



Swiss Chinese Law Association
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May 27, 2025

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
United Nations Economic and Social Council
United Nations Headquarters
New York,
NY 10017

**RE: Application for ECOSOC Consultative Status - Response to
Committee Inquiry**

Dear Committee,

Thank you very much for your inquiry. We appreciate the opportunity to provide clarification regarding our organization's interactions with UN entities and any statements delivered on behalf of the organization.

My name is Peter Ruggle, I am the executive director of SCLA, as well as founder of Ruggle Partner, a boutique business law firm in Switzerland.

The Swiss-Chinese Lawyers Association (SCLA) was established as a group of lawyers residing in Switzerland with backgrounds in China (including Swiss nationals who worked in China and Chinese nationals residing in Switzerland). Our primary purpose is to organize meetings promoting legal and cultural exchanges between different jurisdictions.

Formal and Informal Interactions with UN Entities

We approach your question from two perspectives - formal and informal:

Formal Interactions

We wish to clarify that there are no formal "agreements" between SCLA and any UN entities, nor have any funds been received from or granted to any UN agencies. As a politically neutral organization, we have been invited to and have actively registered to participate in several meetings focused on specific areas related to legal and cultural exchange.

We noticed there might be a misunderstanding in our application regarding "involvement in UN Partnerships." When completing the form, the term

"partnership" may have been understood more broadly from a values perspective rather than a formal relationship.

We have, however, organized or co-organized some educational and informational events in collaboration with UN agencies. For example, SCLA organized a visit for business lawyers and corporate counsels from Switzerland, China, and other countries to the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 2019. This meeting primarily introduced the digital initiatives led by UNCTAD (photos attached to our submission).

Informal Interactions - Event Participation

We have compiled a comprehensive list of conferences that were promoted to our members between 2020-2024. **Please note that SCLA does not and is unable to finance our members' participation in any events, nor do we authorize members to "represent" SCLA in making official statements.** Any comments made by members should be interpreted solely as their personal opinions. Generally, besides being SCLA members, each individual has their own professional affiliation with law firms, universities, or companies, including myself.

List of UN Events (2020-2024)

Event Name & Date	Organizing UN Entity	Location	Relevant Legal Focus Areas
WIPO Webinar Series on IP Services and Initiatives, June 2-23, 2020	World Intellectual Property Organization	Virtual	Intellectual property protection; international registration systems; patent filing procedures
UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2020, June 15-16, 2020	UN Global Compact	Virtual	Business sustainability frameworks; corporate reporting standards; responsible business documentation
UNCITRAL Webinars on Digital	UN Commission on International Trade Law	Virtual	Electronic contracts; digital trade law; online

Event Name & Date	Organizing UN Entity	Location	Relevant Legal Focus Areas
Economy , July 13-17, 2020			dispute resolution mechanisms
ITC ecomConnect Day 2020 , September 28, 2020	International Trade Centre	Virtual	E-commerce regulations; digital trade documentation; cross-border online sales frameworks
UNCTAD eWeek 2020 , October 19-23, 2020	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Virtual	Digital economy frameworks; e-commerce documentation; regulatory approaches to digitalization
UNEP Webinar on Environmental Rule of Law , February 12, 2021	UN Environment Programme	Virtual	Environmental compliance; sustainability reporting frameworks; legal implementation of SDGs
WTO COVID-19 and World Trade Virtual Event , March 2, 2021	World Trade Organization	Virtual	Trade documentation during crises; regulatory adaptations; cross-border compliance
WIPO International Conference on IP and Innovation , May 5-6, 2021	World Intellectual Property Organization	Virtual	Global IP protection systems; innovation ecosystems; technology transfer documentation
ILO Virtual Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work , July 7-9, 2021	International Labour Organization	Virtual	Employment contract modifications; remote work regulations; cross-

Event Name & Date	Organizing UN Entity	Location	Relevant Legal Focus Areas
			border employment documentation
UNIDO Global Manufacturing Summit , July 13-14, 2021	UN Industrial Development Organization	Virtual	Manufacturing standards; industrial property frameworks; technology licensing documentation
UNCITRAL Day 2021 , July 21, 2021	UN Commission on International Trade Law	Virtual	International commercial law; harmonization frameworks; cross-border transaction documentation
WIPO INSPIRE Training Program , September 21, 2021	World Intellectual Property Organization	Virtual	IP database usage; patent search methodologies; international registration procedures
ITU Digital World 2021 , November 23, 2021	International Telecommunication Union	Virtual	Digital regulations; telecommunications frameworks; international standards documentation
UNODC International Anti-Corruption Day Event , December 9, 2021	UN Office on Drugs and Crime	Virtual	Corporate compliance frameworks; due diligence documentation; anti-corruption procedures
UNESCAP Trade Facilitation Forum , January 25-26, 2022	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific	Virtual	Electronic customs documentation; digital trade facilitation; paperless trade systems

Event Name & Date	Organizing UN Entity	Location	Relevant Legal Focus Areas
ILO Global Forum on a Human-Centered Recovery , February 22-24, 2022	International Labour Organization	Virtual	Employment frameworks; international labor standards; cross-border work documentation
WIPO Webinar on Geographical Indications , April 14, 2022	World Intellectual Property Organization	Virtual	Geographical indication protection; certification frameworks; international registration systems
UNCTAD eCommerce Week 2022 , April 25-29, 2022	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Virtual	Digital economy frameworks; electronic transaction documentation; e-commerce regulations
WIPO Open Day , May 17, 2022	World Intellectual Property Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	Intellectual property systems; international registration procedures; patent documentation
UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2022 , June 1-2, 2022	UN Global Compact	Virtual	Corporate sustainability reporting; due diligence documentation; responsible business frameworks
UNEP Finance Initiative Webinar Series , July 12-14, 2022	UN Environment Programme	Virtual	Sustainable finance frameworks; ESG reporting standards; green investment documentation

Event Name & Date	Organizing UN Entity	Location	Relevant Legal Focus Areas
UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day , August 22, 2022	UN Commission on International Trade Law	Virtual	International commercial arbitration; electronic commerce law; cross-border legal frameworks
WTO Public Forum 2022 , September 27-30, 2022	World Trade Organization	Geneva, Switzerland/Virtual	International trade documentation; customs regulations; trade facilitation measures
WIPO Arbitration Workshop , October 18-19, 2022	World Intellectual Property Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	IP dispute resolution; international arbitration procedures; contract enforcement mechanisms
UNIDO World Manufacturing Forum , November 28-30, 2022	UN Industrial Development Organization	Virtual	Manufacturing standards; industrial property protection; technology transfer documentation
ILO Technical Meeting on COVID-19 Recovery , December 5-9, 2022	International Labour Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	Employment contract frameworks; international labor standards; cross-border work documentation
WIPO Webinar on AI and IP , February 7, 2023	World Intellectual Property Organization	Virtual	AI-related intellectual property protection; patent applications for AI innovations; licensing frameworks

Event Name & Date	Organizing UN Entity	Location	Relevant Legal Focus Areas
UNCTAD Digital Economy Expert Meeting , March 14-16, 2023	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Geneva, Switzerland	Digital trade frameworks; e-commerce regulations; cross-border data governance
UNCTAD eCommerce Week 2023 , April 3-7, 2023	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Geneva, Switzerland/Virtual	Digital economy regulations; electronic transaction documentation; international e-commerce frameworks
WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright Public Sessions , July 17-21, 2023	World Intellectual Property Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	Copyright frameworks; digital content protection; international licensing standards
UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2023 , September 18-19, 2023	UN Global Compact	New York/Virtual	Sustainability reporting frameworks; corporate documentation standards; responsible business conduct
WTO Public Forum 2023 , September 26-29, 2023	World Trade Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	Trade documentation; international customs procedures; trade facilitation mechanisms
WIPO International Conference on	World Intellectual Property Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	IP protection systems; technology transfer

Event Name & Date	Organizing UN Entity	Location	Relevant Legal Focus Areas
IP and Development, November 22-23, 2023			frameworks; international registration procedures
UNCTAD eCommerce Week 2024, April 22-26, 2024	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Geneva, Switzerland/Virtual	Digital economy documentation; electronic transaction frameworks; cross-border e-commerce regulations
ILO Global Summit on Social Justice, June 14-15, 2024	International Labour Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	International labor standards; employment documentation; cross-border work frameworks
UN Global Compact SDG Investment Forum, October 16-17, 2024	UN Global Compact	New York/Virtual	Sustainable investment documentation; corporate reporting standards; responsible business frameworks

Member Interventions at UN Events

Regarding your request for copies of any oral interventions, we have provided examples of questions posed by individual members during their attendance at various UN events. Please note that these interventions were submitted by the members themselves and may not be completely accurate due to memory limitations or documentation issues:

1. **UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day 2022, Bernardo Cartoni:** "Grazie mille for the comprehensive presentation. I would like to bring a comparative perspective on documentation formalities that continues to create practical challenges in international arbitration proceedings. In the Italian legal tradition, we place significant emphasis on the forma ad substantiam for certain contractual documents, which sometimes

creates tension with the more flexible approach in common law jurisdictions and in the UNCITRAL Model Law. My question is twofold: First, how does the Secretariat view the persistent divergence in documentary formalities across civil law and common law traditions, particularly regarding the authentication requirements for arbitration agreements contained in digital correspondence? Second, has the Working Group considered developing specific technical guidelines to address the digital authentication of arbitration clauses that would satisfy both the stricter formality requirements in civil law jurisdictions like Italy and Switzerland while maintaining the efficiency that international commercial arbitration demands?"

2. **WIPO Webinar on AI and IP (February 7, 2023), Raphael Zumsteg-Yuan:** "Thank you for the presentation. From a Swiss-Asian legal perspective, I notice a practical gap in AI licensing agreements. While European jurisdictions typically require extensive documentation of training data provenance, Asian markets often focus more on documenting output ownership. Has WIPO considered developing standardized dual-purpose documentation templates that could satisfy both regulatory approaches simultaneously? This would greatly simplify compliance for businesses operating across both regions."
3. **UNCTAD eCommerce Week 2023, Tianze Zhang:** "The eTrade for All program has successfully established essential knowledge resources, and your work provides invaluable guidance for both policymakers and practitioners like myself. May I respectfully ask how UNCTAD plans to help digital enterprises from developing economies better integrate into global digital value chains? Thank you for your kind attention."
4. **ILO Global Summit on Social Justice (June 14-15, 2024), Godson Ugochukwu:** "I appreciate the robust analysis presented by the distinguished panel. From our experience in West Africa's energy sector, particularly in Nigeria, we observe that the implementation of labor mobility frameworks faces unique challenges in offshore operations. The practical reality is that many multinational energy companies struggle to harmonize their employment practices with local content requirements while maintaining international standards. What we find most effective is a collaborative approach where industry stakeholders engage directly with regulators to develop workable compliance mechanisms. Perhaps the ILO might consider facilitating regional dialogues specifically targeting the extractive industries, where these practical implementation gaps are most pronounced. Such sector-specific engagement would complement the excellent theoretical frameworks already established."
5. **UNCITRAL Arbitration Workshop (November 8-9, 2022), Philip Hackett KC:** "Thank you for the excellent presentation. Having worked extensively with commercial arbitration enforcement, I've observed a

recurring technical issue with the documentation of interim measures across jurisdictions. While the New York Convention framework addresses final awards, the documentation requirements for enforcing interim protective orders remain inconsistent. Has the Working Group considered developing standardized certification formats specifically for interim measures documentation that would improve cross-border recognition? This practical gap significantly impacts time-sensitive commercial disputes."

SCLA Policy on UN Engagement

SCLA does not provide financial compensation or cover travel costs for its delegates attending UN-sponsored or other international events. The organization's role is limited to disseminating information about relevant professional conferences to its membership and facilitating registration processes for interested members who wish to attend in their individual professional capacities.

It is important to clarify that any opinions, statements, or positions expressed by individual SCLA members during their participation in these conferences are strictly their personal views and should not be interpreted as official positions or policies of the SCLA as an organization. The SCLA maintains strict political neutrality and does not adopt institutional positions on matters outside its core mission of promoting legal cultural exchange and professional development.

All SCLA members participate in these events in their individual professional capacities, seeking to enhance their legal knowledge, build international professional networks, and gather information on best practices and standards that may benefit their professional development. The SCLA's engagement with UN entities remains strictly educational and informational in nature, without any advocacy positions or political dimensions.

Conclusion

The SCLA is committed to upholding the highest standards of professional conduct and ethical practice in all of its activities, including maintaining appropriate boundaries between individual members' professional engagements and the organization's institutional role as a neutral forum for legal education and cultural exchange between Switzerland, China, and the broader international legal community.

SCLA supports the principles of the United Nations and aligns with its values of international cooperation, peace, and development through professional legal exchange.

We trust this information addresses the Committee's question. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PR' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Ruggle, Rechtsanwalt
Executive Director
Swiss Chinese Law Association

 Dear Users, with its update to v3.19.0, Indico.UN has introduced face picture quality verification in registration forms. This ensures uploaded images meet official guidelines, as recommended by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). 



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SCLA visit

4 November 2019
Palais des Nations
Europe/Zurich timezone

Enter your search term



 The theme 'nicecompact' does not exist.

Overview

Registration

Guidelines_english

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Starts 4 Nov 2019, 09:30
Ends 4 Nov 2019, 12:45
Europe/Zurich



In-Person
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Room IV
Geneva, Switzerland

Support

 monica.morrica@unctad...

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UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

UNCTAD PRESENTATION

4 November 2019, Room IV

Palais des Nations

(31th OCT 2019 Revised)

*Opening Session of the Swiss Chinese International Legal Expert Communication
Program: Globalization of Law — Cross Cultural Dialogue on Trade and
Development*

- 9.30 am Opening by SCLA, 2 minutes.
- Introduction of UNCTAD
 - Mr. Christoph Spennemann** Legal Affairs Officer of Intellectual property Unit, christoph.spennemann@un.org , 25 minutes
 - Ms. Anila Premti** Legal Affairs Officer of transport policy and legislation, anila.premti@unctad.org , 25 minutes
 - Q&A 15 minutes
- Introduction of SCLA
 - Tianze Zhang**(tianze.zhang@cnsla.org, Committee Member of SCLA),
Huang Yue(hy@cnsla.org , Committee Member of SCLA), **Laura Devin**(laura.devin@cnsla.org Committee Member of SCLA). 5 minutes each +1 minute video presentation
- Self Introduction of Chinese Delegates and Swiss Delegates (1-2 minutes each, 20 minutes, see the Annex)

11.00am-11.15am Networking Break 15 minutes.

- **Chinese Delegate presentation.**
 - Zhiyun Jiang**(13823566338@139.com), Deputy Director of Intellectual Property Committee of Guangdong Lawyers Association, Overview of Chinese Intellectual Property Law, First-grade lawyer, 10 minutes



Fang Cheng(helencheng@zhonglun.com), Partner at ZhongLun Law Firm, Intellectual property and international Trade from Chinese Prospective, , 10 minutes

Xiaolei Yang(yangxiaolei@cn.kwm.com), Senior partner at King& Wood Mallesons, Overview of Chinese Capital Market, 10 minutes
Q&A 15 minutes

- **Swiss Members Presentation**

Mr. Clarence Peter, senior partner of the Kellerhals Carrard, Founding member of SCLA, 10 minutes(TBC)

Dr. Stéphane Voisard(s.voisard@vrlex.ch), Partner at V.R Associate, Legal Challenges of Implementing Renewable Energy from a Global Perspective---Case study of Switzerland

Dr. Remy Zgraggen(remy.zgraggen@huggler-zgraggen.ch), cross-cultural relations between China and Switzerland, Partner at Huggler-Zgraggen. 10 minutes

Dr. Nataša Hadžimanović(n.hadzimanovic@gabriel-arbitration.ch), International Arbitration Collaboration with United Nations Commission on International Trade Law—enforcement of Arbitration Awards under the New York Convention , Attorney at Gabriel, 10 minutes.

Q&A 15 minutes

- Photos 10 minutes

- Lunch at Restaurant des Delegates, 8th Floor, Building A, 13.00-14.30

- UN Tour-14.30-16.00, Lead by **Mr. Joel Hakizimana** and co-organized with UN Library

14.30-14.50 Library Presentation

14.50-15.30 visit UN Museum

15.30-16.15 Visit Archives of Library

16.15-16.30 Photos

16.30-17.00 Visit of Other halls of UN

#END#