singapore, a world leader in the field of global dispute resolution.
- I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Singapore and UNCITRAL for organizing today's event.
- Israel is proud to be amongst the first countries to sign the Singapore Convention on Mediation. As we were the first country in the world to ratify the 1958 New-York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, our decision to sign today reflects Israel's commitment to the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve cross-border commercial disputes.

- Our delegation has played an active and leading role in the discussions under the auspices of UNCITRAL in furtherance of this goal, from the inception of the idea at UNCITRAL's Commission a few years ago and through the negotiations on the text of the Convention. Indeed, our delegation's position was that such a Convention is both necessary and timely.
- Israel's main efforts were to achieve a balanced text, reflecting both the need to accommodate the unique and flexible nature of mediation and the importance of preserving rights and autonomy of litigants.
- As could be expected from a convention on mediation, the success of the negotiations depended on the openness and willingness of the negotiating states to compromise and be creative. Israel, along with Singapore and other states, invested much time and effort in finding middle ground for the controversies which arose during the deliberations, and we were very glad to note that these efforts bore fruit.
- When the deliberations came to a close, Israel did not hesitate to be the first to suggest that the Convention be named after Singapore. For us this was an obvious and natural step to recognize the immense contribution made to the completion of the work on the convention.

- The events today could not have occurred without the stewardship and masterful diplomatic skills of the Singapore delegation to the negotiations.
- My hope is that the Singapore Convention will become a household name in the field of cross-border dispute resolution, much like its New-York Counterpart, which currently numbers around 160 state parties. The Singapore Convention, alongside the 2005 Hague Choice of Court Convention and the recently adopted 2019 Hague Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements, both of which Israel is considering to join, will undoubtedly create a long standing framework to increase cross-border trade, economic development and global prosperity.
- On behalf of the State of Israel, I would like again to express my thanks to the hosts for their gracious hospitality, and for the honor of being able to be part of this historic moment.