**Text, logo, company name

Description automatically generated**

**SUMMATIVE (FORMAL) ASSESSMENT: MODULE 2A**

**THE UNCITRAL MODEL LAWS RELATING TO INSOLVENCY**

This is the **summative (formal) assessment** for **Module 2A** of this course and is compulsory for all candidates who **selected this module as one of their compulsory modules from Module 2**. Please read instruction 6.1 on the next page very carefully.

If you selected this module as **one of your elective modules**, please read instruction 6.2 on the next page very carefully.

**The mark awarded for this assessment will determine your final mark for Module 2A**. In order to pass this module, you need to obtain a mark of 50% or more for this assessment.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT**

**Please read the following instructions very carefully before submitting / uploading your assessment on the Foundation Certificate web pages.**

1. You must use this document for the answering of the assessment for this module. The answers to each question must be completed using this document with the answers populated under each question.

2. All assessments must be submitted electronically in MS Word format, using a standard A4 size page and a 11-point Arial font. This document has been set up with these parameters – **please do not change the document settings in any way**. **DO NOT** submit your assessment in PDF format as it will be returned to you unmarked.

3. No limit has been set for the length of your answers to the questions. However, please be guided by the mark allocation for each question. More often than not, one fact / statement will earn one mark (unless it is obvious from the question that this is not the case).

4. You must save this document using the following format: **[student ID.assessment2A]**. An example would be something along the following lines: 202223-336.assessment2A. **Please also include the filename as a footer to each page of the assessment** (this has been pre-populated for you, merely replace the words “studentID” with the student number allocated to you). Do not include your name or any other identifying words in your file name. **Assessments that do not comply with this instruction will be returned to candidates unmarked**.

5. Before you will be allowed to upload / submit your assessment via the portal on the Foundation Certificate web pages, you will be required to confirm / certify that you are the person who completed the assessment and that the work submitted is your own, original work. Please see the part of the Course Handbook that deals with plagiarism and dishonesty in the submission of assessments. **Please note that copying and pasting from the Guidance Text into your answer is prohibited and constitutes plagiarism. You must write the answers to the questions in your own words**.

6.1If you selected Module 2A as one of your **compulsory modules** (see the e-mail that was sent to you when your place on the course was confirmed), the final time and date for the submission of this assessment is **23:00 (11 pm) GMT on 1 March 2023**. The assessment submission portal will close at 23:00 (11 pm) GMT on 1 March 2023. No submissions can be made after the portal has closed and no further uploading of documents will be allowed, no matter the circumstances.

6.2 If you selected Module 2A as one of your **elective modules** (see the e-mail that was sent to you when your place on the course was confirmed), you have a **choice** as to when you may submit this assessment. You may either submit the assessment by **23:00 (11 pm) GMT on 1 March 2023** or by **23:00 (11 pm) BST (GMT +1) on 31 July 2023**. If you elect to submit by 1 March 2023, you **may not** submit the assessment again by 31 July 2023 (for example, in order to achieve a higher mark).

7. Prior to being populated with your answers, this assessment consists of **14 pages**.

**ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS**

**Please note that all references to the “MLCBI” or “Model Law” in this assessment are references to the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency.**

**QUESTION 1 (multiple-choice questions) [10 marks in total]**

Questions 1.1. – 1.10. are multiple-choice questions designed to assess your ability to think critically about the subject. Please read each question carefully before reading the answer options. Be aware that some questions may seem to have more than one right answer, but you are to look for the one that makes the most sense and is the most correct. When you have a clear idea of the question, find your answer and mark your selection on the answer sheet by highlighting the relevant paragraph **in yellow**. Select only **ONE** answer. Candidates who select more than one answer will receive no mark for that specific question.

**Question 1.1**

Which of the following statements **does not** reflect the purpose of the Model Law?

1. The purpose of the Model Law is to provide greater legal certainly for trade and investment.
2. The purpose of the Model Law is to provide protection and maximization of the value of the debtor’s assets.
3. The purpose of the Model Law is to facilitate the rescue of a financially troubled business, by providing a substantive unification of insolvency law.
4. The purpose of the Model Law is to provide a fair and efficient administration of cross-border insolvencies that protects all creditors and the debtor

**Question 1.2**

Which of the following statements are reasons for the development of the Model Law?

1. The increased risk of fraud due to the interconnected world.
2. The difficulty of agreeing multilateral treaties dealing with insolvency law.
3. The practical problems caused by the disharmony among national laws governing cross-border insolvencies, despite the success of protocols in practice.
4. All of the above.

**Question 1.3**

Which of the following challenges to a recognition application under the Model Law **is most likely to be successful**?

1. The registered office of the debtor is not in the jurisdiction where the foreign proceedings were opened, but the debtor has an establishment in the jurisdiction of the enacting State.
2. The registered office of the debtor is in the jurisdiction of the enacting State, but the debtor has an establishment in the jurisdiction where the foreign proceedings were opened.
3. The debtor has neither its COMI nor an establishment in the jurisdiction where the foreign proceedings were opened.
4. The debtor has neither its COMI nor an establishment in the jurisdiction of the enacting State.

**Question 1.4**

Which of the following rules or concepts set forth in the Model Law ensures that fundamental principles of law are upheld?

1. The *locus standi* access rules.
2. The public policy exception.
3. The safe conduct rule.
4. The “hotchpot” rule.

**Question 1.5**

For a debtor with its COMI in South Africa and an establishment in Argentina, foreign main proceedings are opened in South Africa and foreign non-main proceedings are opened in Argentina. Both the South African foreign representative and the Argentinian foreign representative have applied for recognition before the relevant court in the UK. Please note that South Africa has implemented the Model Law subject to the so-called principle of reciprocity (based on country designation), Argentina has not implemented the Model Law and the UK has implemented the Model Law without any so-called principle of reciprocity. In this scenario, **which of the following statements is the most correct one**?

1. The foreign main proceedings in South Africa will not be recognised in the UK because the UK is not a designated country under South Africa’s principle of reciprocity, but the foreign non-main proceedings in Argentina will be recognised in the UK despite Argentina not having implemented the Model Law.
2. Both the foreign main proceedings in South Africa and the foreign non-main proceedings in Argentina will not be recognised in the UK because the UK has no principle of reciprocity and Argentina has not implemented the Model Law.
3. Both the foreign main proceedings in South Africa and the foreign non-main proceedings in Argentina will be recognised in the UK.
4. None of the statements in (a), (b) or (c) are correct.

**Question 1.6**

Which of the following statements regarding concurrent proceedings under the Model Law **is true**?

1. No interim relief based on Article 19 of the Model Law is available if concurrent domestic insolvency proceedings and foreign proceedings exist at the time of the application of the foreign proceedings in the enacting State.
2. In the case of a foreign main proceeding, automatic relief under Article 20 of the Model Law applies if concurrent domestic insolvency proceedings and foreign proceedings exist at the time of the application of the foreign proceedings in the enacting State.
3. The commencement of domestic insolvency proceedings prevents or terminates the recognition of a foreign proceeding.
4. If only after recognition of the foreign proceedings concurrent domestic insolvency proceedings are opened, then any post-recognition relief granted based on Article 21 of the Model Law will not be either adjusted or terminated if consistent with the domestic insolvency proceedings.

**Question 1.7**

When using its discretionary power to grant post-recognition relief pursuant to Article 21 of the Model Law, what should the court in the enacting State primarily consider?

1. The court must be satisfied that the interests of the creditors and other interested parties, excluding the debtor, are adequately protected.
2. The court should consider whether the relief requested is necessary for the protection of the assets of the debtor or the interests of the creditors and strike an appropriate balance between the relief that may be granted and the persons that may be affected.
3. The court should be satisfied that the foreign proceeding is a main proceeding.
4. All of the above.

**Question 1.8**

Which of the statements below regarding the Centre of Main Interest (COMI) and the Model Law **is correct**?

1. COMI is not a defined term in the Model Law.
2. For a corporate debtor, the Model Law does contain a rebuttable presumption that the debtor’s registered office is its COMI.
3. For an individual debtor, the Model Law does contain a rebuttable presumption that the debtor’s habitual residence is its COMI.
4. All of the above.

**Question 1.9**

An automatic stay of execution according to article 20 in the Model Law covers:

1. Court proceedings.
2. Arbitral Tribunals.
3. Both (a) and (b).
4. Neither (a) nor (b).

**Question 1.10**

Article 13 grants access to the creditors in a foreign proceeding. Which of the following statements correctly describes the protection granted in Article 13?

1. A foreign creditor has the same rights regarding the commencement of, and participation in, a proceeding as creditors in this State.
2. A foreign creditor has the same rights as it has in its home state.
3. All foreign creditors’ claims are, as a minimum, considered to be unsecured claims.
4. Article 13 contains a uniform ranking system to avoid discrimination.

**QUESTION 2 (direct questions) [10 marks in total]**

**Question 2.1 [maximum 3 marks]**

Under the MLCBI, **explain and discuss** what the appropriate date is for determining the COMI of a debtor?

* The appropriate date is the date of commencement of the foreign proceeding.
* Where the business activity of the debtor ceases following the commencement of foreign proceedings, all that may exist to indicate the debtor’s COMI, at the relevant time of the application for recognition, is the foreign proceeding itself and the activity of the foreign representative in administering the estate. Thus determining the COMI by reference to the date of the commencement of those proceedings produces a clear result.
* While the COMI of a debtor can move, if such a move is in close proximity timing wise to the commencement of the foreign proceedings, the relevant evidence will be harder to establish.

**Question 2.2 [maximum 3 marks]**

The following **three (3) statements** relate to particular provisions / concepts to be found in the Model Law. Indicate the name of the provision / concept (as well as the relevant Model Law article), addressed in each statement.

**Statement 1** “*This Article lays down the requirements of notification of creditors.*”

**Statement 2** *“This Article is referred to as the ‘Safe Conduct Rule’”.*

**Statement 3** “*This Article contains a rebuttable presumption in respect of an undefined key concept in the MLCBI.*”

**Statement 1:**

* *Article 14. Notification to foreign creditors of a proceeding*
* Relates to the concepts of access and non-discrimination

**Statement 2:**

* *Article 10. Limited jurisdiction*
* Also relates to concept of access

**Statement 3:**

* *Article 31. Presumption of insolvency based on recognition of a foreign main proceeding*
* Relates to concepts of recognition and non-discrimination

**Question 2.3 [2 marks]**

In the *IBA* case appeal, the English Court of Appeal upheld the decision that the court should not exercise its power to grant the indefinite Moratorium Continuation. **Please explain**.

Sanko Steamship Co. Ltd. [2015] EWHC 1031 (Ch) [paras. 38–50]; Re OJSC International Bank of Azerbaijan; Bakhshiyeva v Sberbank of Russia [2018] EWCA Civ 2802

* A foreign representative applied to extend a moratorium already in place for an **indefinite period** beyond termination of the foreign proceeding in order to prevent English/Welsh law governed creditors (which were not bound by the plan established in the foreign proceedings) from pursuing such claims in England.
* The question before the English Court of Appeal was whether the Gibbs Rule may be observed by accepting the continuation of rights which English law confers, and at the same time, observe the principles of modified universalism and the Model Law.
* The English Court of Appeal upheld the denial of the request noting at [98] that had the MLCBI ever contemplated the continuance of relief beyond the relevant foreign proceeding, it would have addressed the question explicitly and provided appropriate machinery for such a purpose.

**Question 2.4 [2 marks]**

In terms of relief, what should the court in an enacting State, where a domestic proceeding has already been opened in respect of the debtor, do after recognition of a foreign main proceeding? In your answer you should **mention the most relevant article of the MLCBI**.

What (ongoing) duty of information does the foreign representative in the foreign main proceeding have towards the court in the enacting State? Here too you are required to **mention the most relevant article of the MLCBI**.

* *Article 28. Commencement of a proceeding … after recognition of a foreign main proceeding*
* The Court in the enacting State should ensure any interim relief available is consistent with the relief given/available in the domestic proceedings
* Once the foreign main proceeding is recognised in the enacting State, any relief in effect under Articles 19 or 20 must be reviewed by the Court – and must be modified or terminated if the relief is inconsistent with the foreign main proceedings under Article 30(b).
* **Article 18** requires the foreign representative to promptly inform the Court in the enacting state of (i) any substantial change in status of the foreign proceedings or the status of the foreign representative’s appointment and (ii) any other foreign proceeding concerning the same debtor that becomes known to them.

**QUESTION 3 (essay-type questions) [15 marks in total]**

A foreign representative of a foreign proceeding opened in State B in respect of a corporate debtor (the Debtor) is considering whether or not to make a recognition application under the implemented Model Law of State A (which does not contain any reciprocity provision).

In addition, the foreign representative is also considering what (if any) relief may be appropriate to request from the court in State A.

Write a brief essay in which you address the three questions below.

**Question 3.1 [maximum 4 marks]**

The foreign representative is considering his options to secure the value of the debtor’s assets located in State A. With reference to the Model Law’s provisions on access and co-operation, explain how these rights in State A can benefit the foreign representative.

* **Article 9** expresses the principle of direct access to a foreign representative to courts of an enacting state. This gives the foreign representative standing (or the right to be heard) in relation to the assets/matters concerning the subject company in State A.
* This is necessary in these circumstances as no recognition application has yet been filed and without this step, the foreign representative is not able to be heard in the jurisdiction.
* The Model Law fills gaps that arise when different jurisdictions are involved and enables courts and insolvency practitioners to achieve optimal results. The access rights provided offer transparency and can save the foreign representative time and expense, which in turn avoids the destruction of the debtor’s value.

**Question 3.2 [maximum 5 marks]**

For a recognition application in State A to be successful, the foreign proceeding opened in State B must qualify as a “foreign proceeding” within the meaning of article 2(a) of the MLCBI and the “foreign representative” must qualify as a foreign representative within the meaning of article 2(d) of the MLCBI. Assuming that both qualify as such, list and briefly explain (with reference to the relevant MLCBI articles) any other evidence, restrictions, exclusions and limitations that must be considered, as well as the judicial scrutiny that must be overcome for a recognition application to be successful.

* The requirements for recognition of a foreign proceeding are contained in **Article** **15**, which provides that an application must be accompanied by:
  + a certified copy of the decision commencing the foreign proceeding and appointing the foreign representative;
  + a certificate from the foreign court affirming the existence of the foreign proceeding and the appointment of the foreign representative;
  + in the absence of the above, any other evidence acceptable to the Court of the existence of the foreign proceeding and appointment of the foreign representative;
  + a statement identifying all foreign proceedings in respect of the debtor;
  + where relevant, a translation of documents filed in support of the application.
* The Court needs to consider whether it is a main or non-main proceedings by reference to the debtor’s COMI. A foreign proceeding that is not commenced in the jurisdiction of the debtor’s COMI, and which does not have at least an establishment in the enacting State, cannot be recognised.
* It is also necessary for the Court to ensure that recognition of the foreign proceedings is not contrary to the public policy of the State under **Article 6**.
* In the absence of public policy grounds in the enacting State for denying a request for recognition, the request for recognition may be granted.

**Question 3.3 [maximum 5 marks]**

As far as relief is concerned, briefly explain (with reference to the relevant MLCBI articles) what pre- and post-recognition relief can be considered in the context of the MLCBI. Also address which restrictions, limitations or conditions should be considered in this context. For the purposes of this question, it can be assumed that there is no concurrence of proceedings.

**Pre-recognition**

* Even prior to a decision being handed down in relation to the recognition of the foreign proceeding, the Court (in the enacting jurisdiction) is entitled, in certain circumstances, to grant interim relief pursuant to Article 19.
* The relief must be urgently needed to protect the debtor’s assets or the interests of the creditors – but can only be made on a provisional basis, pending the recognition decision. By way of example, the Court may grant:
  + the stay of execution against the debtor’s assets; or
  + entrust the administration or realisation of assets located in the State to the f0reign representative to protect and preserve their value.
* Interim relief ordered pursuant to Article 19 will terminate upon recognition – but the relief may be extended under Article 21.

**Post-recognition**

* Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding that is a ‘foreign main proceeding’, Article 20 provides for automatic mandatory relief in the form of a stay of actions or proceedings concerning the debtor’s assets, rights, obligations or liabilities.
* The relief automatically applicable under Article 20 is not subject to the same requirements for adequate protection of interests that apply to any discretionary relief granted under Article 19 and Article 21. Nor can the relief be modified or terminated under Article 22 (except in cases of concurrent proceedings – which is not the case here).

**Question 3.4 [maximum 1 mark]**

Briefly explain – with reference to case law – why a worldwide freezing order granted as pre-recognition interim relief *ex* article 19 MLCBI, is unlikely to continue post-recognition *ex* article 21 MLCBI?

* It is beyond the scope of what would be available to an insolvency practitioner operating in the State (and not in the context of a foreign proceeding. The purpose of the Model Law is to put the relevant insolvency practitioner, so far as practicable, in the same position as they would be under domestic law. Absent some exceptional reason, a freezing order will not be justified.
* In *Igor Vitalievich Protasov and Khadzhi-Murat Derev* [2021] EWHC 392(CH), the Court considered whether under Article 21, a worldwide freezing order granted as provisional relief under Article 19 could continue following recognition of the foreign main proceedings in the UK. W
* hile the English Court determined that it did in fact have jurisdiction to grant such post-recognition discretionary relief, it held that the relevant restrictions and limitations existed which would inhibit the proper exercise of that jurisdiction.
* The Court considered that the English bankruptcy regime offers other forms of protection which mean that relief in the form of a freezing order (or other injunction) is simply not warranted.

**QUESTION 4 (fact-based application-type question) [15 marks in total]**

**Read the following facts very carefully before answering the questions that follow.**

**(1) Background**

The Commercial Bank for Business Corporation (the Bank) has operated since 1991. The Bank’s registered office is situated in Country A, which **has not** adopted the MLCBI. As of 13 August 2015, the Bank’s majority ultimate beneficial owner was Mr Z, who held approximately 95% of the Bank’s shares through various corporate entities (including some registered in England).

The Bank entered provisional administration on 17 September 2015 and liquidation on 17 December 2015. Investigations into the Bank have revealed that it appears to have been potentially involved in a multi-million dollar fraud resulting in monies being sent to many overseas companies, including entities incorporated and registered in England.

Proceedings were commenced in the High Court of England and Wales (Chancery Division) against various defendants on 11 February 2021 (the English Proceedings).

An affidavit (the Affidavit) sets out a detailed summary of the legislation of Country A’s specific insolvency procedure for Banks. The procedure involves initial input from the National Bank (the NB) and at the time that the Bank entered liquidation, followed by a number of stages:

***Classification of the bank as troubled***

The NB may classify a bank as “troubled” if it meets at least one of the criteria set down by article 75 of the Law of Country A on Banks and Banking Activity (LBBA) or for any of the reasons specified in its regulations.

Once declared “troubled”, the relevant bank has 180 days within which to bring its activities in line with the NB’s requirements. At the end of that period, the NB must either recognise the Bank as compliant, or must classify it as insolvent.

***Classification of the bank as insolvent***

The NB is obliged to classify a bank as insolvent if it meets the criteria set out in article 76 of the LBBA, which includes:

1. the bank’s regulatory capital amount or standard capital ratios have reduced to one-third of the minimum level specified by law;
2. within five consecutive working days, the bank has failed to meet 2% or more of its obligations to depositors or creditors; and
3. the bank, having been declared as troubled, then fails to comply with an order or decision of the NB and / or a request by the NB to remedy violations of the banking law.

The NB has the ability to classify a bank as insolvent without necessarily needing to first go through the troubled stage. Article 77 of the LBBA accordingly provides that a bank can be liquidated by the NB directly, revoking its licence.

***Provisional administration***

The Deposit Guarantee Fund (DGF) is a governmental body of Country A tasked principally with providing deposit insurance to bank depositors in Country A. However, the Affidavit explained that the DGF is also responsible for the process of withdrawing insolvent banks from the market and winding down their operations via liquidation. Its powers include those related to early detection and intervention, and the power to act in a bank’s interim or provisional administration and its ultimate liquidation.

Pursuant to article 34 of the DGF Law, once a bank has been classified as insolvent, the DGF will begin the process of removing it from the market. This is often achieved with an initial period of provisional administration. During this period:

1. the DGF (acting via an authorised officer) begins the process of directly administering the bank’s affairs. Articles 35(5) and 36(1) of the DGF Law provide that during provisional administration, the DGF shall have full and exclusive rights to manage the bank and all powers of the bank’s management.
2. Article 36(5) establishes a moratorium which prevents, *inter alia*: the claims of depositors or creditors being satisfied; execution or enforcement against the bank’s assets; encumbrances and restrictions being created over the bank’s property; and interest being charged.

***Liquidation***

Liquidation follows provisional administration. The DGF is obliged to commence liquidation proceedings against a bank on or before the next working day after the NB’s decision to revoke the bank’s licence.

Article 77 of the LBBA provides that the DGF automatically becomes liquidator of a bank on the date it receives confirmation of the NB’s decision to revoke the bank’s licence. At that point, the DGF acquires the full powers of a liquidator under the law of Country A.

When the bank enters liquidation, all powers of the bank’s management and control bodies are terminated (as are the provisional administrators’ powers if the bank is first in provisional administration); all banking activities are terminated; all money liabilities due to the bank are deemed to become due; and, among other things, the DGF alienates the bank’s property and funds. Public encumbrances and restrictions on disposal of bank property are terminated and offsetting of counter-claims is prohibited.

As liquidator, the DGF has extensive powers, including the power to investigate the bank’s history and bring claims against parties believed to have caused its downfall. Those powers include:

1. the power to exercise management powers and take over management of the property (including the money) of the bank;
2. the power to compile a register of creditor claims and to seek to satisfy those claims;
3. the power to take steps to find, identify and recover property belonging to the bank;
4. the power to dismiss employees and withdraw from/terminate contracts;
5. the power to dispose of the bank’s assets; and
6. the power to exercise “such other powers as are necessary to complete the liquidation of a bank”.

The DGF also has powers of sale, distribution and the power to bring claims for compensation against persons for harm inflicted on the insolvent bank.

However, article 48(3) of the DGF Law empowers the DGF to delegate its powers to an “authorised officer” or “authorised person”. The “Fund’s authorised person” is defined by article 2(1)(17) of the DGF Law as: *“an employee of the Fund, who on behalf of the Fund and within the powers provided for by this Law and / or delegated by the Fund, performs actions to ensure the bank’s withdrawal from the market during provisional administration of the insolvent bank and/or bank liquidation”*.

Article 35(1) of the DGF Law specifies that an authorised person, must have: “*…high professional and moral qualities, impeccable business reputation, complete higher education in the field of economics, finance or law…and professional experience necessary.*” An authorised person may not be a creditor of the relevant bank, have a criminal record, have any obligations to the relevant bank, or have any conflict of interest with the bank. Once appointed, the authorised officer is accountable to the DGF for their actions and may exercise the powers delegated to them by the DGF in pursuance of the bank’s liquidation.

The DGF’s independence is addressed at articles 3(3) and 3(7) of the DGF Law which confirm that it is an economically independent institution with separate balance sheet and accounts from the NB and that neither public authorities nor the NB have any right to interfere in the exercise of its functions and powers.

Article 37 establishes that the DGF (or its authorised person, insofar as such powers are delegated) has extensive powers, including powers to exercise managerial and supervisory powers, to enter into contracts, to restrict or terminate the bank’s transactions, and to file property and non-property claims with a court.

**(2) The Bank’s liquidation**

The Bank was formally classified by the NB as “troubled” on 19 January 2015. The translated NB resolution records:

“The statistical reports-based analysis of the Bank’s compliance with the banking law requirements has found that the Bank has been engaged in risky operations.”

Those operations included:

1. a breach, for eight consecutive reporting periods, of the NB’s minimum capital requirements;
2. 10 months of loss-making activities;
3. a reduction in its holding of highly liquid assets;
4. a critically low balance of funds held with the NB; and
5. 48% of the Bank’s liabilities being dependent on individuals and a significant increase in “adversely classified assets” which are understood to be loans, whose full repayment has become questionable.

Despite initially appearing to improve, by September 2015 the Bank’s financial position had deteriorated further with increased losses, a further reduction in regulatory capital and numerous complaints to the NB.

On 17 September 2015, the NB classified the Bank as insolvent pursuant to article 76 of the LBBA. On the same day, the DGF passed a resolution commencing the process of withdrawing the Bank from the market and appointing Ms C as interim administrator.

Three months later, on 17 December 2015, the NB formally revoked the Bank’s banking licence and resolved that it be liquidated. The following day, the DGF initiated the liquidation procedure and appointed Ms C as the first of the DGF’s authorised persons to whom powers of the liquidator were delegated. Ms C was replaced as authorised officer with effect from 17 August 2020 by Ms G.

Ms G’s appointment was pursuant to a Decision of the Executive Board of the Directors of the DGF, No 1513 (Resolution 1513). Resolution 1513 notes that Ms G is a “leading bank liquidation professional”. It delegates to her all liquidation powers in respect of the Bank set out in the DGF Law and in particular articles 37, 38, 47-52, 521 and 53 of the DGF Law, including the authority to sign all agreements related to the sale of the bank’s assets in the manner prescribed by the DGF Law.

Resolution 1513 expressly excludes from Ms G’s authority the power to claim damages from a related party of the Bank, the power to make a claim against a non-banking financial institution that raised money as loans or deposits from individuals, and the power to arrange for the sale of the Bank’s assets. Each of the excluded powers remains vested in the DGF as the Bank’s formally appointed liquidator.

On 14 December 2020, the Bank’s liquidation was extended to an indefinite date, described as arising when circumstances rendered the sale of the Bank’s assets and satisfaction of creditor’s claims, no longer possible.

On 7 September 2020, the DGF resolved to approve an amended list of creditors’ claims totalling approximately USD 1.113 billion. The Affidavit states that the Bank’s current, estimated deficiency exceeds USD 823 million.

**QUESTION 4.1 [maximum 15 marks]**

Prior to any determination made in the English Proceedings, Ms G, in her capacity as authorised officer of the Deposit Guarantee Fund (or DGF) of Country A in respect of the liquidation of the Commercial Bank for Business Corporation (the Bank), together with the DGF (the Applicants), applied for recognition of the liquidation of the Bank before the English court based on the Cross-Border Insolvency Regulations 2006 (CBIR), the English adopted version of the MLCBI.

Assuming you are the judge in the English court considering this recognition application, you are required to discuss:

4.1.1 whether the Bank’s liquidation comprises a “foreign proceeding” within the meaning of article 2(a) of the MLCBI **[maximum 10 marks]**; and

In order for the liquidation to be deemed a “*foreign proceeding*” under Article 2(a), it must be established that the liquidation is:

1. a collective judicial or administrative proceeding in a foreign State
2. pursuant to a law relating to insolvency
3. in which proceeding the assets and affairs of the debtor are subject to control or supervision by a foreign court,
4. for the purpose of reorganisation or liquidation.

In my view, the liquidation is a foreign proceedings for the purposes of the Model Law, for the reasons below.

In providing my reasons below, I examine and discuss the above elements cumulatively on the basis that courts before me have confirmed that the matters, thought described separately, are intended to be considered as a whole (see page 5 of the Digest of Case Law on the UNCITRAL Model Law (***DCL***)).

* It is clear that an administrative process has taken place under the laws of Country A – which has resulted in the foreign liquidation and the application for recognition of that foreign proceedings which is now before me.
* Courts have suggested that the hallmark of whether something is a “proceeding” is the existence of “*a statutory framework that constrains a company’s actions and regulates the final distribution of a company’s assets*” (see page 6 of the DCL).
* I consider there is a statutory framework in place in Country A, which has been followed by the applicants, and which satisfies (a) above:
  + Article 75 of the LBBA empowers the NB to classify a bank as “troubled” if it meets certain criteria, following which the bank has 180 days within which to bring its activities in line with the NB’s requirements. At the end of that period, the NB must either recognise the bank as compliant or insolvent.
  + Article 76 sets out the criteria upon which the NB can classify a bank as insolvent.
  + Article 77 of the LBBA accordingly provides that a bank can be liquidated by the NB directly, revoking its licence.
    - It is plain from the above that the administrative proceeding is pursuant to Country A’s laws relating to **insolvency**, which satisfies (b) above.
  + The Deposit Guarantee Fund (***DGF***) is a governmental body of Country A. The DGF is responsible for the process of withdrawing insolvent banks from the market and winding down their operations via liquidation.
  + Article 34 of the DGF Law provides that once a bank has been classified as insolvent, the DGF will begin the process of removing it from the market. During this period the DGF (acting via an authorised officer – in this case, **Ms G**) begins the process of directly administering the bank’s affairs and Article 36(5) establishes a moratorium on actions against the bank.
  + Article 48(3) of the DGF Law empowers the DGF to delegate its powers to an “authorised officer” or “authorised person” – namely, Ms G.
  + Article 77 of the LBBA provides that the DGF automatically becomes liquidator of a bank on the date it receives confirmation of the NB’s decision to revoke the bank’s licence. At that point, the DGF acquires the full powers of a liquidator under the law of Country A.
    - In determining whether a proceeding is “**collective**” for the purposes of the Model Law, a key consideration is whether substantially all the assets and liabilities of the debtor are being dealt with in the proceeding. So far as the evidence suggests, the proceeding is collective in the sense that the DGF via its represent is dealing collectively with the bank’s assets and liabilities.
    - This fact is also relevant when considering (c) above, regarding whether the proceeding concerns the debtor’s assets and affairs being subject to control or supervision of a court. Note that courts have interpreted this to also cover situations in which an insolvency practitioner is exercising control for a regular authority – as is the case here (page 7 of the DCL). On this basis, (c) is satisfied.
    - It is plain from the above analysis that the administrative proceeding has been brought for the purpose of reorganisation or liquidation of the debtor bank – which satisfies (d) above.

**On this basis, the matter is a “foreign proceedings” for the purposes of the Model Law.**

4.1.2 whether the Applicants fall within the description of “foreign representatives” as defined by article 2(d) of the MLCBI **[maximum 5 marks]**.

Article 2(d) provides that “*foreign representative*” means:

1. a person or body, including one appointed on an interim basis;
2. authorised in a foreign proceeding;
3. to administer the reorganisation or the liquidation of the debtor’s assets or affairs or to act as a representative of the foreign proceeding.

In these circumstances, there is a “body” (namely, the DGF) and a “person” (namely, Ms G) who seek recognition as foreign representatives.

**The body**

Article 77 of the LBBA provides that the DGF automatically becomes liquidator of a bank on the date it receives confirmation of the NB’s decision to revoke the bank’s licence.

At that point, the DGF acquires the full powers of a liquidator under the law of Country A. These powers include the power to exercise “such other powers as are necessary to complete the liquidation of a bank”.

On 17 December 2015, the NB formally revoked the Bank’s banking licence and resolved that it be liquidated. The following day, the DGF initiated the liquidation procedure.

Thus, the DGF is a body authorised in the foreign proceeding to administer the reorganisation or the liquidation of the Bank and to act as its representative.

**The person**

Article 48(3) of the DGF Law empowers the DGF to delegate its powers to an “authorised officer” or “authorised person” – namely, Ms G.

Article 37 establishes that the DGF (or its authorised person) has extensive powers, including powers to exercise managerial and supervisory powers, to enter into contracts, to restrict or terminate the bank’s transactions, and to file property and non-property claims with a court.

Ms G’s appointment was made pursuant to a Decision of the Executive Board of the Directors of the DGF, No 1513 (***Resolution 1513***). Resolution 1513 delegates to Ms G all liquidation powers in respect of the Bank set out in the DGF Law and in particular articles 37, 38, 47-52, 521 and 53 of the DGF Law.

Thus, Ms G is a person authorised in the foreign proceeding to administer the reorganisation or the liquidation of the Bank and to act as its representative.

**While not all facts provided in the fact pattern given for this Question 4 are immediately relevant for your answer, please do use, where appropriate, those relevant facts that directly support your answer.**

For the purpose of this question, you may further assume that the Bank is **not excluded** from the scope of the MLCBI by article 1(2) of the MLCBI.

**\* End of Assessment \***