



FINANCE COMMITTEE
86th session
Rome, 4 April 2019

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F.C. (86) 6
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REPORT

(prepared by the UNIDROIT Secretariat)

1. The 86th session of the Finance Committee was held at the seat of UNIDROIT in Rome on 4 April 2019.

2. The *Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr Benito Jiménez, a representative of Mexico*, opened the session and welcomed the members of the Committee (for a complete list of participants, see Annex).

Item No. 1 on the agenda: Adoption of the agenda (F.C. (86) 1)

3. The *Chair* proposed the adoption of the agenda and opened the floor for comments. *The agenda was adopted as proposed in document F.C. (86) 1.*

Item No. 2 on the agenda: Draft Budget for 2020 – first estimates (F.C. (86) 2)

4. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to the draft Budget for 2020 set forth in document F.C. (86) 2, which contained the Secretariat's first estimates for that year. He then invited the Secretary-General to present this document to the Committee.

5. The *Secretary-General* thanked the Chair for his commitment to the Committee and noted the importance of its present session. He noted that the documents had been prepared with due consideration being given to i) the new UNIDROIT Contributions Chart for member States, and ii) the new triennial Work Programme for the Institute which would be proposed to the Governing Council by the Secretariat, in May 2019 (98th Session, Rome, 8-10 May 2019).

6. The Secretary-General then drew attention to document F.C. (86) 2, relating to the Draft Budget for 2020. He noted that the somewhat cumbersome procedure envisaged for budgetary documents at UNIDROIT was to ensure that the highest level of transparency was achieved and that input on the Annual Budget was adequately received from all the relevant organs within the Institute's governance structure. He reminded the Committee that the figures in document F.C. (86) 2 were preliminary and would be confirmed at the 87th session of the Committee to be held in the autumn of 2019. While noting that the 2018 financial year of the Institute had ended in February, and that the Accounts for that year would be reviewed in Agenda Item 4, he reminded the Committee that, as is always the case, surpluses and shortfalls from previous financial years were not made part of the Budget for a following year, and that the Budget document was drafted independently of all such figures. Moreover, the Budget for 2020 was the first Budget drafted in accordance with the new Contributions Chart, as consistent with the UN Scale of Assessments 2019-2021 adopted by the

UNIDROIT General Assembly at its 76th session (Rome, 7 December 2017), as defined concerning its implementation at the 77th session (Rome, 6 December 2018).

7. The Secretary-General reminded participants of the procedure leading to the final approval of the budget: (i) submission of the draft Budget to the Finance Committee at its spring meeting; (ii) based on the Committee's deliberations and comments, the first estimates -revised, if applicable- would be submitted as a draft Budget to the Governing Council; (iii) based on input from the Governing Council, the draft Budget would be revised again by the Secretariat and sent to member States during the summer for their review and comments; (iv) any comments received would be provided to the Finance Committee for consideration at its autumn session, after which (v) the draft Budget, if necessary, would be revised once more by the Secretariat and submitted to the General Assembly at its 78th session in December 2019, for approval.

8. The Secretary-General drew attention to the notes within document F.C. (86) 2, noting that with the application of the new Contributions Chart, there would be, on paper, an increase in receipts of 53,130 EUR. The unit of contributions remained the same at 2,530 EUR, and the overall increase in receipts was due to the application of the new Contributions Chart moving a greater number of States into higher categories, as compared to the number of States moved into lower ones. As such, all increases in the Budget were purely a direct result of the implementation of the new Contributions Chart as mandated by the General Assembly.

9. On the items relating to expenditure in Document F.C. (86) 2, the foreseeable increase in receipts had been allocated as follows: (i) 500 EUR increased under Chapter 1(2) (auditing costs), since a new auditor needs to be appointed and market price seems to have gone up slightly; (ii) 20,000 EUR under Chapter 1(4) (Committees of Experts), which was due to the proposed adoption of a new and more intensive Work Programme which would entail three ongoing core projects rather than two, to start in January 2020, as well as to the fact that the amount of expenditure included for 2019 was unusually low due to the end of some projects which did not require further WG meetings; the new Work Programme would require a higher number of meetings involving experts; (iii) 5,000 EUR under Chapter 1(5) (Official journeys and promotion of activities), which would largely be allocated for promotional work following the diplomatic Conference for the MAC Protocol scheduled for November 2019; (iv) 1,000 EUR under Chapter 1(6) (interpreters) also for the aforementioned meetings of experts. Under Chapter 2, there would be no increase in salaries and allowances; however, based on the new proposed Work Programme, the number of staff members at the Secretariat might be increased slightly – for this, an updated staffing table, as consistent with Article 39 (2) of the UNIDROIT Regulations, would be submitted to the Committee for consideration at its next session; the tax reimbursement credit under Chapter 2(3), which applied only to the taxes which were advanced to the US Revenue and Tax Office for an employee of US origin, had been retained – however, due to the same employee having left the Secretariat, the amount reflected under this category would be adjusted accordingly. Under Chapter 3, (social security charges) there had been an increase of 20,000 EUR in order to correct the situation created by the change in charges applicable to the previous Secretary-General, whose social security scheme had been channelled through the UN, and the present Secretary-General who came under the regular scheme; additionally, the social security charges applicable to newer staff members would also be higher than those applicable to existing ones. Under Chapter 5, cost of Heating (Chapter 5(2)) and Water (Chapter 5(3)) had been increased by a total of 7,000 EUR to cater for the maintenance costs of pipes.

10. The *Representative of Spain* expressed his support for the draft Budget and congratulated the Secretariat for proposing an austere Budget, as consistent with past practice at the Institute. He agreed with the need to allocate greater resources to the promotional work associated with the MAC Protocol, and supported the amounts proposed by the Secretariat. Additionally, he noted that in

2018, there had been savings under Chapter 5 on Expenses (Maintenance costs); he queried if those savings could be devoted to covering the extra maintenance costs predicted for 2020.

11. The *Representative of the United States of America* appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat to fully account for all the expenses it expected to incur, as well to produce an austere and well-rounded Budget. She commended the forward-looking approach implemented with a view to foreseeing the expenses associated with promotional efforts in relation to the MAC Protocol, but wondered how the amounts allocated for staff would be impacted upon once the newly proposed, and more ambitious Work Programme had been adopted, and the staff employed by the Secretariat had been adjusted accordingly. She also commended the efforts made towards implementation of the new Contributions Chart, as consistent with the UN Scale of Assessments 2019-2021, and specifically thanked the Secretariat for circulating the expected contributions States would have to make – this had been requested by the United States of America in the past, so that discussions could be started with States whose contributions were being revised.

12. The *Representative of Indonesia* appreciated the work done by the Secretariat in preparing the 2020 Budget, the efforts it was making in further promoting the MAC Protocol, and the capability to obtain more value out of the conservative Budget that UNIDROIT had. He also supported the changes introduced into the budget for social security, which were a correction made to address new facts which had arisen. Moreover, he expressed general support for the increases in expenditure and thanked the Secretariat for rightfully allocating these expenses to required items. Lastly, he noted the importance of dissemination work for the MAC Protocol and recommended the consideration of multilateral fora, as well as enlisting the assistance of existing experts in the various regions to further augment the promotional efforts dedicated to the instrument after its adoption.

13. The *Representative of Canada* appreciated the efforts made by UNIDROIT to maintain its tight Budget consistent with past practice. She expressed preliminary support for the Budget, subject to consideration of the adjustments made prior to the next meeting of the Committee. Additionally, she expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for providing the updated Contributions Chart for their consideration.

14. The *Representative of Italy* commended the work done by the Secretariat in drafting an austere Budget. He wondered if the Secretariat had an estimate of the types of costs it would incur with the updated staffing scheme, which the Secretary-General had noted would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

15. The *Representative of Japan* echoed the appreciation expressed by others for the Secretariat in drafting a cautious Budget, and hoped that the Institute would continue to utilise its small Budget as effectively as it had done in the past.

16. The *Chair, as the Representative of Mexico*, commended the work done by the Secretariat in maintaining its fairly modest and limited Budget; he acknowledged the 2.4% increase which had been proposed and noted that despite this increase being a direct result of the implementation of the new Contributions Chart, it still came off as a 2.4% increase at a time when other organisations were adhering to 0% nominal growth. He wondered whether it would be possible to add further explanations in order to clearly state that the increase was not intended, but was a result of the adoption of a new Contributions Chart. He also recommended taking measures to limit the increase to 1% nominal growth, if possible.

17. The *Representative of Germany* endorsed the updated Budget proposed for 2020 and expressed positive appreciation of the handling of this conservative sum by the Secretariat. He also introduced a new colleague to the Committee, who would also be looking at UNIDROIT matters at the German Embassy in Rome.

18. The *Secretary-General* thanked all the representatives for their support, and for the other observations and interventions relating to the 2020 Budget. He explained that efforts would be made to limit the amount spent on maintenance, with reliance being made on savings as appropriate. He agreed with the representative of the United States of America, noting that the Secretariat would do its best to manage promotional efforts to the extent possible within the limited budget available to it. On the question of staffing, he explained that there would likely be some changes in the Secretariat towards the end of the calendar year, when a senior staff member was expected to retire. The financial resources made available as a result of this retirement, in addition to the surplus available to the Secretariat (to be discussed under Agenda Item 4) would result in at least two new staff positions between the UN designated levels of P2 and P3. The exact nature and costs of these positions would be detailed at the next session of the Committee. Additionally, the *Secretary-General* confirmed that multilateral fora would be utilised for the promotion of the MAC Protocol, as well as of other instruments (eg, ALIC), and that the Secretariat had already been in contact with several bodies with which it would increase its collaboration. He specifically noted the close cooperation of Indonesia with the Institute, and its strategic importance for UNIDROIT'S outreach in areas where it was less present, such as the Asia-Pacific and in South America. In relation to the apparent growth of the draft Budget, he confirmed that this growth was not intentional, nor had it been put in place on purpose, but was only procedural and a direct result of the application of the new Contributions Chart – this would be made very clear in the final document. Moreover, as it would be explained later, the increase might be more apparent than real.

19. The *Chair, as the Representative of Mexico*, queried whether the expenses of replacing the water pipes would be better suited in Chapter 5(6) 'Upkeep of the Building'. The *Secretary-General* noted that the Secretariat would consider this notion and allocate the costs as appropriate.

20. Seeing no further requests from the floor, the *Chair* proposed that the Committee proceed with the proposed first estimates for the 2020 Budget and express preliminary approval for the estimates, subject to the additional changes which would be made prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

21. *The Finance Committee expressed its preliminary approval of the Secretariat's first estimates for the draft Budget for 2020.*

Item No. 3 on the agenda: Classification of Member States in the UNIDROIT Contributions Chart (F.C. (86) 3)

22. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (86) 3. He noted that, at its 76th session (Rome, 7 December 2017), the General Assembly, on the basis of the Finance Committee's review of the Contributions Chart's methodology and the recommendation it had consequently made at its 83rd session (21 September 2017), had considered and adopted a "revised methodology for the classification of member States in the new Contributions Chart, which would make use of the UN scale of assessments for 2019-2021 and come into effect in 2019".¹ Since then, the Secretariat had worked on transitioning to the new system, and, at the 77th session of the General Assembly (Rome, 6 December 2018), it had been decided that this would be introduced in 2020. He then invited the *Secretary-General* to present the document, additionally asking representatives to refer to the annexes of document F.C. (86) 3, which specifically delineated the contributions States would make to the UNIDROIT Budget under the new Contributions Chart.

23. The *Secretary-General* noted that document F.C. (86) 3 explained the rules applicable to the application of the new Contributions Chart; the new system of contributions which was being adopted was consistent with the UN Scale of Assessments for 2019-2021, with all States being divided into

¹ See F.C. (83) 9 Paragraph 46

eleven categories.² Additionally, in its annexes the document specified the amounts each State was currently contributing and the amounts they would contribute after the implementation of the revised methodology.

24. The Secretary General briefly explained the procedure going forward and how it could be made more effective. The Committee would be invited to recommend approving the proposed Contributions Chart, which would then be presented to the General Assembly for consideration. Once member States are notified of the introduction of the new Chart, they would have up to a year to issue objections and comments as consistent with Article 16 (6) of the UNIDROIT Statute. Such objections would have the potential to significantly slow down the process of implementation of the new system; hence, in order to avoid this, the Secretariat would individually reach out to all the member States impacted by the changes in order to ascertain their agreement to the new system. This would be done *following the approval of the proposed Contributions Chart by the Finance Committee*. The UN scale of assessments for 2019-2021, when applied, resulted in the reclassification of thirteen member States (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Venezuela) into higher categories and fourteen Member States (Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Malta, Paraguay, Portugal, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia) into lower categories. For the States that had been reclassified into lower categories, the Secretariat would propose to include a request in their communication to consider waiving their right to a lower contribution if they deemed this to be appropriate. The Secretariat would present an updated document reporting on the results of its communications with impacted States at the next session of the Committee, wherein the Committee would be asked to approve the Contributions Chart, which would then be presented to the General Assembly for final approval.

25. The *Representative of Canada* drew attention to the changes that the new Contributions Chart would bring, one being that many of the States that had been reclassified and moved into higher categories were those that had been in arrears in the past. Hence, she queried if the Secretariat had a plan to tackle potential non-payment from these States.

26. The *Representative of the United States of America* built upon the comments of her Canadian counterpart, noting that six of the States reclassified into higher categories had been noted to be in arrears at the General Assembly's 77th session (Rome, 6 December 2018). She asked for a clarification on the situation with regards to the current arrears, and additionally wondered whether the contributions of States that waived their rights to decrease would be considered as voluntary contributions, or added to the Contributions Chart as assessed contributions.

27. The *Representative of Italy* concurred with the concern raised by the representatives of the United States of America and Canada as regards the need to pay special attention to States presently in arrears that had been reclassified into higher categories. Moreover, similar to the representatives of the United States of America and Canada, he expressed general support for the new Contributions Chart and methodology used in order to produce it.

28. The *Representative of Indonesia* noted that the Indonesian contribution had been significantly impacted by the new Contributions Chart, and that it was presently being discussed by their Government. He added that while Indonesia had been placed in Category VI, it was on the lowest end of the spectrum of States that fell into this category based on their UN Contributions. He noted that the present contribution which Indonesia made aligned well with the sum found in Category VIII, and that the reclassification of Indonesia two categories above this would have to be given due consideration by the Government. Moreover, he acknowledged the increased engagement by the Secretariat with Indonesia, and South-East Asia in general, and the benefits this inculcated,

² For a description of the division into categories of the States, see paragraph 6 of document F.C. (86) 3.

and emphasised the importance of UNIDROIT's work noting this to be a factor in the consideration on the raised contribution presently being undertaken.

29. The *Chair, as the Representative of Mexico*, expressed approval for the updated Chart produced by the Secretariat.

30. The *Secretary-General* elaborated that there were seven States that had seen their contributions increased and had also previously been in arrears. These were Brazil, Egypt, Israel, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela. He thanked Nigeria for recently having paid a substantial amount of its arrears this year, but noted that part of the contribution was still outstanding. While adding that there were certainly some States on the aforementioned list that had longstanding arrears, UNIDROIT's strategy to deal with this was two-fold: first, it exercised great prudence in its budgetary planning, so that shortfalls were projected *ex ante*, and expenses were made keeping them in mind; second, it would continue to manage arrears intensively, as it had done historically. Most States in arrears fell into one of two categories: first, where non-payment was a longstanding recurring problem, and second, where non-payment was purely temporary and as a result of administrative issues and confusion. The Secretariat was looking to identify States in the second category and to follow up with them intensively. Moreover, the Institute also presently maintained a surplus which it could resort to as a buffer in the case of additional arrears. Lastly, the Secretariat also anticipated that, based on informal conversations, some States were considering waiving their right to a reduction in contributions. On the matter of how such a waiver would be reported, this was a question which the Committee still needed to decide. It was the view of the Secretariat that they could be treated as voluntary contributions in order to allow for flexibility in their usage. However, the States that waived their right to a reduction would bilaterally be asked for their preference in this regard, and would even be in a position to earmark the funds for a particular project – with a view to incentivise States to opt for the waiver in order to prioritise a particular project.

31. In response to the comments made by the representative of Indonesia, the Secretary-General clarified that the Secretariat would continue to enhance its cooperation with Indonesia and the South-East Asian region in general, irrespective of changes to the Contributions Chart. However, additional resources would only enable UNIDROIT to further augment its efforts in all areas of its work.

32. The *Representative of the United States of America* requested an update on the Status of the current arrears in contributions. The *Secretary-General* informed the Committee that the status of arrears and pending contributions as at 4 April 2019 was as follows: Saudi Arabia 27,830 EUR (they had paid their dues in 2018 but had arrears from 2017 and the Secretariat was actively following up with them); Belgium 45,540 EUR (the Secretariat had been in touch with the relevant authorities and this seemed to be an administrative error which would be corrected in the near future); Brazil 45,540 EUR (these were arrears for 2018 and the Secretariat was following up in this regard); Croatia 37,950 EUR (they had formally noted that this would be cleared and the Secretariat was following up with them accordingly); Colombia 40,480 EUR (this sum covered two years and the Secretariat had been making efforts to contact the relevant officials to address this matter); Egypt 2,650 EUR (these arrears were from 2017 and the Secretariat had been following up accordingly); Iran 60,720 EUR (for the past three years); Israel 60,720 EUR (for the past three years); Nigeria 12,650 EUR (this only related to 2018 and Nigeria had cleared all its previous arrears); Paraguay 18,823.14 EUR (this related to half the contribution for 2017 and the full contribution for 2018); Pakistan 28,009.23 EUR; Tunisia 12,650 EUR (for 2018); and Venezuela 100,275.07 EUR (arrears of

several years).³ Those States that had arrears for more than two years had now lost their right to vote in the General Assembly.⁴

33. Seeing no further requests for the floor, the *Chair* concluded the agenda item, noting that the Committee expressed appreciation for the Contributions Chart presented and acknowledged the challenge of increasing contributions for States in arrears. It looked forward for confirmation from members States that had had their categories changed.

34. *The Committee approved the Contributions Chart for presentation to the General Assembly.*

Item No. 4 on the agenda: First review of the Accounts of the financial year 2018 (F.C. (86) 4)

35. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document (F.C. (86) 4) and invited the Secretary-General to present the document.

36. The *Secretary-General* expressed gratitude to the Secretariat and the Treasurer for producing the accounts for 2018 very soon after the end of the financial year. He drew the Committee's attention to page 20 of the document, where it had been indicated that not only had the Institute retained large parts of the surplus from 2017 of 83,510.15 EUR, but it had also managed to have a surplus of 282,410.39 EUR in 2018. This was the result of several factors: (i) the receipts, as reflected on page 13 of the document, had been higher than anticipated by 51,031.73 EUR as a result of States paying their arrears to the Institute; the Secretariat was grateful to the States that had resolved their arrears in 2018, with a special thanks to Nigeria for settling the large arrears which it had accumulated; (ii) a reduction in expenditure, largely thanks to the prudent management of expenses and the foresight given to anticipated shortfalls by Professor Anna Veneziano, who had served as Secretary-General *a.i.* in the first eight months of 2018; (iii) additionally, the savings were also a result of less expenditures under Chapter 1(4) (Committees of Experts) (73,120.24 EUR), as most of the Institute's projects were in a very advanced stage in 2018, with several important meetings held via videoconferencing; (iv) the amount spent under Chapter 1(7)(Interpreters) was also reduced as a consequence of this (8,153.94 EUR); but the Secretary General noted that this would no longer be the case in 2020, as the Secretariat would be undertaking new projects which would necessitate physical meetings; (v) lastly, substantive savings had also been made under Chapter 2(1) due to the position of Secretary-General being vacant for the first eight months of the year (75,927.73 EUR).

37. The *Representative of China* queried why a contribution from their Government of 20,000 EUR in 2018 had not been reflected in the receipts document.

38. The *Secretary-General* clarified that since 2017, there was an agreement within the Committee that the generous contributions by the People's Republic of China would be made part of the report presented to the Committee at its autumn meeting, when the Secretariat would be in a better position to elaborate how these extraordinary contributions had been spent. Nevertheless, the Secretariat was very grateful to China for these contributions and had benefitted greatly from the experts it had been able to host at the UNIDROIT library thanks to these additional resources. He added that the Secretariat, in collaboration with Professor Shi Jingxia, member of the Governing Council from China, was presently working on the establishment of a permanent Chair on Chinese-

³ A full update on the status of arrears in contributions would be presented to the Committee at its meeting in autumn 2019.

⁴ UNIDROIT Statute, art. 16(7) ("Participating Governments which are more than two years in arrears with the payment of their contribution shall lose the right to vote in the General Assembly until they regularise their position. Furthermore, no account shall be taken of such Governments in the process of arriving at the majority required by Article 19 of this Statute.").

UNIDROIT studies through which a senior researcher from China could come to UNIDROIT for an extended period of time to conduct legal research.

39. The Secretary-General added that the excess in expenditure under Chapter 1(5) (Official journeys and promotion of activities) of 3,907.58 EUR had been taken from the surplus of 2017, which had specifically been earmarked for this purpose.

40. *Seeing no requests for the floor, the Chair thanked the Secretariat for providing the first review of the Accounts for the financial year 2018.*

Item No. 5 on the agenda: Update on the implementation of the new compensation and social security package offered to UNIDROIT staff (F.C. (86) 5)

41. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (86) 5 and invited the Secretary-General to present that document. He specifically noted that the Committee would look forward to an update on the job descriptions requested at its previous sessions.

42. The *Secretary-General* reemphasised the importance of the implementation of the new compensation and social security packages offered to UNIDROIT staff, as this played an important role in bringing UNIDROIT in line with other organisations as regards to these matters. He recalled that the reform relating to the compensation scheme had been implemented in March 2018, As a result of the reservations that had been expressed concerning the use of the UN salary scales together with the retention of certain allowances linked to the Co-Ordinated Organisations' system of allowances, an exercise in comparison had been made. The Secretary-General consequently drew the attention of the Committee to the Chart annexed to document F.C. (86) 5, which compared the UN System of Allowances with the one offered at UNIDROIT. It was noted that entire packages had to be compared, and that there were differences between the UNIDROIT package and the UN package; for this reason, the Chart illustrated the packages that would be allotted to five different types of hypothetical staff members under both systems – the results of this comparison varied in different categories of staff and were based on a large number of assumptions derived from publicly available information. As a result of this exercise, it had been concluded that adopting the UN System fully would be impractical due to a number of key differences between the UN and UNIDROIT (such as pensions, some generous social benefits available to UN staff, and the fact that Italian UNIDROIT staff members paid taxes whereas all UN Staff Members did not). Furthermore, it was concluded that there was no reason to consider generally the UNIDROIT package as more favourable than its UN equivalent.

43. On social security reforms, the Secretary-General noted that the Secretariat had continued working on implementing the new system, and had now identified the staff members that would be joining it – all newly hired staff members would be obliged to join the new system, whereas already existing staff members would be allowed to remain under their pre-existing Italian system. Presently, there were only about 4-5 members of the Secretariat willing to join – this would increase as new staff members would be brought on-board. Based on the age of retirement of the present staff members, it was envisaged that within the next five years, fifty percent of the staff would be covered under the new plan. The ISRP System which had been selected had a very high cost of management annually (23,000 EUR). This was considered to be unreasonable, keeping in mind the number of employees subscribing to the scheme. Upon further negotiation, ISRP had agreed to reduce this fee for the first two years, which would allow UNIDROIT to join the system. These costs would become less disruptive as the number of employees joining the scheme increased. On medical coverage, upon extensive negotiations, UNIDROIT would be ascribing, at the most affordable rate available, to a plan equivalent to the Allianz Silver Plan which had been recommended by the Governing Council.

44. The *Representative of Germany* requested that the detailed methodology which had been utilised in the preparation of the Chart which the Secretary-General had presented to the Committee be shared with the Committee, including the date on which the currency rates had been calculated, and the applied multiplier for post adjustment payments. Germany would then share this Chart with its competent authorities for consideration.

45. The *Representative of the United States of America* looked forward to the review of job descriptions which were being prepared by the Secretariat, which were to be part of the Staff Regulations, which in themselves also needed to be revamped. She looked forward to submitting comments on these documents online and at the next meeting of the Committee.

46. The *Chair, in his capacity as the representative of Mexico*, noted the differences between the packages offered at the UN and the packages offered at UNIDROIT. He acknowledged that in principle, there was an equivalence as to the extent sustainable for UNIDROIT. He also agreed with the representative of the United States of America as to the request to be able to give comments on the job descriptions and the update to the Regulations.

47. The *Secretary-General* noted that the methodology for the Chart would be shared in the near future with the entire Committee. Additionally, as regards the job descriptions, the Secretary-General noted the sensitive and difficult nature of this task, while confirming that they were being worked upon and would be made available at the next session of the Committee, alongside a thorough update of the Regulations.

48. *Absent further requests for the floor, the Committee took note of the Secretariat's update regarding the implementation of the compensation and social security reforms.*

Item No. 6 on the agenda: Any other business

49. The *Chair* drew the Finance Committee's attention to the final item on the agenda and opened the floor for comments and questions regarding any other business.

50. *The Chair, seeing no further requests for the floor, thanked the Committee members and closed the meeting.*

ANNEX**List of participants**

Mr Eduardo BRIGIDI DE MELLO	(Brazil)
Ms Anna KAPELLAS	(Canada)
Ms CIREN Yuzhen	(People's Republic of China)
Mr LI Dongchao	(People's Republic of China)
Mr Pascal GAND	(France)
Ms Michaela GASTIGER	(Germany)
Mr Olaf REIF	(Germany)
Mr Gustaf DAUD SIRAIT	(Indonesia)
Mr Mohsen DANESHMAND	(Iran)
Mr Riccardo CURSI	(Italy)
Ms Hitomi SATO	(Japan)
Mr Benito JIMENEZ	(Mexico)
M Vladimir IVANOV	(Russia)
Mr Rafael OSORIO	(Spain)
Ms Lorenza FÄSSLER	(Switzerland)
Mr Alex EARLY	(United States of America)
Ms Sandrine GOFFARD	(United States of America)

UNIDROIT Secretariat

Mr Ignacio TIRADO	(Secretary-General)
Ms Anna VENEZIANO	(Deputy Secretary-General)
Mr Hamza HAMEED	(Legal Consultant)