EN

FINANCE COMMITTEE
94th session
Rome/remote, 20 October 2022

UNIDROIT 2022
F.C. (94) 8
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REPORT
(prepared by the UNIDROIT Secretariat)

1. The 94th session of the Finance Committee was held in person in Rome and via videoconference on 20 October 2022.

Item No. 1 on the agenda: Opening of the session

2. The *Chair* opened the session and welcomed all the participating Members of the Committee, noting that he was pleased to see many colleagues in person (for a complete list of participants, please see Annexe I below). He indicated that this was his final year as Chair of the Finance Committee and that the longest-serving Committee Member would take over this role from him. Furthermore, he welcomed UNIDROIT Legal Officer *Ms Thijssen*, who had recently been designated as responsible officer from the Secretariat for the Finance Committee.

3. The *Chair* thanked the Secretariat for the timely preparation and circulation of the meeting documents and invited the Secretary-General to take the floor and share introductory remarks.

4. The *Secretary-General* welcomed the Members of the Committee and expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr Samuel Rothenberg for his excellent leadership of the Committee. He explained that the objective of this meeting was mostly to prepare the documents pertaining to financial matters to be considered by the General Assembly at its 81st meeting in December 2022.

Item No. 2 on the agenda: Adoption of the agenda (F.C. (94) 1)

5. The *Chair* proposed the adoption of the agenda and opened the floor for comments. *The agenda was adopted as proposed in document F.C. (94) 1 (see Annex II).*

Item No. 3 on the agenda: Final modifications to the Budget and Accounts for the 2021 financial year (F.C. (94) 2 and Accounts 2021)

6. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (94) 2 concerning the Accounts for the financial year 2021 and invited the Secretary-General to present the document.

7. The *Secretary-General* recalled that the Budget for the 2021 financial year as approved by the General Assembly at its 79th session (December 2020) provided for actual expenditure and actual receipts of € 2,345,060.00. He noted that the Accounts for 2021 showed that the Secretariat had managed to limit the actual expenditure to € 2,299,663.58 in 2021. At the same time, the actual receipts (€ 2,242,470.83) had also been lower than anticipated, leading to a debit balance in 2021 of € 57,192.75. He recalled that the Government of Denmark had paid its membership contribution

shortly after the closure of the 2021 financial year, and that the Accounts for 2021 would not have shown a deficit had this payment arrived slightly earlier.

8. The *Secretary-General* noted that 2021 had been a year in which the work of the Institute was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The applicable travel restrictions had led to substantial savings in expenditures under Chapter 1, Art. 1 (Governing Council and Permanent Committee), Art. 4 (Committees of Experts) and Art. 5 (Official journeys and promotion of activities). On the other hand, the Institute had invested in ICT equipment to facilitate the transition to virtual meetings, and the UNIDROIT website had been revamped. This had led to an increase in expenditure under Chapter 5 (Maintenance costs).

9. The *Chair* thanked the Secretary-General for his explanations and expressed his appreciation for the high level of transparency.

10. *The Committee agreed to transmit a positive opinion on the final modifications to the Budget and Accounts for the 2021 financial year to the General Assembly for its 81st session (Rome, 15 December 2022).*

Item No. 4 on the agenda: Adjustments to the Budget for the 2022 financial year (F.C. (94) 3)

11. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (94) 3 and invited the Secretary-General to present it.

12. The *Secretary-General* explained that document F.C. (94) 3 provided the Committee with an update regarding the running expenditure for 2022. He recalled that the first estimates of receipts and expenditures for the financial year 2022 had been examined by the Finance Committee at its 91st session (March 2021). Those first estimates had been submitted to the Governing Council, which had established the draft Budget 2022 at its 100th session (A) (April/May 2021). The draft Budget had then been submitted to the Governments of UNIDROIT Member States for their observations. The Governments of Brazil and of Argentina had submitted comments, both to request an additional year of suspension of their reclassification in the Contributions Chart. The Governments of Portugal and Ireland had decided to waive their right to a lower membership contribution. The draft Budget for 2022 had subsequently been presented to the Finance Committee at its 92nd session (November 2021) and ultimately approved by the General Assembly at its 80th session (December 2021).

13. The *Secretary-General* noted that, as per the Institute's practice, document F.C. (94) 3 proposed adjustments that may need to be made to the Budget for 2022, mainly based on the partial accounts available for the current financial year. He indicated that the Secretariat anticipated an increase in expenditure in 2022 of € 40,388.82. The additional expenses were expected to be compensated by the increase in the sale of publications experienced in 2022 and by a tax reimbursement credit from the Government of the United States.

14. Regarding the adjustments made to the expenditure, the *Secretary-General* noted that the expenses under Chapter 1 (Meeting and travel costs) were expected to be lower than anticipated. However, since the Secretariat had resumed the organisation of in-person meetings and considering that five more Working Group meetings would be held until the end of 2022, the savings under Chapter 1, Art. 4 (Committees of Experts) were expected to be relatively moderate (€ 7,000.00). Furthermore, he explained that the decrease of € 10,000.00 in the expected expenditure for heating in 2022 (Chapter 5, Art. 2) was due to a credit reimbursement the Institute had received relating to undue VAT payments charged by the utility company in previous years.

15. Regarding the anticipated increase in expenditure under Chapter 2, Art. 1 (Salaries) and Chapter 3, Art. 1 (Insurance against disablement, old age and sickness), the *Secretary-General* noted that this was due to the annual increase in salary payments and changes in the composition of the staff. One Senior Legal Officer had recently left the organisation and a Secretary had retired. He noted that the recent departure of these two colleagues, who were expected to be replaced in the next months, had not led to savings for the Institute given that it had had to pay out their unused days of leave. With a view to limit the financial risks for the Institute, the *Secretary-General* proposed to amend the current Office Instruction, according to which staff was entitled to accumulate maximum 60 days of unused leave and be paid out those days upon end of service. He proposed retaining the cap for the accumulation of unused annual leave (60 days) but limiting the pay-out to departing staff to maximum 30 days. He asked the Finance Committee to endorse the proposed change in approach.

16. The *Chair* thanked the Secretary-General for his detailed introduction of the document and invited the Members of the Finance Committee to express their views on the proposed new limit for the payment of unused leave (maximum 30 days).

17. The *Representative of Italy* thanked the Secretary-General for the comprehensive presentation and expressed his sincere appreciation for all the work done by UNIDROIT. He agreed with the proposed adjustments to the 2022 Budget. He also supported, in principle, the proposed change to the Office Instruction concerning the payment of unused leave, provided it took the possible legal risks of the change in approach into account, in light of the relevant rules under the Italian legal framework.

18. The *Secretary-General* indicated that the legal risks of the change in approach were expected to be limited and that the intention had been to be in line with the Italian legal framework, even if it may not be applicable in this context. He noted that, according to the current Office Instruction, staff was obliged to take annual leave and to limit unused leave to maximum 60 days. Amending the limit to maximum 30 days would not negatively affect any of the employees since they would be in the position to take holidays before leaving the Institute. Furthermore, he underscored that, in addition to limiting the financial risk of the Institute, the proposed change in approach also aimed to encourage staff to make use of the leave they were entitled to.

19. The *Representative of the United States* supported the proposal regarding unused leave in order to limit financial risks, especially considering the relatively small size of the Institute. He expressed his appreciation for the fact that the Institute had successfully maintained a zero-nominal growth over many years and noted that the proposed way forward seemed consistent with the approach taken by other organisations.

20. The *Representative of Canada* thanked the Secretariat for having prepared a comprehensive and transparent set of documents. She agreed with the proposed adjustments to the 2022 Budget, which had been clearly explained in the document. She considered the proposal regarding unused leave to be reasonable with a view to minimising the financial risk of the Institute and, therefore, expressed her support for the change in approach if compliant with the applicable legal framework.

21. The *Representative of Indonesia* also expressed support for the proposal regarding unused leave, observing that the change was merely an update of the existing Office Instruction.

22. *The Finance Committee agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal to limit the amount of days of unused leave eligible for pay-out at the time a staff member leaves the Institute to maximum 30 days, with the caveat that legal liability risks for the Institute should be limited.*

23. Regarding the recent retirement of a member of staff, the *Secretary-General* explained that there was a gap between the Institute's Regulations, which foresaw retirement at 65 years, and the Italian pension system, which only began making pension payments at 67 years. With the permission of the Finance Committee, the Permanent Committee and the General Assembly, UNIDROIT had offered employees affected by this discrepancy the possibility to continue their service, either fulltime or part-time, beyond the age of 65 years.

24. The *Representative of the United States* asked whether the two-year difference in retirement age between the UNIDROIT Regulations and the Italian social security system affected all staff.

25. The *Secretary-General* explained that the retirement age of 67 years was applicable only to staff members covered by the Italian social security system. He recalled that, in 2019, UNIDROIT had adhered to a new social security system, which was in line with the UNIDROIT Regulations and provided for a payment from the pension fund upon end of service either in the form of a leaving allowance or a retirement pension. Since new staff members were automatically covered by the new pension system, the issue of the two-year gap in retirement age would cease to exist over time. He also noted that the solution offered to staff affected by the discrepancy in retirement age, i.e., offering them the possibility to continue working beyond the age of 65 years, was in line with the UNIDROIT Regulations (Art. 49 (2)), which allowed the Institute to continue the service of staff members beyond their retirement age in special cases.

26. The *Representative of the United States* thanked the Secretary-General for the additional explanations and took note of the benefits of the new social security system for retiring staff. He offered support, where needed, in finding arrangements to bridge the two-year gap between the UNIDROIT Regulations and the Italian social security system.

27. The *Secretary-General* thanked the representative of the United States for his kind offer and noted that staff members were generally well-capable of continuing their work beyond the age of 65 years. The *Deputy Secretary-General* added that senior employees were valuable to the Institute given their deep knowledge and expertise. She noted that the retirement age under the UNIDROIT Regulations had initially been 60 years. It had been raised to 65 years in line with general trends on pension age. She reiterated that, since the new social security system had taken effect in 2019, the current discrepancy would automatically phase out.

28. *The Committee took note of the proposed adjustments to the Budget for the 2022 financial year and recommended their approval by the General Assembly at its 81st session (Rome, 15 December 2022).*

Item No. 5 on the agenda: Information on the extra-budgetary contributions received in 2022 and on their allocation to the activities and projects of the Institute (F.C. (94) 4)

29. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (94) 4, and invited the Secretary-General to present it.

30. The *Secretary-General* introduced the document, highlighting the importance of extra-budgetary contributions for UNIDROIT's work. He underlined the generosity of the Italian government. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) had provided a substantial contribution (€ 735,600.00) for the renovation of the façade of Villa Aldobrandini. In addition, MAECI had provided a grant of € 100,000.00 to fund a Chair or Senior Research position to assist UNIDROIT in its work in the field of law and agriculture. Preference had been given to female candidates from countries of the African continent given the challenges that exist in a number of these countries for the engagement of women in collaborative agricultural enterprises. Following a

competitive selection process, a researcher from Kenya, with an excellent professional record and work experience in gender issues had ultimately been selected. He was expected to join the Secretariat shortly, for a period of two years, and would contribute mostly to the UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD project on the Legal Structure of Agricultural Enterprises.

31. Furthermore, the *Secretary-General* thanked the People's Republic of China for its extra-budgetary contribution (€ 72,294.34) facilitating the stay of researchers and interns from China and developing countries at the Institute. Lastly, he noted that UNIDROIT had received an award from the United Rule of Law Appeal (UROLA) which would be used to finance the Institute's work in facilitating the application of the Legal Guide on Contract Farming at the domestic level.

32. The *Chair* thanked the Governments of Italy and China for their generosity and support to the Institute and commended the Secretariat's outreach activities.

33. The *Representative of Italy* thanked the Secretary-General for his update and praised UNIDROIT's work. He recalled that the Italian Government had also provided financial support to organise the first edition of the UNIDROIT International Summer School.

34. The *Secretary-General* indicated that the Summer School, which had been organised in July 2022 thanks to MAECI's generosity, had been a remarkable success. It had provided the opportunity to exchange views on UNIDROIT's instruments and ongoing projects with selected African experts, who had shown great interest in the Institute's work. Due to the Summer School, the Institute had gained 'ambassadors' on the African continent, as demonstrated by follow-up activities of Summer School participants. The *Secretary-General* expressed the hope that the Summer School could become an annual event, whereby the next edition would likely concentrate again on the African content.

35. The *Representative of the People's Republic of China* thanked the Secretariat for the excellent organisation of the meeting. She indicated that the People's Republic of China highly valued the cooperation with UNIDROIT in supporting researchers from China and developing countries. She anticipated that a further contribution to UNIDROIT's Scholarship, Internship and Research Programme would therefore follow soon.

36. The *Representative of the United States* applauded the new Chair programme to support the Institute's work in the area of agricultural development in collaboration with the Rome-based UN Agencies FAO and IFAD. He highlighted the importance of ensuring long-term sustainability in the agricultural sector, especially in the current circumstances. Moreover, he congratulated UNIDROIT on the European Union's signature of the Mining, Agriculture and Construction Equipment (MAC) Protocol to the Cape Town Convention, noting that the United States was very supportive of this instrument and had already signed it. He expressed the hope that the MAC Protocol would soon enter into force and offered support in the Institute's efforts to achieve that objective.

37. *The Committee took note of the information on extra-budgetary contributions received by UNIDROIT in 2022.*

Item No. 6 on the agenda: Arrears in contributions of Member States (F.C. (94) 5)

38. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (94) 5 and invited the Secretary-General to present that document.

39. The *Secretary-General* referred to the table with outstanding Member State contributions and noted that, in accordance with the UNIDROIT Statute, two Member States (Chile and Nigeria) risked losing their right to vote in the next General Assembly given their arrears. He underlined the importance of, and strong connection with, these countries and expressed the hope that they would

soon pay their outstanding contributions. Furthermore, he noted that the arrears of Pakistan related to volatility in currency exchanges. The remaining countries with outstanding contributions were inactive Member States. The *Secretary-General* recalled that the Secretariat had in the past proposed not to consider the outstanding contributions of inactive Member States for the Institute's budget, however the Finance Committee and the General Assembly had preferred to continue including those contributions in UNIDROIT's annual budget. Finally, the *Secretary-General* underscored the importance of the timely payment of Member State contributions for the effectiveness of the Institute and asked the Members of the Finance Committee to encourage States with arrears to meet their obligations.

40. The *Chair* highlighted the importance of all Member States ensuring that their annual contributions were made in a timely fashion, noting that the arrears currently represented more than 25% of UNIDROIT's annual budget.

41. The *Representative of Germany* thanked the Secretary-General for his presentation and praised the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the meeting documents. She noted that the arrears in Member State contributions amounting to over € 600,000.00 could jeopardise the work of UNIDROIT, which had only modest financial resources. She therefore fully supported the efforts of the Secretariat in encouraging Member States to reduce their arrears. She suggested that countries with outstanding contributions be made aware of the statutory consequences of several years of arrears, which should be activated where necessary. In addition, she suggested involving the Governing Council members of countries with arrears, where applicable, in encouraging those States to pay their contributions.

42. The *Representative of Canada* thanked the Secretary-General for his explanations, especially regarding the impact of arrears on voting rights in the General Assembly. She asked whether Member States with arrears would be able to take part in the elections for the next Governing Council, which were scheduled for December 2023.

43. The *Representative of the United States* noted that, in some international organisations, Member States that exceeded a certain level of arrears were not permitted to present candidates for elected office. He asked the Secretary-General to elaborate on the election process for Governing Council members at UNIDROIT.

44. The *Secretary-General* explained that Member States with arrears were not prohibited from presenting a candidate in the Governing Council elections because members of the Governing Council are appointed in a personal capacity. He noted that some of the Governing Council members were academics or legal experts from the private sector, although someothers were government officials. Voting Member States in the General Assembly could, however, take into account the status of arrears when expressing their votes. Furthermore, he indicated that the Governing Council election was generally a competitive process, although the competition was relatively modest.

45. The *Deputy Secretary-General* added that, in the past, certain States had paid their outstanding contributions before the Governing Council elections in order to ensure they had the right to vote in the General Assembly. Therefore, the elections could provide an incentive for countries with arrears to pay their Member State contributions.

46. *The Committee took note of the status of arrears in contributions of Member States.*

Item No. 7 on the agenda: Draft Budget 2023 and observations submitted by Member States (F.C. (94) 6)

47. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (94) 6, and invited the Secretary-General to present that document.

48. *The Secretary-General* recalled that the Finance Committee had already considered the first estimates of receipts and expenditure for the 2023 financial year at its 93rd session (May 2022). The Governing Council had subsequently established the Draft Budget for 2023 at its 101st session (June 2022). Following the meeting of the Governing Council, the Draft Budget 2023 had been submitted to the Governments of UNIDROIT Member States for observations. Comments had been received from the Governments of Brazil and Ireland, as explained in document F.C. (94) 6.

49. The *Secretary-General* explained that, based on a prudent estimate, the Secretariat expected the Institute's receipts to increase by € 10,000.00 in 2023 as compared to 2022. This was due to an expected increase in income from the sale of Official Commentaries following the likely entry into force of the Rail Protocol (which was pending ratification by Spain) and the publication of the fifth edition of the Official Commentary on the Aircraft Protocol.

50. Regarding expenditures, the *Secretary-General* explained that the Secretariat expected an increase in expenses for the Committees of Experts budget line (Chapter 1, Art. 4), from € 127,000.00 to € 147,000.00. He noted that the number of projects and, therefore, the number of Working Group meetings had doubled over time, with six projects currently running simultaneously. Since the previous amount of € 127,000.00 had originally been based on an expectation of approximately three simultaneous projects in their final stage, he warned that the proposed increase of € 20,000.00 may still make it challenging to cover the expenses of Working Group meetings for six projects. He anticipated that the Secretariat may therefore need to make use of the buffer that the Institute had built up over the last years. Furthermore, he indicated that a slight increase (€ 5,000.00) was anticipated for Chapter 1, Art. 5 (Official journeys and promotion of activities) considering that travel had returned to pre-COVID-19 levels.

51. With regard to expenditures relating to staffing costs (Chapter 2, Art. 1 – Salaries and allowances, and Chapter 3 – Social security charges), the *Secretary-General* explained that the salary system in place resulted in a steady increase in salary payments of about 2% each year, as demonstrated by the evolution of the actual expenditures for salaries in the last three years. The *Secretary-General* anticipated that adjustments to the Draft Budget 2023 would need to be made in the course of 2023 to reflect this consistent increase in salary payments, since the Draft Budget for 2023 as adopted by the Governing Council in June 2022 had not yet considered this. The anticipated proposal by the Secretariat to update the Draft Budget for 2023 would be accompanied by a proposal on how to ensure the long-term sustainability of the compensation structure. In addition, the *Secretary-General* anticipated a likely increase in the expenditure for heating in 2023.

52. The *Chair* thanked the Secretary-General for this presentation and observed that the salaries for UNIDROIT staff, which were based on the UN salary scales, might further increase in 2023 to account for the current high inflation rate.

53. The *Representative of Japan* thanked the Chair for his leadership, the Secretariat for the preparation of the meeting documents and the Secretary-General for his comprehensive explanation of the documents. He endorsed the Draft Budget for 2023 while taking note of the anticipated adjustments, adding that he trusted that the Secretariat would continue its prudent fiscal management of the Institute's resources.

54. The *Representative of Brazil* thanked the Secretary-General for his presentation and for the transparency shown in the documents. He also thanked the Secretariat for referring to the Note Verbale submitted by the Government of Brazil regarding the Draft Budget for 2023, by which it had requested an extension of the suspension of Brazil's reclassification in the Contributions Chart. He recalled that Brazil's contribution would have increased by 100% under the new Contributions Chart and noted that the reasons for Brazil's request for suspension remained the same as in previous

years, referring to the worldwide crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic which had significantly impacted Brazil. He further indicated that the Government of Brazil was doing its utmost to pay its arrears in contributions.

55. The *Representative of Italy* thanked the Secretary-General for his explanations regarding the Draft Budget for the 2023 financial year. He generally praised the prudent approach taken by the Secretariat and asked whether it had considered possible changes in the interest rate environment.

56. The *Representative of the United States* congratulated UNIDROIT with the imminent entry into force of the Rail Protocol and thanked the Secretary-General for the update regarding the Official Commentary to the Aircraft Protocol, recalling the success of the Cape Town Convention and its positive impact on global trade.

57. The *Secretary-General* thanked the Representative of Brazil for his explanations and showed understanding for the economic situation in Brazil. He expressed the hope that Brazil would continue its active participation in the work of the Institute and that it might consider ratifying the MAC Protocol. Moreover, in response to the question made by the Representative of Italy, he noted that it was indeed hoped that the Institute's funds would benefit from a positive interest rate in the near future.

58. *The Committee endorsed the Draft Budget for the 2023 financial year and requested a positive opinion to be transmitted to the General Assembly at its 81st session (15 December 2022), while taking note of the anticipated adjustments to the 2023 Budget in the course of next year.*

Item No. 8 on the agenda: Update on the pension scheme applicable to UNIDROIT staff (F.C. (94) 7)

59. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (94) 7, and invited Legal Officer Ms Thijssen to present that document.

60. *UNIDROIT Legal Officer Ms Thijssen* recalled that UNIDROIT had transitioned from the Italian social security system to a new social security scheme in 2019. Since then, new staff members automatically participated in the new scheme whereas existing staff members had been given the choice to remain covered by the Italian system or to adhere to the new scheme. The new pension fund was administered by the International Service for Remunerations and Pensions (ISRP). The assets in the pension fund were held in a bank account until a certain minimum threshold was met that would make it beneficial to move them to a portfolio for long-term investments in the financial markets. As had been explained to the Finance Committee at its 93rd session (May 2022), the threshold for investment had been raised from € 500,000 to € 900,000 earlier that year, mainly due to the expected significant increase in custodian bank fees. *Ms Thijssen* explained that the Secretariat, in consultation with the ISRP, was looking for solutions to contain the increase in custodian bank fees. Since this issue affected all five organisations represented in the Committee for the Administration of Funds (CAF), the matter would be further discussed during the next CAF meeting in November 2022. She noted that one of the solutions previously considered by the Secretariat was to join the assets of several pension funds of different organisations. In this regard, *Ms Thijssen* noted that joining UNIDROIT's assets with those of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) was no longer an option given that IDLO had implemented an alternative pension system.

61. *Ms Thijssen* then referred to the CAF's bi-annual report on UNIDROIT's pension fund, noting that the assets in the fund had increased to € 660,858 by the end of August 2022 but had subsequently been reduced due to the payment of a leaving allowance to a former member of staff. Finally, she explained that the Secretariat together with the ISRP was seeking to achieve a higher

interest rate for the assets that were currently held in a bank account. Specifically, the Secretariat requested the Finance Committee's approval to transfer a substantial part of these assets from the current bank account to a longer term account with a view to obtain a higher interest rate. The *Secretary-General* underlined the need to seek a higher interest rate given the current high inflation.

62. The *Chair* recalled that the social security reforms had been adopted by the General Assembly in 2017, and asked whether this decision would or could be revisited in the near future.

63. The *Secretary-General* indicated that the reforms were the result of a long and thorough process. Alternative proposals could be brought forward if identified, however that was not the case at the moment. The *Deputy Secretary-General* indicated that suggestions from the Finance Committee for alternative options would be welcome, noting, however, that it was challenging for UNIDROIT to adhere to a pension system given its relatively small size.

64. The *Representative of the United States* noted that he had sought to find solutions to the issues with the current pension system. Unfortunately, these efforts had not led to results. He asked the Secretary-General what system had been in place prior to the Institute's social security reforms and what had precipitated those reforms.

65. The *Secretary-General* indicated that UNIDROIT staff was previously covered by the Italian social security system and that the new pension scheme had taken effect as from 2019.

66. The *Deputy Secretary-General* noted that the Italian system was a relatively costly system and requested adherence for many years before being entitled to receive a pension, which made it challenging for an international organisation to attract staff for a shorter period of time. The *Secretary-General* added that, under the Italian system, the possibility to transfer out pension funds before the retirement age was reached depended on whether a bilateral agreement was in place between Italy and the country of origin of the staff member. Benefits of the new system were that staff members would be entitled to a payment from the pension fund at any time and irrespective of their country of origin.

67. The *Chair* thanked the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for their additional explanations.

68. *The Committee took note of the updates with regard to the implementation of the new pension scheme offered to UNIDROIT staff and endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to transfer a substantial part of the assets in the pension fund from the current bank account to a longer term account with a view to obtaining a higher interest rate.*

Item No. 9 on the agenda: Any other business

69. The *Chair* opened the floor for further interventions.

70. The *Secretary-General* thanked all the Members of the Finance Committee for their participation to the meeting and for their continuous support to the Institute.

71. There being no further items to be discussed, the *Chair* thanked all participants to the meeting and closed the session.

ANNEXE I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr Rafael SANTOS GORLA	Brazil
Ms Manon DOSTIE *(Remotely)*	Canada
Ms HU Rui *(Remotely)*	People's Republic of China
Ms Florie LE KER	France
Ms Petra SCHMELZER	Germany
Ms Isabelle GIERDEN	
Mr Purna Cita NUGRAHA *(Remotely)*	Indonesia
Mr Mahdi Janati MOHEB *(Remotely)*	Iran
Mr Fabio GIUDICE	Italy
Mr Masamichi YAMASHITA *(Remotely)*	Japan
Mr Fernando GIRÓN	Spain
Ms Olaya ROJO VÁZQUEZ	
(Excused)	Switzerland
Mr Samuel ROTHENBERG *(Chair)*	United States of America
Mr Ian THOMPSON *(Remotely)*	United Kingdom

UNIDROIT Secretariat

Mr Ignacio TIRADO	Secretary-General
Ms Anna VENEZIANO	Deputy Secretary-General
Mr Yiming SUN	Senior Legal Officer
Ms Myrte THIJSSEN	Legal Officer

ANNEXE II

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

2. Adoption of the agenda (F.C. (94) 1)

3. Final modifications to the Budget and Accounts for the 2021 financial year (F.C. (94) 2 and Accounts 2021)

4. Adjustments to the Budget for the 2022 financial year (F.C. (94) 3)

5. Information on the extra-budgetary contributions received in 2022 and on their allocation to the activities and projects of the Institute (F.C. (94) 4)

6. Arrears in contributions of Member States (F.C. (94) 5)

7. Draft Budget 2023 and observations submitted by Member States (F.C. (94) 6)

8. Update on the pension scheme applicable to UNIDROIT staff (F.C. (94) 7)

9. Any other business