

The Vienna Sales Convention

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Justice Azcuna herein gives an overview of the Vienna Sales Convention, which provides a uniform law for international sale of goods. The Convention was approved in a domestic conference held in Vienna in 1980 by 62 states including the Philippines. The Author cites international contracts of sale as the only valid object of the international agreement. A sale is said to be international if the places of business of the parties are in different states. The purpose of the Convention is to simplify international sales of goods by subjecting them to a single uniform law. The Author also discusses the aspect of risk and delivery, describing the latter as the heart of an international sale, as it involves place, time, manner and passing of risk. Thus, the agreement of the parties anent this matter prevails over anything else. However, in the absence of stipulation between them, the Convention provides that the seller has to hand the goods over to the first carrier. It is also at this same moment that risk passes. The Convention is seen as a positive tool in removing international sales from the idiosyncrasies of private international law and conflicting domestic laws of nations.

The issue also features as an annex the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods.