March 2009

Dear Visitors;

As Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), it is with great pleasure that I invite you to participate in the Colloquium and other events surrounding the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods by Sea, to be known as the Rotterdam Rules.

UNCITRAL is pleased to have provided the institutional framework for the intergovernmental negotiations that took place from 2002 to 2009, and that have culminated in the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Rotterdam Rules.

We are grateful to the Government of the Netherlands, the City of Rotterdam and the Port of Rotterdam for their offer to host this important event in celebration of the adoption of the Rotterdam Rules, and we encourage you to join with us in participating in the programme of events.

Yours sincerely,

Renaud Sorieul
Secretary
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law