

CFRED's Twelfth Trade and Investment Law Seminar:

UNCITRAL AND THE POST-2015 AGENDA

by

Prof. João Ribeiro

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United Nations Commission on International Trade Law*

Chaired by: **Prof. Gonzalo Villalta Puig**, *Faculty of Law, CUHK*

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The Warren Chan Moot Court, CUHK Graduate Law Centre, 2/F Bank of America Tower, Central, Hong Kong

The report on UNCITRAL's work at its 47th session, approved in December 2014 by the General Assembly of the United Nations stated that "the progressive modernization and harmonization of international trade law, in reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade, especially those affecting developing countries, would contribute significantly to universal economic cooperation among all States on a basis of equality, equity, common interest and respect for the rule of law, to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to peace, stability and the well-being of all peoples". The role of the UNCITRAL as the "core legal body in the field of international commercial law" was emphasized in promoting the rule of law in such ways as facilitating rule based commercial transactions, coordinating with other rule of law initiatives, and other forms of rule of law assistance. The GAUN also approved that the Rule of Law in commercial relations should be an integral part of the broader agenda of United Nations in the post-2015 development agenda, which was further elaborated on by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, namely that the promotion of an open, rules-based, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system contributes to the pivotal role of trade in reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

**All are welcome!
Admission is free of charge!**

Please join us by registering your interest [here](#) by 18 March 2015.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:



João Ribeiro is a Portuguese national that during his career was Head of International Affairs of the Ministry of Justice of Portugal, Deputy Secretary General of the Conferences of Ministers of Justice both of the Iberian-American countries and of the Portuguese Speaking countries, member of the Portuguese National Commission for Human Rights and member of the Portuguese Permanent Bilateral Cooperation Commissions with the USA and Macau. During that period, he was in charge of the Ministry's development cooperation policies, namely several technical assistance projects for law reform in Africa, East Timor and Eastern Europe. He led national delegations in several international organizations: European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and GRECO (Europe's Groups of States against Corruption), Council of Europe; 36th Committee of the Council (CATS) of the European Union; OECD's Working group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, being also a member of its Management Group in 2011. He holds a Law Degree from the University of Coimbra and a LLM from the Universities of Coimbra and Macau and he is currently a PhD candidate. During his first experience in Asia (2002-2008) he was legal adviser to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region and a senior lecturer at the Faculties of Law, Management and of Social and Human Sciences of the University of Macau where he taught International Law, International Business Law, Business Law, Economic Integration Law, Constitutional Law and Chinese Political System. He also has extensive experience in the organization of international multisport events, namely several coordination responsibilities in the 4th East Asian Games – Macau 2005 (Chief Operating Officer), the 2nd Asian Indoor Games – Macau 2007 (Adviser) and the 2nd Lusophone Games – Lisboa 2009 (Chief Operating Officer).