

Unidroit

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PRIVATE LAW  
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ORGANISATION OF A UNIDROIT INFORMATION SYSTEM OR DATA BANK ON  
UNIFORM LAW

(Results of the surveys conducted with a view to ascertaining the interest for an  
information system or data bank  
Secretariat memorandum)

## INTRODUCTION

At its 74<sup>th</sup> session the Governing Council will be called upon to take a stand on the proposal to create a data bank or information system on uniform law. A first document illustrating the issues which should be considered when this proposal is discussed was sent out to Council members for comments at the end of 1994 (Study LXIX - Doc. 1). In Doc. 1 the Secretariat proposed conducting surveys among potential users of the Unidroit data bank to determine the interest among those groups for a data bank such as the one under consideration. Four surveys were conducted, the results of which are presented in this document so as to assist the Council in its deliberations.

The four surveys conducted were among members of the International Bar Association, international organisations, chambers of commerce and industry and arbitral institutes and tribunals.

### 1. MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

The *International Bar Association (IBA)* has a total of some 17,000 members, including practising lawyers, academics, judges, in-house counsel, government officials and legal advisers. Of these, a selection of 1,155 was made on the basis of committee(s) of appurtenance, function (academic, practising lawyer, judge, etc.), and nationality. As vast a selection of different nationalities as possible was made so as to ensure a representative sample of potential utilisers. To the IBA members selected a questionnaire was sent together with a cover letter explaining the purpose of the survey. An additional number of questionnaires was distributed in Bulgaria at the good offices of Ms Malina Novkirichka of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, who was a visiting scholar with Unidroit for a period of two months at the end of 1994.

At the time of writing (1 March 1995) replies have been received from 109 of the people contacted. The responses to the queries posed in the questionnaire are set out in Annex 1 below under each question. Italics indicate additions made by the respondents themselves (e.g. "sometimes" added as answer to a question requiring a "yes" or "no" answer).

The examination of the answers to the questionnaire raises a number of interesting points. The first of these is that of 109 respondents a full 101 state that they retrieve the information they need from paper based publications, whereas only 26 use data banks and 12 CD-ROM. When, on the other hand, the question is asked how they would like to see the information contained in the data bank available, 68 answer through on-line links, 57 on CD-ROM and only 6 would like to see it available on paper. The conclusion which can be reached is that although the respondents realise that data banks and CD-ROM are the obvious sources of information for the future, few have the facilities available. The expense of converting a paper based library to one using modern technology is doubtless an important factor in the explanation of this result.

The question whether the present source of information furnished sufficient information was answered positively by 28 respondents and negatively by 71. A point which was stressed by a majority of respondents was the need to have an up-to-date source of information, and one which was not so time-consuming. A number of the items indicated as desirable additions to those furnished by the present sources of information are among those already indicated in the list of items which the Unidroit data bank is considering including (ratifications and reservations, for example).

A large number of different data banks were indicated by those who stated that they use data banks. Not surprisingly, the two used more often are the two most famous ones, i.e. Lexis and Westlaw. Of the European data banks Celex is the one used most often.

Considerable interest was demonstrated for all the different items which the data bank might include, in particular for the text of international conventions and for the status of ratifications. Surprisingly, there is a discrepancy between the number of respondents who consider the status of ratifications important (97) and those who consider reservations important (86). There is also a discrepancy between those who state that they use data banks (26) and those who answer the question whether the data bank they are using contains sufficient information: 54 answer that it does not, 8 that it does. Similarly, 59 consider that the data bank does not contain sufficient information on

how the international instruments are applied in different countries. It is to be presumed that a number of respondents considered the question to apply also to other means of retrieval of information and not only to data banks, even if the question clearly referred only to data banks. Of greater interest in this context is the fact that of the 26 who stated that they use data banks, only 3 indicated that they furnish sufficient information on the international instruments themselves, and none felt that they furnished sufficient information on how the international instruments have been applied in different countries.

The question whether an analytical data bank which would permit a search through legal concepts would be useful was answered affirmatively by 95 respondents and negatively by 9. Of those who answered in the negative, 4 were academics (from Belgium, Finland, the United Kingdom and the United States) and the remaining 5 were practising lawyers (from Austria, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom). Of the 26 utilisers of data banks, only 2 indicated that an analytical data bank would not be useful (USA and Saudi Arabia).

A large number of respondents (92) indicated that information on national legislation dealing with international trade would be useful. As to the areas of law which should be covered, those suggested by the Secretariat were favourably received. The area which was favoured by a majority of respondents was the settlement of commercial disputes (96), followed by international sales and related commercial transactions (95) and intellectual and industrial property (75). A number of additions to the list were suggested and these are to be found set out in the answer to question number 10.

It was interesting to note that of the 109 respondents 62 were practising lawyers and 29 academics. Unfortunately only 3 of the judges contacted answered the questionnaire, although this should perhaps not be too surprising.

The conclusions which can be reached on the strength of the answers to the questionnaire are that a data bank such as the one proposed would be of considerable interest, above all to practitioners, but also to academics, as existing data banks would appear not to furnish sufficient information in relation to international instruments. A considerable number of respondents experience difficulties in retrieving the information they need and even if they do manage to retrieve it the process is extremely time consuming. Furthermore, the information which is available is not always up-to-date.

## **2. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

Thirty international organisations, mainly inter-governmental but also non-governmental, were contacted by letter. A list of the organisations contacted is to be found in Annex 2 to this report.

The organisations contacted were asked first, what information they had available (information as to ratifications and reservations, case law, bibliographical references), particularly when they had been responsible for the adoption of international conventions. If they had information available they were asked whether they would be willing to co-operate with the Institute by furnishing this information to our data bank. Secondly, the organisations were asked whether they would be interested in the data bank as potential users, considering that for their own work international organisations often need information of the kind the data bank is to contain.

To date, nine organisations have answered (UNCTAD, UNCITRAL, IMO, WIPO, UNESCWA, Council of Europe, OAS, OCTI and the CMI) and one (OECD) has announced its intention to answer. The reactions of the organisations which have answered differ, at times markedly so.

The *United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)* merely sent a booklet on the organisation and a catalogue of United Nations publications. The *United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Africa (UNESCWA)* stated that it did not have the kind of information requested.

The *United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)* felt that Unidroit had all the information requested and that it was clear that they were interested in continued co-operation and exchange of information. In addition to the texts, commentaries and *travaux préparatoires* on the legal texts emanating from the organisation, UNCITRAL has an unofficial status of conventions, Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (CLOUT) and a bibliography which is up-dated annually. UNCITRAL

documents are available through the UN documents distribution system. Some of them are sales publications, others are covered by UN copyright and their reproduction is subject to permission of the UN Publications Board.

The *International Maritime Organization (IMO)* was very favourable in its response, considering that a co-operation of the kind envisaged could be covered by the existing co-operation agreement between Unidroit and the IMO. The IMO has information relating to the status of the conventions for which it, or its Secretary-General, acts as depositary. It publishes a document entitled *Status of multilateral conventions and instruments in respect of which the International Maritime Organization or its Secretary-General performs depositary or other functions*. It has no information on case law or legal writing.

Similarly the *World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)* indicated that it would be pleased to study any proposal designed to exchange information. Under mutually agreed conditions, WIPO indicates that it could make available to be used in the proposed Unidroit data bank the text of the treaties administered by WIPO and information concerning the status of each of those treaties. As is the case with the IMO, WIPO has information relating to the status of the conventions for which it, or its Director General, acts as depositary. This information is also available on CD-ROM. It has no information on case law or legal writing.

The *Council of Europe* indicated that its Treaties Office collects all official correspondence relating to the treaties with respect to which the Secretary General exercises depositary functions. Case law and legal writing are however not archived in a systematic manner. The information on signatures and ratifications is published in loose-leaf form in the *Chart of signatures and ratifications* which is up-dated four times a year. All information on signatures and ratifications as well as the full text of about thirty treaties, is available on INFOCENTRE, the Council of Europe data base. It is envisaged to include as soon as possible the text of all the treaties as well as reservations and declarations thereto. For the time being INFOCENTRE is however not open to access by out-side users. A project is also underway to produce a CD-ROM containing the full text of all Council of Europe treaties, reservations and declarations thereto, as well as all the information regarding signatures and ratifications.

The *Organization of American States (OAS)* indicated that it is currently in the process of making its data base on *Information on Treaties and Agreements of the Interamerican System* available through Internet. This data base includes information on status of ratifications. No further information was given.

The *Office Central des Transports Internationaux Ferroviaires (OCTI)* indicated that it has available information concerning the signature, entry into force of, and reservations to, the COTIF Convention and its modifications. It also maintains an index of legal precedents since the entry into force of the first Convention for the International Carriage by Rail in 1893, although it notes that court decisions on the basis of the COTIF/CIM have become rather exceptional. The OCTI also publishes a periodical Bulletin which contains a bibliography, but no systematic or cumulative index of these bibliographies is available. The OCTI further indicates that a co-operation agreement between Unidroit and OCTI which goes beyond the traditional good co-operation between the organisations could be of interest, depending on the terms and conditions of such an extended co-operation.

Finally, the *Comité Maritime International (CMI)* indicates that it publishes a yearbook which contains information on international conventions on maritime law and their status of ratifications. The yearbook does not contain reservations in respect of all conventions. The CMI does not have any systematic registration of case law and legal writing. The most recent ratifications of maritime conventions are also announced in the CMI News Letter which is published quarterly.

### **3. ARBITRAL TRIBUNALS AND ARBITRATION ASSOCIATIONS**

Of the fourteen arbitral tribunals and arbitration associations contacted only three answered. A list of the tribunals and associations contacted is set out in Annex 3 to this report. The arbitral tribunals and associations of arbitrators were contacted with a view to eliciting first, whether they as potential utilisers had an interest in a data bank such as the one envisaged by Unidroit, and secondly, whether it

would be possible to conclude an agreement whereby the Unidroit data bank would be permitted to insert information relating to the arbitral awards rendered by the arbitral tribunals contacted.

Interest was expressed by the *Court of International Commercial Arbitration of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation*, with which the Institute is in touch in the person of its President, Professor Alexander S. Komarov, correspondent of the Institute. Similarly the *Arbitration Court of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry* considered that a data bank containing the data under consideration would be very useful. The *American Arbitration Association* instead considered that existing publications already provided ready access and up-to-date information on international commercial arbitration. It also stressed the confidential nature of arbitral proceedings, which in effect would prevent the publication of the awards rendered.

#### 4. CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Sixty-nine chambers of commerce and industry were contacted with a view to eliciting whether they had an interest in the proposed Unidroit data bank as potential utilisers. A list of the chambers of commerce and industry contacted is set out in Annex 4 to this report.

Of the chambers of commerce and industry that answered, the *Austrian Federal Economic Chamber*, the *Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry*, the *Camara nacional de comercio, La Paz*, the *Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce*, the *Qatar Chamber of Commerce*, the *Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India*, the *Czech Chamber of Commerce and Industry* and the *Russian Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry* were all very positive to the initiative and often requested to be kept informed of how the initiative progressed. The *Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry* referred to the Korean Foreign Trade Association and the *Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry* stated that it could not be of assistance.

### CONCLUSION

The response to the surveys conducted can be considered encouraging. The interest with which the idea of a data bank on uniform law was received is a clear indication of the need for such an instrument. This was particularly evident in the response received from the members of the IBA and from the chambers of commerce and industry.

The considerable interest does not hide the fact that for a majority of people around the world connection with data banks through on-line links are still in the future. Even the use of CD-ROM is not as wide-spread as expected, although this is not surprising considering their cost. The setting up of a data bank will therefore involve careful planning, so as to facilitate the potential users both as to the contents of the data bank itself and as to cost of access.

It is therefore proposed that the Governing Council resolve that the Secretariat be empowered to take all measures necessary for the setting up of a data bank. In the first instance the Secretariat should be empowered, *inter alia*, to:

- ◆ identify the areas which the data bank should cover
- ◆ identify the areas which should be the first to be dealt with
- ◆ identify the types of instrument which should be covered
- ◆ identify the experts which should be contacted for each area
- ◆ contact the experts to see if they are interested
- ◆ draw up instructions for the experts responsible for the various areas
- ◆ arrange for a meeting of the experts in Rome, and
- ◆ contact the organisations which act as depositaries of international instruments with a view to negotiating agreements with them.

## ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO SELECTED IBA MEMBERS\*

### 1. In your professional activity, do you need information on or relating to international Instruments on commercial law (international conventions, uniform laws, model laws, etc.)?

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 109 |
| No  |     |

### 2. If yes, how do you retrieve the information you need (please tick the appropriate box)?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) through a data bank                           | 26  |
| (b) through CD-ROM                                | 12  |
| (c) through paper based publications              | 101 |
| (d) other   | 1   |
| <i>No specification</i>                           |     |
| <i>Department of Foreign Affairs</i>              | 2   |
| <i>Ministries or depositories</i>                 | 7   |
| <i>Search in Government archives</i>              | 1   |
| <i>Foreign lawyers</i>                            | 3   |
| <i>Seminars/Congresses</i>                        | 1   |
| <i>Call UN</i>                                    | 4   |
| <i>Personal contact</i>                           | 1   |
| <i>Expert advice</i>                              | 1   |
| <i>Contact central authority</i>                  | 1   |
| <i>Request copies from concerned institutions</i> | 1   |

### 3. When you need information on an international instrument, does the means you are using furnish sufficient information?

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Yes                 | 28 |
| No                  | 71 |
| <i>Sometimes</i>    | 3  |
| <i>Mostly</i>       | 1  |
| <i>More or less</i> | 1  |

### 4. If not, what additional information would you require?

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>A systematic, global and regular instrument</i>                            | 2 |
| <i>One data base source would be the most efficient</i>                       | 2 |
| <i>Inventory of existing treaties, publications and list of ratifications</i> | 1 |

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\* Italics indicate additions or suggestions made by the respondents.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Preliminary works</i>  | 2  |
| <i>History of the instrument and underlying negotiations</i>  | 2  |
| <i>Updated and latest decisions (court and arbitration) on standard and main issues encountered in the application of uniform laws as enforced by conventions</i> | 11 |
| <i>Signing or ratifying countries, amendments, countries' reservations</i>  | 8  |
| <i>An index with cross-keywords, easy access, up-to-date information on wordings and ratifications</i>  | 1  |
| <i>More comprehensive and easy way to find international sources, including legislation and case-law</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Cross-referencing to all relevant laws</i>   | 1  |
| <i>Instant updates and assurance that information is complete</i>   | 4  |
| <i>More countries, more laws</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Most recent interpretation</i>   | 1  |
| <i>Current information from the States parties to the conventions</i>   | 1  |
| <i>National implementing legislation</i>  | 3  |
| <i>Multi-lingual texts of the conventions themselves</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Bilateral treaties of commerce</i>   | 1  |
| <i>Information on GATT and WTO</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Relevant views of local lawyers</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Legal writing</i>  | 4  |
| <i>Commentary</i>   | 3  |
| <i>Texts of conventions</i>   | 1  |
| <i>Annotations to case law</i>  | 1  |
| <i>A more comprehensive resource and one intended for the legal community. The UN Office of Treaties is not designed for private sector use</i>                   | 1  |

**5. If your answer to question 2 is through a data bank, please indicate which one(s)**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Lexis/Nexis</i>                                    | 11 |
| <i>Lexis - European Community Library</i>             | 1  |
| <i>Internet</i>                                       | 4  |
| <i>Compuserve</i>                                     | 1  |
| <i>Judit</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Jurisdata</i>                                      | 2  |
| <i>Celex</i>  | 4  |
| <i>Domestic datas</i>                                 | 2  |
| <i>Norma</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Digesta</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Apis</i>   | 1  |
| <i>Asser Institute</i>                                | 1  |
| <i>Manz RDB</i>                                       | 1  |
| <i>Westlaw</i>  | 7  |
| <i>BNA</i>  | 1  |
| <i>NAFTA data base</i>                                | 1  |
| <i>Europe 2000</i>                                    | 2  |
| <i>RRZ (Regionales Rechtszentrum of Lower Saxony)</i> | 1  |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <i>Eurolaw</i>  | 2 |
| <i>In House</i> | 1 |
| <i>Jutalex</i>  | 1 |
| <i>Ecodata</i>  | 1 |
| <i>Grenios</i>  | 1 |

**6. The Unidroit data bank under consideration would contain information on or relating to international instruments. Please indicate the information you think the data bank should offer (tick as appropriate)**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| (a) the text of international conventions   | 95 |
| (b) uniform laws  | 90 |
| (c) status of ratifications   | 97 |
| (d) reservations  | 86 |
| (e) model laws  | 70 |
| (f) national implementing legislation   | 87 |
| (g) national case law on the instruments  | 83 |
| (h) bibliographical references  | 75 |
| (i) other <i>As much as reasonably practicable and user friendly</i>                | 1  |
| <i>Summary of principles</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Case law of international courts of justice/arbitral tribunals<sup>2</sup></i>   |    |
| <i>Sources of transcript of negotiations</i>  | 1  |
| <i>Major articles and Newspaper references</i>                                      | 1  |
| <i>Informal comments of local lawyers</i>   | 1  |
| <i>Whether data in full text will be obtainable and, if for a fee, at what cost</i> | 1  |
| <i>National legislation dealing with international trade law</i>                    | 1  |
| <i>Drafts in discussion</i>   | 1  |
| <i>International Journal articles</i>   | 1  |

**7. Searches through data banks are often very time consuming, also because of the type of search system used. Please indicate whether you consider that an analytical data bank that would also permit a search through legal concepts would be useful.**

|     |    |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 95 |
| No  | 9  |

**8. Does the data bank you are using contain sufficient information**

**(a) on the international instruments themselves?**

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Yes                          | 8  |
| No                           | 54 |
| <i>Sometimes</i>             | 1  |
| <i>Varies</i>                | 1  |
| <i>Depends on the search</i> | 1  |

**(b) on how they have been applied in different countries?**

|     |                 |    |
|-----|-----------------|----|
| Yes |                 | 1  |
| No  |                 | 59 |
|     | <i>Doubtful</i> | 1  |

**9. Would information on national legislation dealing with international trade (e.g. investment laws) be of use?**

|     |                          |    |
|-----|--------------------------|----|
| Yes |                          | 93 |
| No  |                          | 6  |
|     | <i>Subsidiarily only</i> | 1  |
|     | <i>Questionable</i>      | 1  |
|     | <i>Sometimes</i>         | 1  |

**10. What areas of law should be covered by the data bank? Please tick as appropriate.**

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| Settlement of commercial disputes                       |   | 96 |
| Transport   |   | 60 |
| Investments   |   | 66 |
| Negotiable Instruments                                  |   | 61 |
| Security Interests                                      |   | 57 |
| International Financing                                 |   | 65 |
| International Sales and related Commercial Transactions |   | 95 |
| Agency  |   | 62 |
| Distribution and Franchising Contracts                  |   | 62 |
| Intellectual and Industrial Property                    |   | 75 |
| Other   | <i>Banking Instruments</i>                          | 2  |
|   | <i>Insurance</i>                                    | 2  |
|   | <i>Liability instruments</i>                        | 1  |
|   | <i>Environmental law</i>                            | 2  |
|   | <i>Natural resources</i>                            | 1  |
|   | <i>Commercial law</i>                               | 2  |
|   | <i>International Trade Law</i>                      | 1  |
|   | <i>Civil law</i>                                    | 1  |
|   | <i>Competition</i>                                  | 2  |
|   | <i>Communication</i>                                | 1  |
|   | <i>Energy law</i>                                   | 1  |
|   | <i>Acquisitions</i>                                 | 1  |
|   | <i>Insolvency and bankruptcy</i>                    | 2  |
|   | <i>Civil procedure</i>                              | 1  |
|   | <i>Arbitration</i>                                  | 1  |
|   | <i>Enforcement of foreign judgements and awards</i> | 1  |
|   | <i>Securities law</i>                               | 1  |
|   | <i>Choice of law</i>                                | 1  |
|   | <i>GATT/WTO</i>                                     | 1  |

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>NAFTA</i>                  | 1 |
| <i>Shipping</i>               | 1 |
| <i>Telecommunications law</i> | 1 |

**11. How would you like to see the information contained in the data bank available**

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| (a) through on-line links | 68 |
| (b) on CD-ROM             | 57 |
| (c) other means           |    |
| <i>Paper</i>              | 6  |
| <i>Fax</i>                | 1  |
| <i>Telex</i>              | 1  |
| <i>Network</i>            | 1  |
| <i>Diskettes</i>          | 1  |
| <i>Not specified</i>      | 1  |
| <i>Internet</i>           | 1  |

**12. Please indicate your profession and country of origin**

(a) Profession

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| <i>Academic</i>               | 29 |
| <i>Practising Lawyer</i>      | 62 |
| <i>Judge</i>                  | 3  |
| <i>In-house counsel</i>       | 5  |
| <i>Researcher</i>             | 1  |
| <i>Chamber of Commerce</i>    | 2  |
| <i>Law Librarian</i>          | 1  |
| <i>Law Commissioner</i>       | 2  |
| <i>Legal Adviser Ministry</i> | 4  |

(b) Country of origin

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Argentina      | 1  |
| Australia      | 2  |
| Austria        | 7  |
| Azerbaijan     | 1  |
| Belgium        | 5  |
| Bulgaria       | 11 |
| Burkina Faso   | 1  |
| Canada         | 4  |
| Croatia        | 4  |
| Cyprus         | 1  |
| Czech Republic | 1  |
| Denmark        | 2  |
| Egypt          | 1  |
| Finland        | 2  |
| France         | 1  |
| Germany        | 3  |
| Iran           | 1  |

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Israel          | 1  |
| Italy           | 1  |
| Kuwait          | 1  |
| Malawi          | 1  |
| Malaysia        | 2  |
| Malta           | 1  |
| Mexico          | 1  |
| The Netherlands | 4  |
| New Zealand     | 2  |
| Nigeria         | 1  |
| Norway          | 1  |
| Pakistan        | 1  |
| Panama          | 1  |
| Philippines     | 1  |
| Portugal        | 1  |
| Saudi Arabia    | 1  |
| South Africa    | 2  |
| Spain           | 1  |
| Sri Lanka       | 1  |
| St. Lucia       | 1  |
| Sweden          | 1  |
| Switzerland     | 3  |
| Syria           | 1  |
| Turkey          | 1  |
| United Kingdom  | 9  |
| USA             | 16 |
| Uruguay         | 1  |
| Zambia          | 2  |

### 13. Comments

1. *Try to limit the expense: the fee or the price should not be prohibitive.*
2. *Data bank covering relevant information on international conventions would be a goldmine.*
3. *Don't underestimate this project - it requires enormous human and financial resources.*
4. *Burkina Faso is a French-speaking country. Our legal system is based on the French one. Therefore it would be better and more efficient for me to get access to the data bank through the French language if possible.*
5. *A very useful initiative. However I hope that the limited financial resources available to small developing countries like mine [St. Lucia] will be taken into account in devising the system and some consideration given to ensuring that use of the data bank is available to poor as well as rich countries.*
6. *An excellent idea but will require substantial resources.*
7. *It would be a good idea to use Internet or similar network for connection to the data bank.*
8. *Focus on what is not available, avoid duplication, focus on what is most useful: international journal article references, international arbitral cases, international conventions.*
9. *I do not practice much in international law, but I do use computerised data bases. I believe most or much of the material is already available on data bases accessible via Internet and it would only be*

*necessary to collect it on a computer or two or three, at one to three sites that could be accessed by Internet.*

10. *We'd be very pleased to have access to such a data bank. I hope it won't be that expensive, especially for countries from Eastern Europe [Bulgaria].*

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS\***

Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee  
*Comité Maritime International*  
Commission Centrale pour la Navigation du Rhin  
Commonwealth Secretariat  
*Council of Europe*  
ESCAP  
*ESCAW*  
FAO  
Hague Conference on Private International Law  
IAEA  
International Civil Aviation Organization  
International Finance Corporation  
*International Maritime Organization*  
International Monetary Fund  
*OCTI*  
OECD  
Organization of African Unity  
*Organization of American States*  
*UNCITRAL*  
*UNCTAD*  
UNEP  
UNIDO  
United Nations  
*United Nations Development Programme*  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Liaison Office, N.Y.  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLA)  
*WIPO*  
World Bank

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\* Italics indicate the organisations which have replied.

**ARBITRAL TRIBUNALS AND ARBITRATION ASSOCIATIONS\***

*American Arbitration Association*

Arbitration Institute, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce

Berlin Court of Arbitration

Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration

Camera arbitrale nazionale e internazionale di Milano

*Court of International Commercial Arbitration of the Russian Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

Deutsche Institution für Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit e.V.

Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre

International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce

Internationales Schiedsgericht, Bundeskammer der gewerblichen Wirtschaft (Vienna)

North American Trade Dispute Resolution Center

Singapore International Arbitration Centre

The London Court of International Arbitration

WIPO Arbitration Center

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\* Italics indicate the arbitral tribunals and arbitration associations which have replied.

## CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY\*

Alliance des Chambres de Commerce Suisse  
 ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
 Assemblée permanente des Chambres de commerce et d'Industrie, Paris  
 Associação comercial de Lisboa  
 Asociacion Iberoamericana de Camaras de Comercio  
 Association of British Chambers of Commerce  
 Association of Chambers of Commerce, Auckland Park (South Africa)  
 Association of the Chambers of Commerce of Ireland  
 Australian Chamber of Commerce  
*Austrian Federal Economic Chamber*  
*Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry*  
 Camara Argentina de Comercio  
 Camara de Comercio Internacional, Ecuador  
*Camara nacional de comercio, La Paz*  
 Canadian Chamber of Commerce  
*Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce*  
 Central Chamber of Commerce, Helsinki  
 Chamber of Commerce of the United States  
 Chamber of Commerce, Copenhagen  
 Chambre de Commerce du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg  
 Confederacion colombiana de Camaras de comercio  
 Confederacion de Camaras de Comercio del Grupo andino  
 Confederación de Cámaras Nacionales de Comercio, Mexico  
 Confederation of Asian Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
 Confederation of Asian Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
 Conference permanente des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie de la CEE  
 Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
 Federacion de Camaras de Comercio del Istmo Centroamericano  
 Federal Economic Chamber of Commerce, Vienna  
 Fédération des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie du Maroc  
 Fédération nationale des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie de Belgique  
 Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
 Federation of Chambers of Commerce of West Africa  
 Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce  
 Federation of Hong Kong Industries  
 Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
 Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce  
 Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce  
 Federation of Maghreb Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
 Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
 Federation of Pacific Islands Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
 Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce  
 Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
 General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries  
 Handelskammer, Liechtenstein  
 Hungarian Chamber of Commerce  
 Iceland Chamber of Commerce  
 Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
 Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
*Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

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\* Italics indicate the chambers of commerce and industry which have replied.

National Conference of Commerce, Rio de Janeiro  
New Zealand Chambers of Commerce  
Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Oslo Chamber of Commerce  
Papua New Guinea Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Polish Chamber of Foreign Trade  
*Qatar Chamber of Commerce*  
Singapore Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce  
Stockholms Handelskammare  
Thai Chamber of Commerce  
*The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India*  
*The Czech Chamber of Commerce and Industry*  
The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
*The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry*  
The Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
*The Russian Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry*  
The Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Maritime Commerce and Commodity Exchanges of  
Turkey  
Unione italiana delle Camere di Commercio, Industria, Artigianato e Agricoltura, Rome