1st September 2020

Dear Presidents

Re: Meeting Notes for the 37th Session of UNCITRAL Working Group V1
Judicial Sales - Vienna 14th - 18th December 2020

First of all I hope you and your families and friends are well as we all come to terms with living in rather challenging times.

In the meantime, as you are fully aware the 37th Session of UNCITRAL Working Group V1 should have taken place in May of this year. However as I have already informed you all, this meeting did not take place due to the Covid Pandemic which forced UNCITRAL to postpone this session.

This 37th session is now scheduled to take place in Vienna between the 14th and 18th of December 2020 although no decisions have yet been taken by the Secretariat as to whether the session will be a live session open for all or whether it will be virtual or whether there will be a form of hybrid session. We are in contact with the Secretariat and we will inform you as soon as we are in receipt of any information closer to the date. Clearly it is far too early to say from now, approximately 3 months prior to the event, what form the event will take given the constantly changing landscape due to the Corona Virus Pandemic.

You will recall that prior to the last 36th Session also held in Vienna, we distributed some meeting notes with the aim of sharing our views on some aspects of the latest draft and also of being of assistance to the delegations from your countries or from your organisations during the deliberations at the 36th Session. Your feedback on the usefulness of these notes was very encouraging and we have decided to do the same thing for the next session.

In addition to the above, the delegations of your countries to Working Group V1 as well as the representatives of NGO’s and IGO’s also attending Working Group V1 would have received a letter from the Secretariat of Working Group V1 (copy attached) asking for their comments on the 2nd Revision of the
Beijing Draft and Accompanying Note which I had circulated to all of you in March of this year.

The CMI IWG on the international effects of judicial sales has considered the Annotated Second Revision of the Beijing Draft and Notes accompanying this revision and has again prepared a set of meeting notes for your perusal which I am attaching hereto. The aim of these meeting notes as with the first set is for CMI to provide some insight and additional thoughts into some of the more important themes covered by the Second Revision which may help focus our attention during the 37th Session in Vienna later on this year.

In addition we would also like to strongly encourage you to share and discuss these meeting notes with the delegates of your respective countries in the hope that they find them helpful and useful in their response to the Secretariat’s call for comments by the end of September.

Finally, I would like to remind you all that your efforts in explaining the importance of this Draft Convention to your State delegates has born much fruit as we saw from the additional and much more focused participation of State delegates and NGO representatives in Vienna last year. Your direct liaison and meetings have had a positive effect leading to a very constructive and meaningful dialogue in Vienna which led to this Second Revision of the Beijing Draft.

Although we are three months away from the 37th Session, I would like to encourage you to share these notes and to set up the appropriate meetings with your State delegations in order to keep the momentum going and to continue to be of assistance to these delegations particularly in their response to the Secretariat by the end of September.

Many thanks for all your efforts.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Ann Fenech
Co-Chair IWG on Judicial Sales
CMI Co-ordinator at Working Group V1 UNCITRAL