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Mary Helen Carlson is Attorney-Adviser in the Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Private International Law at the U.S. Department of State. She heads the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law's (UNCITRAL) negotiation of a new transport convention on the carriage of goods. She also has served as member or head of the U.S. delegation to the negotiation of numerous bilateral and multilateral instruments, including the OAS Model Bill of Lading, the UNIDTROTIT Model Law on Franchising, the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention, and its accompanying Protocols to Combat Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons, and the Hague Conference on Private International Law's Convention of the International Recovery of Child Support. Before joining the State Department, she was associated with the law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and received her law degree magna cum laude from the Georgetown University Law Center.