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Item No. 11 on the agenda: UNIDROIT Correspondents

(prepared by the Secretariat)

<i>Summary</i>	<i>Presentation of the steps undertaken regarding the creation of a separate section on the UNIDROIT website – candidature proposed by the Secretariat</i>
<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>Examination of (a) candidature(s) by the Permanent Committee and recommendations to the Governing Council Approval of the selected candidate(s) by the Governing Council</i>
<i>Related document</i>	<u>UNIDROIT 2022 – C.D. (101) 17 rev. 2</u>

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 101st session (May 2022), the Governing Council approved the Plan submitted by the Secretary-General to carry out the mandate to revise the system of Correspondents given at the 100th session of the Governing Council (see document [C.D. \(100\) B.20](#)). The Secretariat then established the Office for Correspondents, a specific structure within the Institute to ensure a seamless, continuous dialogue with Correspondents.

2. The list of possible candidates (both for renewal of active Correspondents and presentation of new candidates) drawn up by the Secretariat on the basis of clear functions and general requirements (see document [C.D. \(101\) 17 rev. 2](#), paras. 2 and 9) was sent to the new Permanent Committee for Correspondents, which met on 9 June 2022. The Permanent Committee agreed with all names proposed and discussed the role of Governing Council Members within the system of Correspondents (notably, that, save *ad hoc* exceptions, honorary Governing Council Members would not become Correspondents due to the similarity of the roles).

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

A. Office for Correspondents within the Secretariat and current Correspondents

1. Office for Correspondents

3. A first team of Liaison Officers was appointed to be responsible for Correspondents from each of the four geographical regions of UNIDROIT (Africa, the Americas, the Asia-Pacific region, and Europe), with Principal Legal Officer and Treaty Depository Ms Marina Schneider coordinating the

team. These Liaison Officers are tasked with channelling institutional communication and requesting technical information from Correspondents for the different instruments and projects. They also act as intermediaries between Correspondents, the Library, and the staff in charge of the organisation of events.

4. Due to changes in the Secretariat and a slightly different division of regions, the following Legal Officers have been appointed:

- Asia: Mr Hamza Hameed
- Europe: Ms Myrte Thijssen
- MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa: Ms Philine Wehling
- The Americas: Ms Priscila Pereira de Andrade
- Pacific: Mr William Brydie-Watson

2. Current Correspondents by region

5. In 2022, the Governing Council approved the list of Correspondents presented by the Permanent Committee for Correspondents. All candidates had either a pre-existing relationship with UNIDROIT or, in a few cases, a strong professional link with the activities of the Institute, and they all had confirmed their interest and sent updated curricula. The total number of Correspondents now amounts to 108.

6. A summary table of Correspondents by region and by country is provided in the [Annexe](#).

(a) MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa

7. This section has been rearranged for operational purposes to “MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa”. UNIDROIT has four Member States in Africa. The current list (triennium 2022-2025) contains two Correspondents from Sub-Saharan Africa (namely, from Burkina Faso and Kenya, both non-Member States).

8. The UNIDROIT Secretariat is interested in proposing a lawyer from an African Member State for appointment as a Correspondent and will submit this proposal to the Permanent Committee for Correspondents.

9. UNIDROIT has four Member States in the MENA region. The current list (triennium 2022-2025) contains seven Correspondents from the MENA region (specifically, from Member States Egypt, Israel, Tunisia, and Türkiye, and from non-Member State Algeria).

(b) The Americas

10. UNIDROIT has 13 Member States in the Americas (11 of which in Latin America).

11. The current list (triennium 2022-2025) reports 10 Correspondents from North America (three for Canada, five for the United States of America and two for Mexico). UNIDROIT has 31 correspondents from Central and South America – from Member States (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, and Uruguay) and non Member States (Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Peru).

(c) The Asia-Pacific region

12. UNIDROIT has 11 Member States in the Asia-Pacific region.

13. The current list (triennium 2022-2025) for Asia reports 13 Correspondents (from Member States China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore, and from non-Member State Afghanistan).

14. For the Pacific region, the current list (triennium 2022-2025) reports 11 Correspondents from Australia and New Zealand (both Member States).

(d) Europe

15. UNIDROIT has 36 European Member States (with Israel and Türkiye listed among MENA countries for Correspondents). The current list contains 33 Correspondents from Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom), of which three are Institutional Correspondents—the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, the Hellenic Institute of International and Foreign Law, and the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law.

B. Permanent Committee for Correspondents within the Governing Council

16. Pursuant to the approval of the Plan by the Governing Council, a *Permanent Committee for Correspondents*¹ was created within the Governing Council to supervise the functioning of the programme and to inform proposals for appointments and reappointments made by the Secretariat or by other Governing Council Members prior to putting the decision before the Governing Council.

17. The Members of the Permanent Committee will receive the curriculum vitae of the pre-selected candidate from Africa in advance of the 102nd session of the Governing Council for their comments and recommendation. The result will then be presented to the plenary Governing Council for approval.

C. Website – separate section

18. A separate section for Correspondents has been created on the Institute's website at the following link: <https://www.unidroit.org/correspondents/>. Each Liaison Officer asked his or her region's Correspondents to send a short presentation text (maximum 300 words) describing their main areas of expertise related to the work of UNIDROIT. The section will also include events involving UNIDROIT instruments in which Correspondents have participated.

19. The separate section is already online but is currently being updated as the requested information is gradually received.

III. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

20. *The Governing Council is invited to take note of the implementation of the Plan for Correspondents and to approve the proposal of the Permanent Committee for a new Correspondent.*

¹ The members of the Permanent Committee for Correspondents for the period 2022-2025 triennial period are: Mr Eesa Allie Fredericks (South Africa) for Africa, Prof. Henry D. Gabriel (United States of America) and Prof. José Antonio Moreno Rodriguez (Paraguay) for The Americas, Mr Kim In-Ho (Republic of Korea) for the Asia-Pacific region, and Prof. Carmen Ungureanu (Romania) for Europe.

ANNEXE

**DISTRIBUTION OF CORRESPONDENTS OF THE INSTITUTE BY REGION
AND BY COUNTRY (2023 / 2025)**

*Non-Member States***

**RÉPARTITION DES CORRESPONDANTS DE L'INSTITUT PAR RÉGION ET PAR
PAYS**

(2023 / 2025)

*États non membres ***

MENA / MOAN	7		
Algeria** / <i>Algérie**</i>	1	Tunisia / <i>Tunisie</i>	1
Egypt / <i>Égypte</i>	2	Türkiye	2
Israel / <i>Israël</i>	1		
Sub-Saharan Africa / <i>Afrique sub-saharienne</i>	2		
Burkina Faso**	1	Kenya**	1

Europe	33		
Austria / <i>Autriche</i>	2	Poland / <i>Pologne</i>	1
Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>	1	Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>	1
Denmark / <i>Danemark</i>	1	Russian Fed. / <i>Féd. de Russie</i>	1
France	2	Slovakia / <i>Slovaquie</i>	1
Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	5	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	5
Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	2	Sweden / <i>Suède</i>	1
Italy / <i>Italie</i>	3	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>	1
Luxembourg	1	Ukraine**	1
Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>	2	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>	2

The Americas / <i>l'Amérique</i>	41		
Argentina / <i>Argentine</i>	5	Guatemala**	1
Brazil / <i>Brésil</i>	7	Honduras**	1
Canada	3	Mexico / <i>Mexique</i>	2
Chile / <i>Chili</i>	4	Panama**	2
Colombia / <i>Colombie</i>	2	Paraguay	1
Costa Rica**	1	Peru** / <i>Pérou**</i>	2
Ecuador** / <i>Équateur**</i>	2	United States of America / <i>États-Unis d'Amérique</i>	5
El Salvador**	1	Uruguay	2

Asia/ Asie	13		
<i>Afghanistan **</i>	1	Pakistan	1
<i>China / Chine</i>	2	Philippines	1
<i>India / Inde</i>	1	Rep. of Korea / <i>Rép. de Corée</i>	2
<i>Indonésie / Indonésie</i>	1	Singapore / <i>Singapour</i>	1
<i>Japan / Japon</i>	3		
Pacific / Pacifique	11		
<i>Australia / Australie</i>	8	New Zealand** / <i>Nouvelle Zélande**</i>	3

Institutional Correspondents / *Correspondants institutionnels*

1	Max-Planck Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht – Hamburg	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>
2	Hellenic Institute of International and Foreign Law / <i>Institut hellénique de droit international et étranger</i>	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>
3	Institut suisse de droit comparé	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>