

Discussion Point 4 “How can the Singapore Convention on Mediation contribute to the multilateral rules-based order?”

(07.08.2019, 13:00 – 14:00)

Distinguished Delegates,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is a great pleasure for me to represent Ukraine at the Ceremony of the signing the UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation.
- First I'd like to stress and appreciate the productive work of the UNCITRAL Woking group II “Disputes Settlement” who drafted the text of the Singapore Convention.
- I have no doubts that after this instrument enters into force it will strengthen the role of mediation as an alternative to arbitration for international commercial dispute resolution.
- I think everyone would agree - Singapore deserves this Convention to be named the “Singapore Convention” as global recognition of Singapore's advocacy of mediation and settlement of disputes.
- With that in mind, I would like to acknowledge Singapore's leadership in promoting international mediation and its reputation as a global centre for dispute resolution.
- Ukraine is honoured to be among the first signatories to the Convention and confirms its commitment to the rules-based multilateral order and international trade system.
- The Ukrainian people, like no other, know the horrible consequences of brutal violation of the rule of law and international order.
- Despite the continued aggression against our State since 2014 Ukraine has achieved a significant progress with respect to key reforms implementation and becoming a new European format country.
- One of such priority reforms is the reform of judiciary system. Ukraine has launched a unique process of judiciary reset by introducing evaluation of all judges, selection of new ones and setting up of new courts.

- And now we need to concentrate our efforts on effective management of judiciary – introduction of pre-trial mechanisms for resolving disputes and mediation.
- At present, the preconditions for the introduction of a mediation institute during trial are stipulated in the procedural legislation of Ukraine.
 - ✓ Its norms determine the possibility to conclude a settlement agreement in civil and commercial processes or a statement of reconciliation in resolving a public-legal dispute.
- We have already drafted the Law of Ukraine on Mediation Activity and submit it to the Parliament in June this year.
- I hope that this Law together with the Convention ratification package would be adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament till the end of two thousand nineteen.
- The mediation services are also actively developed within the free legal aid system by implementing the project “Providing access for vulnerable groups for mediation in family and inherited disputes”.
 - ✓ The pool of mediators which are ready to provide the mediation services on “Pro bono” conditions was established.
 - ✓ And we can see that this method of solving disputes becomes more and more popular among the Ukrainian citizens.
- By signing the Singapore Convention on Mediation, we all make our humble contribution to the cause of strengthening the international legal framework, which will facilitate the growth of international commerce and benefit the global economy as well as international community.
- Let me take this opportunity to express deepest appreciation to the Minister SHAMUGAM and our hosts for excellent organization of the Ceremony and hospitality in Singapore that we very much enjoy.

Thank you for your attention!