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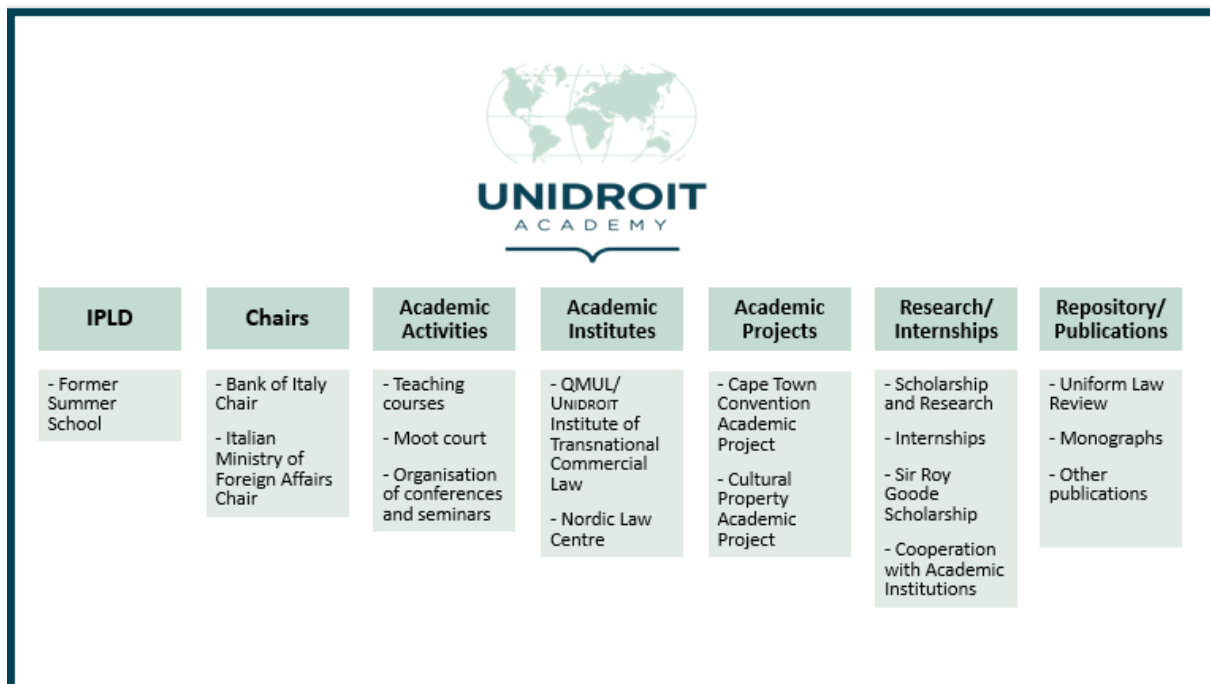
Item No. 12 on the agenda: UNIDROIT Academy

(prepared by the Secretariat)

<i>Summary</i>	<i>Development of UNIDROIT's academic network and activities</i>
<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>Take note of the activities and support the initiatives of the Secretariat</i>
<i>Related documents</i>	<i>Linked within text</i>

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 2021, at its 100th session, the Governing Council approved the Secretariat's proposal to create the UNIDROIT Academy, with a view to enabling the adoption of a unified approach to UNIDROIT's many interrelated non-legislative, academic activities ([C.D. \(100\) B.22](#)). This document provides an update on all activities with a predominantly academic component, as noted in the figure below.



II. UNIDROIT ACADEMIC PROJECTS

A. Cape Town Convention Academic Project



2. The Cape Town Convention Academic Project (CTCAP) is a joint undertaking between UNIDROIT and the University of Cambridge Faculty of Law, under the auspices of the Centre for Corporate and Commercial Law (3CL). The Aviation Working Group is the founding sponsor. Professor Ignacio Tirado (UNIDROIT), Professor Louise Gullifer (University of Cambridge), and Professor Jeffrey Wool (Aviation Working Group) serve as the Directors of CTCAP. It was originally founded in July 2011 by the University of Oxford and the University of Washington, in collaboration with UNIDROIT.

3. The primary objective of CTCAP is to facilitate and further the academic study and assessment of the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols. It does this by providing a comprehensive, digitised and searchable repository (www.ctcap.org) of documents and publications related to the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols.

4. Additionally, from time to time, CTCAP issues annotations to the Official Commentary on the Convention and the Aircraft Protocol, in order to provide further guidance on specific issues relevant to practitioners and researchers of the Cape Town Convention. It also publishes the Cape Town Convention Academic Journal and organises the annual Cape Town Convention Academic Project Conference, which takes place annually, currently at Cambridge University, having previously taken place at the University of Oxford and at UNIDROIT.

5. Finally, CTCAP also oversees two related projects: the [Economic Assessment of International Commercial Law Reform \(EA\) Project](#) and the [Best Practices in the Field of Electronic Registry Design and Operation \(BPER\) Project](#). These projects further complement research on the Cape Town Convention and transnational law in general. In 2021, the BPER Project published a [Best Practices Guide for Electronic Collateral Registries](#) and since then it has focused on developing best practices for electronic business registries.

6. Since the last session of the Governing Council, CTCAP has continued to be very active. In 2022, CTCAP launched the Cape Town Convention (CTC) International Moot Court Programme (CTC Moot Court). The purpose of the CTC Moot Court is to familiarise students and judges with the CTC in the context of complex hypothetical fact patterns and to provide students with educational exercises involving these instruments in a simulated judicial setting. The hypothetical and related materials will be modified on a jurisdictional basis, depending on the venue of the CTC moot court. The first edition will start with a competition between students from the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

7. Additionally, the sixth Workshop on the BPER Project was organised by CTCAP at the University of Cambridge (and remotely) on 12 September 2022. This project continued to be supported by the UNIDROIT Foundation and Aviareto. The Workshop involved 35 participants, 17 of which participated in person. The Workshop featured a review of a preliminary structure for the Guide on Electronic Business Registries, as well as discussions on questions of scope, differences between business registries and collateral registries, and the structure of the guide on business registries. Furthermore, the Workshop examined Critical Performance Factors for business registries, received

input from international organisations and practitioners, and drew comparisons with other international instruments in this area. The Workshop also included input from various national and international organisations involved in the design and operation of companies' registries.

8. The eleventh annual CTCAP Conference took place at the University of Cambridge (and remotely) on 13 and 14 September 2022. The Conference had 138 registered participants, 82 of which attended in person. The focus was on Public International Law and the Cape Town Convention. The first day featured a keynote address by Professor Philippa Webb (King's College London), which was followed by a presentation from Jessica Gladstone (Clifford Chance) on the "Application of public international law concepts to actions taken in Russia which have an impact on CTC obligations". The first day also featured a discussion on "Public and private aviation treaties: CTC and the Chicago Convention", with a presentation from Professor Donal Hanley (McGill University) and comments from Professor Pablo Mendes de Leon (The Hague).

9. The second day of the Conference featured a presentation on "Sanctions and the CTC: the relationship between sanctions and treaty obligations affected by sanctions" by Professor Antonios Tzanakopoulos (University of Oxford), with comments from Paul Ng (Milbank, Singapore). This was followed by a presentation on "Private actor recourse against states in respect of treaty violations" by Professor Andrew Sanger (University of Cambridge), and comments from Professor Jeffrey Wool (AWG and Harris Manchester College, Oxford). The second day of the Conference also included remarks by Harold Burman (retired Attorney, Office of Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State, and former Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Private International Law) on "State-to-state diplomatic practice on treaty compliance and impact on CTC obligations", and a presentation on "The internationality of property interests: what can we learn in the CTC context from the intellectual property experience?" by Professor Henning Grosse Ruse-Khan (University of Cambridge), with comments from Professor Louise Gullifer (University of Cambridge). The Conference was concluded by a presentation on "Public international law and institutional items: case study on [the] Supervisory Authority's role in CTC" by Professor Orfeas Chasapis-Tassinis (University of Cambridge), with comments from UNIDROIT Secretary-General Professor Ignacio Tirado.

10. Finally, for the EA Project, two workshops were held in 2022. On 10 March 2022, a restricted session was held at UNIDROIT and online to discuss a preliminary draft Guide to the Framework on the Economic Assessment of International Commercial Law Reform, prepared by the Secretariat and based on the information and experiences gathered during the previous sessions as well as from additional research. The discussion focused on the scope of application of the draft Guide, assumptions for economic assessments, counterfactuals, uncertainty, and the five variables that had previously been developed. In addition, two economists provided input on the application of the framework in practice and the methodology generally used by economists when assessing the economic impact of law reforms.

11. On 15 September 2022, the eighth Workshop for the EA Project took place in Cambridge and online. The Workshop was attended by 20 experts with diverse backgrounds, and benefited from presentations on ex-ante regulatory assessments given by representatives of the OECD and the European Commission. After these presentations, the discussion moved to specific aspects of the Framework, with introductory remarks by Professor Oren Sussman (University of Oxford). Aspects considered by the project group included the scoring system for the variables, distributional effects, social and environmental impact, and the confidence level of economic impact assessments. In addition, the group discussed a case study on a hypothetical ex-ante economic assessment concerning a possible Maritime Protocol to the Cape Town Convention.

B. The 1995 UNIDROIT Cultural Property Academic Project



12. The 1995 UNIDROIT Convention Academic Project (UCAP) is an online platform which aims at increasing awareness and knowledge of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention and at promoting and linking relevant (inter)national research carried out by universities and other entities teaching in the field of cultural heritage law.

13. As of March 2023, 14 universities (from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, and the United States), the Law Schools Global League (an association of 31 top law schools from all five continents), and the European Students' Association for Cultural Heritage (ESACH) joined UCAP as institutional partners, while 43 professors, researchers, lawyers, PhD candidates, etc., joined as individual partners. Several partners have organised courses or conferences to promote the UNIDROIT instruments in this field, and one contributed with a "technical report on the model clauses for the legal purchase and sale of cultural assets", posted on the UCAP website.

14. Within the framework of UCAP, UNIDROIT is a partner of the Art Law Centre of the University of Geneva in the context of the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS). This programme, running from January 2022 to June 2023, is aimed at providing a high level of knowledge and understanding of the substantive themes of international cultural heritage law through a modern and dynamic problem-based learning method. A presentation dedicated specifically to UNIDROIT instruments took place on 10 September 2022.

15. UNIDROIT is invited to deliver lectures on its instruments relating to cultural property at many universities, and such activities are developed within the framework of UCAP. The activities developed in this framework over the course of 2022 can be found in the 2022 Annual Report (C.D.(102) 2). Numerous events are planned for 2023.

III. ACADEMIC INSTITUTES

A. Queen Mary University London (QMUL)/UNIDROIT Institute of Transnational Commercial Law

16. The QMUL/UNIDROIT Institute for Transnational Commercial Law was originally founded through a concordat between QMUL and UNIDROIT in 2016, following an initiative of Professor Sir Roy Goode and former UNIDROIT President Professor Alberto Mazzoni.

17. In the course of 2022, UNIDROIT liaised with QMUL to revitalise and relaunch the activities of the Institute, in view of the fact that the original agreement had lapsed in 2021. The two institutions agreed on a renewed governance, with Prof. Rosa Lastra (Sir John Lubbock Chair in Banking Law at QMUL/CCLS) and Prof. Anna Veneziano (UNIDROIT Deputy Secretary-General) as Co-Directors, Dr. Franziska Arnold-Dwyer as Deputy Director, and Prof. Sir Roy Goode as Founding Director and Honorary Chair of the Institute. The Executive Board, with participation of the UNIDROIT Secretary-General, agreed on a Concordat Renewal Agreement and on a revision of the Institute's Regulations.

Finally, the Executive Board agreed to invite the members of the Advisory Board of the Institute to reconfirm their interest, and extended additional invitations to other relevant experts. The current composition of the Advisory Board is as follows: Prof. Georges Affaki (University Panthéon-Assas (Paris II), Affaki & Partners, Paris, France), Prof. Michael Bridge (Emeritus Cassel Professor of Commercial Law at LSE, UK; Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore); Ms Frédérique Dahan (Principal Research Fellow, ODI (UK)); Prof. James Dallas (Executive Director of the Energy Law Institute, Queen Mary University of London, UK); Mr Mark Dwyer (Partner, DLA Piper, London, UK); Prof. Louise Gullifer, Rouse Ball Professor of English Law, Fellow at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge, UK); Dr. Thomas Keijser (Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands); Prof. Maria Chiara Malaguti (President of UNIDROIT, Università La Cattolica, Milan, Italy); Prof. Irit Mevorach (University of Nottingham, UK); Prof. Rodrigo Olivares-Caminal (Queen Mary University of London, UK); Prof. Maria Pilar Perales Viscasillas (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid, Spain); Prof. Jean-François Riffard (Dean, Université Clermont-Auvergne, France); Prof. Djakhongir Saidov (King's College, London, UK); Hon. Nick Segal (Judge, Court of Cayman Islands, Barrister in London, UK); Prof. Hiroo Sono (University of Sapporo, Japan), Mr Chris Southworth (Secretary-General, ICC, UK); Prof John Taylor (Queen Mary University of London, UK); Mr. Graham Vinter (Chair of Global Project Development & Finance, Covington & Burling LLP, UK); Prof. Catherine Walsh (McGill University, Quebec, Canada), and Mr. Bruce Whittaker (Honorary Senior Fellow, Melbourne Law School, Australia).

18. On 9 February 2023, the new Concordat was signed in a ceremony which took place at Queen Mary's Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS) in London and remotely, and which was attended by guests from academia and legal practice as well as representatives from UNIDROIT and QMUL. In particular, statements were delivered by Director of CCLS Ioannis Kokkoris, Sir Roy Goode, Secretary General Ignacio Tirado, Deputy Secretary General and Co-Director Anna Veneziano, Co-Director Professor Rosa Lastra, Deputy Director Franziska Arnold-Dwyer, and Vice-Principal (International) at QMUL, Professor Colin Grant.

19. Based on the new Concordat, the objectives of the Institute include: (a) the provision of postgraduate teaching at the CCLS and the supervision and examination of candidates for research degrees of the QMUL in the field of transnational commercial law and related fields, in particular on UNIDROIT projects and instruments; (b) the conduct of legal research, including international, comparative and interdisciplinary work, by staff of the Institute, whether commissioned or on its own initiative, in particular on UNIDROIT projects and instruments; (c) the publication of such research and other dissemination of knowledge in the field of transnational commercial law through joint CCLS-UNIDROIT conferences, seminars and short courses pertaining to transnational commercial law and its social and economic implications; (d) collaboration in the presentation and promotion of UNIDROIT instruments in the field of transnational commercial law; and (e) provision of internship opportunities at UNIDROIT to students of the Institute, following completion of, or in connection with, their postgraduate studies at the CCLS. The Executive Board is planning the Institute's activities on the basis of such objectives.

20. On 8 May 2023, with the occasion of the UNIDROIT Governing Council, the QMUL-UNIDROIT Institute of Transnational Commercial Law is sponsoring an event to celebrate Sir Roy Goode's 90th birthday, entitled "Transnational Commercial Law in the New Millennium", with presentations highlighting Prof. Goode's contribution to the activities of the CCLS and to the instruments developed by UNIDROIT over the years.

B. Nordic Law Centre and Dedicated Library Section

21. Professor Giuditta Cordero-Moss (University of Oslo, Norway) agreed to make a donation to the UNIDROIT library consisting of (i) part of the library (around 11.000 volumes) of Professor Franco Cordero, her late father and famous Italian academic, and (ii) bibliographical funds of Norwegian

private law. Almost simultaneously, the UNIDROIT Foundation was awarded a grant by a Dutch Foundation¹ to expand the library, hence several rooms were arranged and developed in the main building of Villa Aldobrandini. In order to enhance the library's collection of private law from the countries of Northern Europe, contributing thereby to reinforce the Institute's position as a leading comparative law research centre, the Secretariat decided to create a research institute in the context of the UNIDROIT Academy, inviting the rest of the Nordic countries and their academic and legal institutions to participate. This research centre does not require additional budget for UNIDROIT, since the costs of its activities will be covered by the universities, research centres, and legal institutions that agree to join the endeavour.

22. As is well known, the harmonisation of private law can be achieved by means of both hard law and soft law instruments; these are undoubtedly the main instruments of UNIDROIT in furtherance of its mandate. Yet, the Institute's mandate can also be achieved and realized through the proper use of comparative law. Moreover, places where cultural and social similarities have naturally led to some form of uniform framework from both a legal and an institutional standpoint, notwithstanding the existence of different, separate jurisdictions, are of particular interest for UNIDROIT. The spontaneous uniformisation of legal institutions is an extremely rich well of information to help understand the process leading to successful harmonisation of the law. Naturally, legal uniformisation does not require homogeneous societies and legal backgrounds, but there is a lot to learn from those parts of the world where such uniformity has overcome national boundaries to create a unique yet, to some extent, diverse legal culture. The northernmost region of Europe is one of those parts of the world. Nordic law, as it is not infrequently referred to in Scandinavian countries, concerns a number of laws, customary rules and practices, institutions, and ways of implementing the legal framework which share common origins and trends in Northern Europe.

23. UNIDROIT has a strong and old tradition of collaboration with the countries of the region, through institutional involvement, expert participation and the use and implementation of our instruments by the said countries. It is in part as a tribute to the legacy of decades of mutual collaboration and enrichment, and with a view to substantially strengthening our bonds, that we purport to establish a stable infrastructure in our seat in Rome for Nordic law. The centre is hosted under the umbrella of the UNIDROIT Academy and conceived as a research unit, where scholars from the Nordic countries or academics with an interest in comparative law and the relation between private law and Nordic legislation, could undertake their research and share their conclusions.

24. The actual scope of the Centre is defined by UNIDROIT's own mandate and generally covers private law matters, preferring those areas that are or have been the object of UNIDROIT's research and legislative activities. The geographical scope of the centre is defined by the very same concept of Nordic Law, namely, the legal system and institutions of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland. For the time being, only institutions of the four Nordic countries that are Member States have been invited to participate.

25. The centre would seek to increase international awareness of Nordic law as well as to enhance the dissemination and knowledge of UNIDROIT's work in the region. In order to achieve this, the centre would seek to establish a permanent link and/or partnership with: (i) the Governments of the countries concerned, through their relevant Ministries; (ii) the Judiciary of the countries concerned, that could perceive the centre as an opportunity for capacity building of their constituents; (iii) leading universities and research centres of the Nordic countries for private law. Once the centre is consolidated, the inclusion of UNIDROIT's work in their teaching/research agenda and the creation of UNIDROIT chairs in these universities, as well as other measures could be considered.

¹ See the Report on the UNIDROIT Foundation (C.D. (102) 3).

26. The centre, by way of example, would seek to conduct the following activities: (i) organisation of seminars and workshops to present topics/conclusion of research relevant to the material scope of the centre; (ii) presentation of books/studies on Nordic private law, with a connecting point to UNIDROIT's work or to transnational law, etc.; (iii) one annual conference to be organised, on a specific topic (i.e., secured transactions, international contracts, digital assets, etc.), with experts from Nordic countries.

27. The Nordic Law Centre is meant as a pilot project of the Institute. In the case in which it proves a success and after it has been consolidated, the Secretariat would consider the implementation of similar centres within the library and in the context of the Academy for those regions or types of law (e.g. Sharia Law) where harmonisation and cross-border cooperation is part of its essence.

IV. UNIDROIT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR LAW AND DEVELOPMENT (FORMER SUMMER SCHOOL)

28. At the 100th session of the Governing Council, the Secretariat proposed to organise the first edition of the UNIDROIT International Summer School, sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in 2022 ([C.D. \(100\) B.22](#)).

29. Mr Marco Nicoli (UNIDROIT Foundation) was appointed Director of the Summer School to lead and manage the entire initiative in coordination with the Secretariat staff. The first edition of the International Summer School was held in a hybrid format from 20 June to 22 July 2022. The first part took place online, with classes held via Zoom from 20 June to 1 July. The second part was held at the seat of UNIDROIT, with in-person classes held from 4 to 22 July. A total of 22 participants from 13 African countries (Algeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Tunisia), of which 12 were female and 10 male, were admitted after a strict selection process.

30. Thanks to the success of the first edition, a new grant from the Italian Government was received for the organisation of the second edition, which will take place from 5 June to 7 July 2023. The new edition of the Summer School has adopted a new name, the "UNIDROIT International Program for Law and Development", to reflect the broader purpose of this initiative, which, even from its first edition, went beyond a summer course. The second edition will follow the same methodology and format and cover a similar list of subject matters as that of the first edition.

31. As in 2023, the Programme will be offered to jurists from Africa. The selected candidates for the 2023 edition are 22 African judges, legal drafters and public lawyers from 17 countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia) of which 11 are female and 11 male. A [dedicated section](#) on UNIDROIT's website has been maintained and updated to provide detailed information on the 2023 edition. The programme will include an introduction to the role of transnational law and a presentation of many of UNIDROIT's instruments in different fields (e.g., international commercial contracts, private law and sustainable agriculture, access to finance via the Cape Town Convention and relevant Protocols, warehouse receipts financing, factoring, international protection of cultural property, procedural law and enforcement, law and technology, or bank insolvency).

32. World-renowned experts in each field, who oftentimes participated in the very elaboration of the instruments presented, will lecture at the International Program for Law and Development. In addition to reading material and the in-person presentations, participants will benefit from seminars addressing real-life case studies presented by legal practitioners, as well as from other events, facilitating participants' networking among lecturers and legal experts.

V. UNIDROIT CHAIR PROGRAMMES

33. The UNIDROIT Joint Chair Programmes are part of a new approach that the Secretariat has adopted to bolster technical knowledge and expertise in certain areas of the Institute's work. Through the appointment of experts for periods of one year (or more, depending on the specific Terms of Reference of the Chair), the Institute receives highly specialised advice without a need to resort to external experts. This adds capacity and stability to the Secretariat's workforce. This approach has proven particularly useful in the exploratory phases of our projects. Two Chair Programmes have been implemented so far, as described below.

A. The UNIDROIT-Bank of Italy Chair Programme

34. The UNIDROIT-Bank of Italy Chair Programme has deepened the already excellent existing cooperation between UNIDROIT and the Bank of Italy and IVASS (the Italian supervisory authority of the insurance and reinsurance markets, having already contributed to joint research, training and dissemination of matters of common interest. Through this Programme, the UNIDROIT Secretariat successfully hosted Mr Hossein Nabilou (Assistant Professor of Law and Finance at the University of Amsterdam) from June 2021 to May 2022. A report on his activities was presented during the last Governing Council ([C.D. \(101\) 18](#)).

35. Pursuant to a formal request by the Secretariat to renew this Programme, the Bank of Italy confirmed a new edition of the Chair for 2023. In the coming weeks, the selection process for a new will be started, and it is expected that the new Chair will join the Institute's Secretariat before the summer.

B. The UNIDROIT-Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chair Programme

36. In January 2022, UNIDROIT received a grant from the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (*Direzione Generale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo* – DGCS) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (*Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale* - MAECI) to host a Chair Programme in the field of private law and sustainable agricultural development. This Programme aimed to involve a senior or mid-career professor/researcher that could assist in the development of the UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD project on Legal Structure of Agricultural Enterprises (LSAE). The Chair holder is expected to assist the Secretariat with comparative research and data collection, as well as with analysis of gender equality in the various collaborative forms of agricultural enterprises considered within the LSAE project. In addition, the Chair holder will cooperate with the UNIDROIT Secretariat in activities for the implementation of other legal guides already developed by UNIDROIT in the field of private law and agricultural development (e.g. Contract Farming and Agricultural Land Investment Contracts).

37. In November 2022, the Secretariat welcomed the first MAECI/DGCS/UNIDROIT Chair holder: Dr Keni Muguongo Kariuki, a Kenyan lawyer and political economist with 10 years of experience and a PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London. Dr Kariuki has already participated in two Working Group sessions of the LSAE project and has contributed analysis of the challenges faced by smallholders and small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises in accessing markets, technology, and financial resources. The Chair has a maximum duration of two years.

VI. LIBRARY

A. Interlibrary cooperation and networking

38. In 2022, the UNIDROIT Library continued its cooperation strategy with other Roman and foreign Libraries, for example with the Library of the University of Rome “La Sapienza” (Italy) and the Library of the Max Planck Institute of Foreign Private and Private International Law in Hamburg (Germany). Since the last session of the Governing Council, a new collaboration with the Library of the University of Foggia (Italy) was established on 28 September 2022, and preliminary steps have been taken to create a future collaboration with the Library of the University of Regensburg (Germany).

B. Acquisitions, donations, exchanges

39. In 2022, the Library’s holdings increased by 644 titles, of which 379 were purchased outright, 139 were obtained on an exchange basis, and 126 were received as gifts (for a total value of €8,420.00). As of April 2023, the Library’s holdings amount to a total of approximately 360,000 titles. The expansion of the Library’s holdings has been hampered by steady increases in the price of publications and a chronic lack of resources. In 2022, as in previous years, the Library received donations in kind from the Max Planck Institute of Foreign Private and Private International Law in Hamburg.

C. New Lupoi Collection and continuation of the cataloguing of the Scialoja Collection

40. On the occasion of UNIDROIT’s “*Ricordando Gino Gorla*” event, which was organised by President Maria Chiara Malaguti on 19 October 2022, Professor Maurizio Lupoi donated numerous volumes from Professor Gorla’s collection. Currently located at his law office in Rome, the books will be transferred to the UNIDROIT Library in 2023. They will be catalogued and then integrated and shelved in the Library’s Gorla collection room. The Institute expresses its gratitude for the generous and precious donation, which is very enriching for the Library.

D. Digitisation project

41. In 2022, work progressed on the digitisation project of the Library. Special attention was given to the digitisation of the collection on comparative law and unification of laws, and to the Chiomenti collection, in order to preserve some of the Library’s most valuable historical collections. Thanks to the very fruitful training project with “*Cooperazione HELP*” (Rome), Mr Carlo della Fazia and Mr Riccardo della Fazia collaborated on the digitisation of the library’s electronic collection, which thereby gained a total of 480 digitised titles. The table below shows the number of titles digitised since 2018.

Digitisation project of Library materials				
	Gorla Collection	Chiomenti Collection and Scialoja Collection	Other titles on comparative law and unification of laws	Total titles digitised
2018	-	-	302	302
2019	389	275	58	722
2020	115	166	123	404
2021	139	103	72	314
2022	150	130	200	480

E. Catalogue enrichment and enhanced access to e-materials

42. In 2022, work continued on the upgrade of the Library's list of law reviews, and scanned articles were added to the Library's online collection. The links to those publications have been included in the relevant bibliographic data sheet in the online catalogue. More than 200 journals are now available in the Library's Public Access Catalogue. In addition, a large number of references to articles available in external databases (to which the UNIDROIT Library is subscribed) were added to the Library's online catalogue.

43. Following a meeting and an individual training session with a group of commercial agents from Kluwer International (Netherlands) in October 2022 in Rome, some of the Library's loose leaf collections, which are less user-friendly, were substituted by their respective electronic versions, offering easier access to legal materials for our guests from all over the world. Together with the team of Kluwer agents, evaluations are ongoing for the acquisition of e-book packages. E-book packages, which are available not only from Kluwer but also from various other publishers, contain a large number of monographs accessible in electronic format and sold for a reduced price.

F. Strengthening the UNIDROIT Library Project Plan

44. Thanks to the very generous donation of the Dutch Foundation "Largesse" to the UNIDROIT Foundation, it was possible to draft a project to strengthen the UNIDROIT Library, not only with regard to acquisition policy and upgrading of the collection, but also towards accelerating the Library's digitisation project and modernising the Library's premises, including new technical equipment and workspace for researchers and interns. An extensive list of over 750 new acquisitions for monographs and e-books has been drawn up to update the Library's collection. In the context of the new Nordic Law Centre, around 90 monographs mostly Swedish and Finish books, have already been downloaded and digitalised. The link to the open access collection was kindly provided by Prof. Christina Ramberg (see section III.B above).

VII. UNIDROIT SCHOLARSHIP, INTERNSHIP AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME

45. UNIDROIT's Scholarship, Internship and Research Programme is one of the most important tools for promoting UNIDROIT's work and related research in the fields of international and comparative law.² These opportunities have been entirely funded by voluntary contributions since 2014, relying exclusively on the benevolence and generosity of Programme sponsors, including the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOFCOM), the Members of the Governing Council, the UNIDROIT Alumni Association, the United Rule of Law Appeal (UROLA), and the Madruga BTW law firm (Brazil). The long-term goal of the Scholarship, Internship and Research Programme is to provide funding to all accepted applicants; however, due to limited resources, currently only a limited percentage of applicants receive research scholarships or internship stipends.

46. In 2022, 43 interns from 25 countries undertook internships and collaborated on current projects with the UNIDROIT Secretariat. While most of the scholars and researchers were hosted on an independent basis, often funded by their universities or under cooperation schemes with academic institutions or law firms, in 2022 the Secretariat was able to fund two scholars through the UNIDROIT General Fund Scholarships. The Secretariat also welcomed six non-funded scholars from five different countries and 58 visiting researchers. For a full presentation of the Programme and its beneficiaries

² For a full presentation of the Scholarship, Internship and Research Programme, including a list of current and former guests, see: <https://unidroit.org/research-and-internships>

in 2022, see the 2022 Annual Report (C.D. (102) 2) and the UNIDROIT Scholarship and Internship Programme Implementation Report for 2022 (UNIDROIT 2022 – Study LXV/Scholarships: Impl. 33).

47. As of March 2023, the Secretariat had already hosted 16 interns, three invited scholars and 14 visiting researchers.

48. Taking advantage of the presence of distinguished guests at UNIDROIT, the Secretariat organised a series of lectures and presentations on topics related to the guests' areas of research. The lectures were attended by members of the Secretariat and current guests in the library, as well as interested external experts expressly invited to participate. On 9 September 2022, Ms Zeynep Kahveci gave a lecture on "Data Ownership and Data Transfers"; on 18 November 2022, Mr Edoardo Ruzzi and Mr Giulio Santoni talked about "Data transactions"; on 24 January 2023, Prof. Damiano Canapa presented the new "ESG obligations in Switzerland: Regulation and European Context"; on 20 March 2023, Mr Argha Kumar Jena gave a lecture on "The New Generation IIAs and SDGs: Navigating the Paradigm Shift and Avoiding Another Overhaul"; and on 26 April 2023, Professor Shuai Guo presented on "International Standards and Chinese Schemes of Orderly Exit Mechanisms for Financial Institutions".

VIII. COOPERATION WITH ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

49. In line with its policy over the previous years, the Secretariat has expanded its cooperation with a number of partners, with special attention to academic institutions. Several Memoranda of Understanding were concluded with universities and other legal institutions with the aims of strengthening cooperation and collaboration and promoting research in the areas of private law, commercial law, and the unification of law.

50. The agreements envisage joint activities, such as the co-organisation of events, research projects, and study programmes, as well as the promotion of UNIDROIT's Scholarship, Internship and Research Programme. Cooperation agreements generally provide for a competitive selection procedure of interns within the partner institution and may imply full coverage by that institution. The activities which were undertaken under the framework of such Agreements are detailed in the Annual Report 2022's section on cooperation with academic institutions, as well as in the documents on specific projects presented to the current session of the Governing Council.

51. Since the 101st session of the Governing Council, cooperation agreements were signed with the following institutions:

- the Space Court Foundation (SCF) on 14 June 2022;
- the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL) on 23 October 2022;
- the Central Bank of Paraguay on 25 October 2022;
- the Supreme Court of Justice of Paraguay on 28 October 2022;
- the Shanghai Arbitration Commission (SHAC) on 13 December 2022;
- the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of the National University in Asunción (Paraguay) on 30 January 2023;
- Özyeğin University in Istanbul (Turkey) on 18 January 2023;
- the Centre for Commercial Law Studies of Queen Mary University of London (United Kingdom) on 9 February 2023;
- the Space Economy Evolution Lab of the SDA Bocconi School of Management (Italy) on 15 February 2023; and

- the European Law Institute (ELI) on 23 February 2023 (building upon an already-existing Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two institutions nine years prior).

IX. UNIDROIT PUBLICATIONS

A. Uniform Law Review

52. The Uniform Law Review has been published by Oxford University Press (OUP) since 2013. A new agreement was concluded in September 2022, which introduced a certain number of modifications, including the duration of the agreement, which was reduced to renewable three-year periods (instead of the original five-year periods) after an initial two-year period. A major change introduces a new online method for submission and treatment of articles, including the peer review system: the ScholarOne submission system. It is estimated that the system will be in place by mid-2023, after a period of training provided by OUP, which will also assist in customising the procedures for the Uniform Law Review. The Review is expected to become a totally electronic journal eventually. This gradual elimination of the paper copies of journals was hastened by the difficulties in both managing and acquiring paper editions during the Covid-19 pandemic.

53. At present, the Uniform Law Review is available for subscription either in print or online (or both). While there was a slight decrease in subscriptions in 2022, again as a result of the pandemic, subscription data supplied by OUP indicate that there is a general trend towards online subscriptions.

Institutional Subscriptions by Subscription Type			
	2020	2021	2022
Collection	1,989	2,144	2,080
Conventional Academic	84	61	57
Conventional Corporate	5	4	3
Grand total	2,078	2,209	2,140

54. The special arrangement OUP has in place for developing countries, which offers online subscriptions to journals at lower rates and, in some cases, for free, should be noted.

55. Online visits to the Uniform Law Review pages on the OUP site which include at least one downloaded article have increased steadily. Divided geographically, the visits originate in Europe (35.9%), Asia (27%, divided as follows: East and South-East Asia [13.5%], Central and South Asia [9.1%], and Western Asia [5.0%]), North America (14.2%), Africa (4.8%), Oceania (2.8%), Central and South America (2.0%), and Other, of unknown origin (12.7%).

56. The list of the articles most viewed in 2022 confirms the ongoing interest of readers in the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts, with Professor Bonell's article firmly in first position:

Top 10 articles which had the most full-text views (html – pdf) during the last 12 months			
Title	Author	Issue published	Views
The law governing international commercial contracts and the actual role of the UNIDROIT Principles	Michael Joachim Bonell	Vol: 23/1, (2018)	12,767
Modernizing and harmonizing international contract law: the CISG and the UNIDROIT Principles continue to provide the best way forward	Michael J. Dennis	Vol: 19/1 (2014)	4,323

COVID-19 and <i>force majeure</i> clauses: an examination of arbitral tribunal's awards	Ş Esra Kiraz	Vol: 25/4 (2020)	4,216
The impact of blockchain technologies and smart contracts on dispute resolution: arbitration and court litigation at the crossroads	Pietro Ortolani	Vol: 24/2 (2019)	2,381
National Blockchain Laws as a Threat to Capital Markets Integration	Matthias Lehmann	Vol:26/1, (2021)	1,967
Political barriers in the ratification of international commercial law conventions	Johanna Hoekstra	Vol: 26/1 (2021)	1,813
Préservation de la sécurité juridique et judiciaire des affaires à travers les formations : cas de l'ERSUMA et des commissions nationales OHADA	Anaclet Nzohabonayo	Vol: 23/1 (2018)	1,537
Law harmonization and local specificities – a case study: OHADA and the law of contracts	Marcel Fontaine	Vol: 18/1 (2013)	1,314
COVID-19 and international sale contracts: unprecedented grounds for exemption or business as usual?	André Janssen	Vol: 25/4 (2021)	1,016
An Overview of Contract Farming: Legal Issues and Challenges	Caterina Pultrone	Vol: 17/1-2 (2012)	518

57. With a view to understanding the interests of our readers, so as to assist in evaluating articles submitted to the Editorial Board, the list of the top 10 articles by all time altmetric score is illuminating:

Top 10 articles by all-time altmetric score			
Title	Author	Issue published	Score
Billion-dollar questions? Legal aspects of commercial space activities	Frans G von der Dunk	Vol:23/2 (2018)	268
The impact of blockchain technologies and smart contracts on dispute resolution: arbitration and court litigation at the crossroads	Pietro Ortolani	Vol:24/2 (2019)	20
A governance framework for the development and use of artificial intelligence: lessons from the comparison of Japanese and European initiatives	Souichirou Kozuka	Vol:24/2 (2019)	10
The Principles on Climate Obligations of Enterprises: an attempt to give teeth to the universally adopted view that we must keep global warming below an increase of two degrees Celsius	Jaap Spier	Vol:23/2 (2018)	8
The law governing international commercial contracts and the actual role of the UNIDROIT Principles	Michael Joachim Bonell	Vol:23/1 (2018)	8
Artificial General Intelligence and Contract	John Linarelli	Vol:24/2 (2019)	5

Recasting restitution: interactions between EU and international law	Marie Cornu	Vol:20/4 (2015)	5
COVID-19 and force majeure clauses: an examination of arbitral tribunal's awards	Ş Esra Kiraz	Vol:25/4 (2020)	4
Legal translation as comparative law: the case of the Brazilian contract law	Eliezer Sanchez Lasaballett	Vol:23/3-4 (2018)	4
The absence of choice of law in commercial contracts: problems and solutions	Reza Beheshti	Vol:24/3 (2019)	3

B. Monographs

1. Official Commentaries on the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and its Protocols

58. It will be recalled the Official Commentaries on the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols are all authored by Professor Sir Roy Goode. The Institute acts as agent for the author, charging 10 percent in handling costs. Since 2019, Professor Sir Roy Goode has donated his royalties directly to the Institute, funding the *Sir Roy Goode UNIDROIT Scholarship*.

59. The fifth edition of the *Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and Protocol thereto on Matters specific to Aircraft Equipment* was printed in May 2022 and made available to interested members of the Council.

60. An electronic version of the fifth edition of the *Official Commentary* was prepared by the Secretariat, with links both internal to the volume and to external websites. It was made available to Aviareto, the Registrar of the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol, and will be sold by the Institute in the future. Those who purchased a paper copy are being offered the linked, electronic version at a discounted price. The *Official Commentary* is the first UNIDROIT publication to be sold in electronic format, with links to facilitate its consultation and use. It is the intention of the Secretariat to make other UNIDROIT publications available in a linked, electronic format.

2. ELI/UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure

61. The English version of the *ELI/UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure* was published in August 2021 by OUP as an open-access publication within the ELI Instruments Series. A French and Spanish version of the black-letter rules only has been published on [UNIDROIT's website](#). The complete French version of the Model European Rules was finalised at the end of 2022 and is expected to be published in the course of 2023. Work continues on the translations of the integral version of the Model European Rules into Chinese, Farsi, German, Hungarian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian. In addition, agreements have been made for the translation of the black-letter rules only into Italian.

C. Depository Libraries

62. Before the age of websites, UNIDROIT asked Member States to appoint specific libraries or other official institutions to act as Depository Libraries for UNIDROIT documentation. They were also asked what materials they would be interested in storing (whether only documents, or also publications, the Uniform Law Review, etc.). Not all States appointed Depository Libraries, and not all of these wanted all materials. With the adoption of the policy to post all documentation on the

website, the interest in Depository Libraries has waned, but some States are still interested in maintaining them. No new Depository Libraries were added to the list in 2022.

X. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

63. *The Governing Council is invited to take note of the all the Academy activities and to support the Secretariat initiatives in these fields.*

ANNEXE

UNIDROIT PUBLICATIONS' SALES 2013 – 2022 (in euro)										
TITLE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts 2016 Rome, UNIDROIT, 2017					5,165.00	2,734.00	1,240.50	292.00	1,108.00	366.00
Principes d'UNIDROIT relatifs aux contrats du commerce international 2016 Rome, UNIDROIT, 2017					240.00		140.00			
Principios UNIDROIT sobre los contratos comerciales internacionales 2016 Roma, UNIDROIT										
UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts 2010 Rome, UNIDROIT	10,419.64	4,915.00	2,168.86	1,954.00	1,579.99					
Principes d'UNIDROIT relatifs aux contrats du commerce international 2010 Rome, UNIDROIT, 2011										
Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol thereto on Matters Specific to Space Assets (by Professor Sir Roy Goode) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2013 (reprinted with corrections 2014)	6,771.00	5,880.00	780.00	700.00	1,120.00	205.00	216.00	216.00	391.00	177.00
Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Luxembourg Protocol on Matters Specific to Railway Rolling Stock (by Professor Sir Roy Goode) (Second edition 2014) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2014		10,555.00	568.00	1,179.00	1,308.00		216.00	315.00	175.00	350.00
Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol thereto on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment (by Professor Sir Roy Goode) (Third edition 2013) (reprinted with corrections 2016) (paper) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2013	72,667.00	19,921.00	14,163.00	22,184.00	8,737.00	7,004.00	[sold out]			

UNIDROIT PUBLICATIONS' SALES 2013 – 2022 (in euro)										
TITLE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol thereto on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment (by Professor Sir Roy Goode) (Third edition 2013) (reprinted with corrections 2016) (electronic version) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2017					17,500.00 (USD 20,000)	17,500.00 (USD 20,000)	17,537.05 (USD 20,000)	17,690.52 (USD 20,000)		
Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol thereto on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment (by Professor Sir Roy Goode) (Fourth edition 2019) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2019							79,311.00	7,101.50	3,107.00	227.00
Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol thereto on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment (by Professor Sir Roy Goode) (Fourth edition 2019) (electronic version) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2020									20,320.35 (USD 24,960.00)	20,320.35 (USD 24,960.00)
Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol thereto on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment (by Professor Sir Roy Goode) (Fifth edition 2022) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2022 †										39,620.61 [of which 779.60 still to cash - bookseller]
Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol thereto on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment (by Professor Sir Roy Goode) (Fifth edition 2022) (electronic version) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2023										20,320,35 (USD 24,960,00)
Official Commentary on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol thereto on Matters Specific to Mining, Agricultural and Construction Equipment (by Professor Sir Roy Goode) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2021									6,395.00 [of which 218 still to cash]	597.40 [of which 400.80 still to cash]

UNIDROIT PUBLICATIONS' SALES 2013 – 2022 (in euro)										
TITLE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Guide to International Master Franchise Arrangements (second edition 2007) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2007	54.00	54.00	54.00		43.20		54.00			54.00
Guide sur les Accords internationaux de franchise principale (first edition) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2000	40.00	40.00								
Guía para los Acuerdos de Franquicia Principal Internacional (first edition) Rome, UNIDROIT, 2005	FREELY AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE									
UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming Rome, UNIDROIT, 2015			280.00	471.00	22.00		28.00			
Guide juridique sur l'agriculture contractuelle UNIDROIT/FAO/FIDA Rome, UNIDROIT, 2015										
Guía jurídica sobre agricultura por contrato UNIDROIT/FAO/FIDA Rome, UNIDROIT, 2017										
Legal Guide on Agricultural Land Investment Contract UNIDROIT/IFAD Rome, UNIDROIT, 2021										FREELY AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE
ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCES										
Acts and Proceedings of the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the draft UNIDROIT Convention on Agency in the International Sale of Goods, February 1983, Geneva Rome, UNIDROIT, Uniform Law Review 1983/I-II	FREELY AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE									
Actes de la Conférence diplomatique pour l'adoption du projet d'UNIDROIT de Convention sur la représentation en matière de vente internationale de marchandises, février 1983, Genève Rome, UNIDROIT, Revue de droit uniforme 1983/I-II	FREELY AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE									
Acts and Proceedings of the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the draft UNIDROIT Conventions on International Factoring and International Financial Leasing, May 1988, Ottawa Rome, UNIDROIT, 1991	FREELY AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE									

UNIDROIT PUBLICATIONS' SALES 2013 – 2022 (in euro)										
TITLE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Worldwide Harmonisation of Private Law and Regional Economic Integration. Acts of the Congress to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Rome, 27-28 September 2002 Rome, UNIDROIT, special issue of the Uniform Law Review 2003-1/2										
Eppur si muove: The Age of Uniform Law. Essays in honour of Michael Joachim Bonell to celebrate his 70th birthday Rome, UNIDROIT 2016				2,280.00	5,499.00	3,083.50	1,357.00		170.00	384.00 [still to be cashed – bookseller]
UNIDROIT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS OR PUBLISHERS										
Official Commentary on the UNIDROIT Convention on Substantive Rules for Intermediated Securities Hideki Kanda, Charles Mooney, Luc Thevenoz, Stephane Beraud, and Thomas Keijser Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2012, 320 pages, 246x171 mm, ISBN 978-0-19-65675-2, Hardback	£84.35 (1.10.2013-31.3.2014) 248.72 (£226.67) (1.10.2012-31.3.2013)	61.90 (£45.93) (1.4.2014-30.9.2014)	£ 43.24 (1.4.2015-30.9.2015)	31.90 (£27.13) (1.10.2015-31.3.2016)	52.25 (£46.00) (1.4.2016-30.9.2017)	29.15 (£26.15) (1.10.2017 - 31.3.2018)	48.30 (£ 43.41) (1.10.2018-31.3.2019)	£31.15 (1.10.2020 -31.3.2021) 32.71 (£27.90) (1.4.2021-30.9.2021)	31.68 (£24.98) (1.4.2021-30.9.2021)	
Commentaire officiel de la Convention d'UNIDROIT sur les règles matérielles relatives aux titres intermédiés (Convention de Genève sur les titres) Kanda Hideki; Mooney Charles; Thévenoz Luc; Béraud Stéphane; Keijser Thomas Schulthess Verlag, Zürich, 2012, 402 pages, ISBN/ISSN 978-3-7255-6567-2, broché	197.70 (CHF 162.30) (1.4.2013-31.3.2014)		3.46 (CHF 3.61) (1.4.2014-31.3.2015)	(CHF 14.04) (1.4.2015-31.3.2016)	(CHF 3.03) (1.4.2016-31.3.2017)		(CHF 31.66) (1.4.2019-31.3.2020)	(CHF 7.20) (1.4.2020-31.3.2021)	(CHF 31.25) (1.4.2021-31.3.2022)	
ELI-UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure European Law Institute/UNIDROIT Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021, 337 pages, ISBN 978-0-19-886658-9, Hardback										73.31 (£ 63.31) (23.12.2022)

UNIDROIT PUBLICATIONS' SALES 2013 – 2022 (in euro)										
TITLE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
UNCITRAL, Hague Conference and UNIDROIT Texts on Security Interests United Nations, 2012, 36 pages, soft-bound	FREELY AVAILABLE FROM THE UNIDROIT SECRETARIAT AND ON WEBSITE									
Textes de la CNUDCI, de la Conférence de la Haye et d'UNIDROIT sur les sûretés Nations Unies, 2012, 43 pages, broché	FREELY AVAILABLE FROM THE UNIDROIT SECRETARIAT AND ON WEBSITE									
PERIODICALS										
Uniform Law Review / Revue de droit uniforme (OUP royalties)	138.00	7,532.00	7,056.00	8,969.00	6,317.00	6,507.00	7,688.00	8,909.00	8,065.00	[DUE END APRIL]
UNIDROIT Proceedings & Papers / Actes & documents d'UNIDROIT	FREELY AVAILABLE ON THE UNIDROIT WEBSITE									