



EN

FINANCE COMMITTEE
95th session
Rome/remote, 23 March 2023

UNIDROIT 2023
F.C. (95) 6
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REPORT

(prepared by the UNIDROIT Secretariat)

1. The 95th session of the Finance Committee was held in person in Rome and via videoconference on 23 March 2023.

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 (for a list of participants, please see [Annexe I](#)). He invited the Secretary-General to take the floor and share introductory remarks.

3. The *Secretary-General* welcomed the Members of the Committee and explained that the objective of the meeting was to consider the draft accounts for the 2022 financial year, proposed adjustments to the budget for the 2023 financial year, and the draft budget for the 2024 financial year. In addition, the Secretariat would provide an oral update on the long-term sustainability of UNIDROIT's compensation structure, and on the Institute's pension fund and health insurance system.

Item No. 2 on the agenda: Adoption of the agenda ([F.C. \(95\) 1 rev.](#))

4. The *Chair* proposed the adoption of the agenda and opened the floor for comments. *The agenda was adopted as proposed in document F.C. (95) 1 rev (see [Annexe II](#)).*

Item No. 3 on the agenda: First review of the Accounts of the financial year 2022 ([F.C. \(95\) 2](#))

5. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (95) 2 concerning the Accounts for the financial year 2022 and invited the Secretary-General to present the document.

6. The *Secretary-General* explained that the Budget for the financial year 2022 had been approved by the General Assembly at its 80th session (December 2021) and had anticipated receipts and expenditure of € 2,335,000.00. The draft Accounts for 2022 showed that the Secretariat had managed to limit the actual expenditure to € 2,297,333.33 in 2022. However, the actual receipts (€ 2,252,462.68) had also been lower than anticipated, leading to a debit balance in 2022 of € 44,870.65. The Institute retained a buffer of € 276,074.08.

7. The lower amount of actual receipts was explained by arrears in Member State contributions (the difference between anticipated and actual contributions being around € 98,000 in 2022). The *Secretary-General* expressed the hope that countries with arrears would soon pay their outstanding contributions. He explained that, according to UNIDROIT's Statute, Member States with more than two years in arrears with the payment of their contribution lose the right to vote in the General Assembly.

Voting rights were of particular relevance this year, since the General Assembly would appoint the members of the Governing Council in December 2023. Although Member States with arrears were not prohibited from presenting a candidate in the Governing Council elections, he noted that voting Member States have in the past taken the status of arrears into account when expressing their votes. It was hoped that this would be an incentive for Member States to pay their outstanding contributions. While the receipts from Member State contributions were thus lower than anticipated, the *Secretary-General* noted that the actual receipts received for the sale of publications in 2022 (€ 26,583.44) had been higher than expected.

8. With regard to expenditure, the *Secretary-General* noted that the Institute had managed to limit the actual expenditure under Chapter 1, Art. 1 (Governing Council and Permanent Committee), Art. 4 (Committees of Experts), and Art. 5 (Official journeys and Promotion of activities), leading to savings of around € 40,000. On the other hand, actual expenditure was slightly higher for the budget lines Interpreters (Chapter 1, Art. 6) and Representation (Chapter 1, Art. 7).

9. The actual expenditure under Chapter 2 (Salaries and allowances) had been higher than anticipated in the Budget for 2022, due to the steady increase in salaries each year. Finally, the *Secretary-General* noted that UNIDROIT had benefited in 2022 from a credit reimbursement relating to paid taxes (VAT) concerning heating expenditure, which had led to savings of nearly € 20,000 under Chapter 5 (Maintenance costs).

10. The *Chair* thanked the Secretary-General for his explanations and expressed his appreciation for the high level of transparency. He asked the Secretary-General to explain the process for the Governing Council elections to the Members of the Finance Committee.

11. The *Secretary-General* explained that all Member States had been invited to propose candidates for the Governing Council elections by 31 May 2023, although proposals could in principle be submitted until the day before the 82nd session of the General Assembly in December 2023. The received proposals would be shared with all Member States in June 2023 (and subsequently in case of late submissions). The General Assembly at its 82nd session would appoint the new Council members.

12. The *Representatives of Spain and Indonesia* commended the Secretary-General and his team for the excellent work done in 2022 while seeking to limit the Institute's expenditure. They encouraged the Secretariat to continue its work along the same lines in the next years.

13. The *Representative of Brazil* congratulated the Secretary-General for the prudent management of the Institute's finances. He took note of the process for the Governing Council elections and apologised for Brazil's arrears with the payment of its contribution.

14. The *Representative of Italy* thanked the Secretary-General and his staff for their great work. He expressed the Government of Italy's appreciation for all the activities and projects undertaken by UNIDROIT in 2022. He commended, in particular, the excellent collaboration with UNIDROIT's sister organisations, UNCITRAL and the Hague Conference for Private International Law, and the first edition of the UNIDROIT International Summer School.

15. The *Secretary-General* thanked the Government of Italy for its continuous support to the Institute. He mentioned in particular the financial support the Government of Italy had provided for the first edition of the Summer School in 2022, which had been a tremendous success. He indicated that preparations were ongoing for the next edition of the Summer School, which had been renamed 'UNIDROIT International Program for Law and Development' and would be held in the summer of 2023, again thanks to the generosity of the Government of Italy. Moreover, he thanked the Government of

Italy for funding a Chair position to assist UNIDROIT in its work in the field of law and agriculture, which had enabled a researcher from Kenya to join the Secretariat for a period of two years.

16. *The Finance Committee took note of the information in the document regarding the first review of the Accounts for the 2022 financial year.*

**Item No. 4 on the agenda: Adjustments to the Budget for the 2023 financial year
([F.C. \(95\) 3](#))**

17. *The Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (95) 3 and invited the Secretary-General to present it.

18. *The Secretary-General* recalled that the Finance Committee had 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 Member States for observations. The Governments of Argentina and Brazil had requested an extension of the suspension of their reclassification in the Contributions Chart, while the Governments of Ireland and (although not explicitly) Portugal would voluntarily remain in a higher contribution category. The Budget for 2023 had been adopted by the General Assembly at its 81st session (December 2022). He added that the Institute tried to be as transparent as possible and published all these documents on its website.

19. *The Secretary-General* explained that the Secretariat had anticipated adjustments to the Budget for the 2023 financial year during the 94th session of the Finance Committee (October 2022), given the consistent increase in salary payments.

20. Regarding the adjustments made to the expected receipts, *the Secretary-General* explained that the estimate for the contributions of Member States was revised upwards, on the expectation that arrears in Member State contributions would be reduced. Moreover, he was very pleased to inform the Members of the Finance Committee that the Republic of Singapore had joined UNIDROIT as a new Member State as of 1 March 2023. Following a question by the *Representative of Japan*, he noted that the Republic of Singapore would fall into contribution category VII (corresponding to 9 units of contribution). He added that it was hoped that another country in Asia would soon join the Institute too. Furthermore, it was anticipated that the receipts due to the sale of publications would significantly increase in 2023, mainly due to the publication of the 5th edition of the Official Commentary to the Aircraft Protocol and the expected entry into force of the Rail Protocol. He noted that UNIDROIT did not anticipate receiving interest on the deposits in its bank accounts this year, although this might change in the future.

21. *The Secretary-General* explained that the adjustments made to the expenditure mainly concerned Chapter 2 (Salaries and allowances), and the related Chapter 3 (Social security charges). He recalled that the design of UNIDROIT's salary system resulted in an increase of salary payments of about 2.5% each year. The Secretariat had reflected such increase in the draft budgets it had prepared during the last years, but it had based its estimates on the budget of the previous year rather than the actual expenditure in the accounts. Document F.C. (95) 3 contained an adjusted amount for salaries in 2023, taking into account the amount actually spent the previous year and expected developments in the course of 2023.

22. To compensate the increase in salary payments, the Secretariat had tried to cut the anticipated expenditure in 2023 under other Chapters as much as possible, although this had been challenging given the small budget of UNIDROIT. The Secretariat anticipated a slight decrease in expenditure under Chapter 4 (Administrative expenses) and under Chapter 5 (Maintenance costs) –

the latter due to the credit reimbursement for heating expenses, from which UNIDROIT expected to continue to benefit in 2023.

23. The *Chair* thanked the Secretary-General for his introduction of the document and opened the floor for comments.

24. The *Representative of Indonesia* thanked the Secretary-General for his explanations and for the high degree of transparency. He welcomed the Republic of Singapore as a new Member State and supported UNIDROIT's outreach activities to increase the number of Member States, including in Asia.

25. The *Representative of the People's Republic of China* thanked the Secretary-General for his detailed explanations. She commended the hard work of UNIDROIT, which the People's Republic of China highly valued and would continue to strongly support.

26. The *Representative of Italy* expressed his appreciation for the transparency demonstrated by UNIDROIT. The *Representative of the United States* also applauded UNIDROIT's transparency, including its excellent practice of publishing the documents submitted to its governing bodies online. He congratulated the Institute with the addition of the Republic of Singapore as a new Member State and asked how the Members of the Finance Committee could help in attracting new Member States.

27. The *Secretary-General* explained that the Republic of Singapore had decided to join UNIDROIT after thorough preparation and exchanges with the Secretariat during the last years. He noted that it was generally more difficult for organisations producing mostly soft law instrument to gain an increase in membership, compared to international organisations developing hard law. Furthermore, views differed in UNIDROIT's governing bodies as to whether it would be beneficial to increase the number of Member States. The *Secretary-General* explained that the Secretariat was in favour of expanding UNIDROIT's membership, especially in relatively underrepresented regions such as Africa and Central Asia. Regarding the reasons why countries should consider joining UNIDROIT, he noted that UNIDROIT had doubled the number of projects it runs, which had increased its visibility and impact across the world. Furthermore, UNIDROIT's membership fees were low, and the year 2023 would be a particularly attractive year to join the organisation given the Governing Council elections, which would allow new Member States to directly impact the Institute's governance structure.

28. *The Finance Committee took note of the proposed adjustments to the Budget for the 2023 financial year.*

Item No. 5 on the agenda: Oral update concerning the long-term sustainability of the compensation structure

29. The *Chair* invited the Secretary-General to provide an update on the long-term sustainability of UNIDROIT's salary system.

30. The *Secretary-General* introduced the item by explaining that the Secretariat was undertaking a broad project to revise the Institute's Regulations, which would include a revision of the sections on financial matters. While this was an ongoing process, the Secretariat had prioritised work on specific aspects. It had developed a Whistle-blower and Anti-retaliation Policy in 2021 and was currently preparing a Code of Conduct for UNIDROIT staff, with a specific focus on the use of social media. A proposal for the latter was anticipated to be submitted to the Governing Council at its 102nd session in May 2023. Given the need to address these matters with priority, the broader revision of the Regulations had been postponed.

31. The *Secretary-General* noted that the annual increase in salary payments of approximately 2.5% was challenging for the Institute in the long run. He underlined that he was doing his utmost to strengthen the Secretariat while limiting the expenditure, in line with the zero-growth policy the Institute had attained for years. He expressed his sincere gratitude to Member States that had supported the Institute by allowing staff to be seconded to UNIDROIT for a certain period of time. UNIDROIT had benefited from the secondment of two staff members from the People's Republic of China, and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China had provided for two additional secondees. These colleagues had proven to be extremely helpful to the organisation and had formed an important part of UNIDROIT's workforce. Moreover, the Government of Italy had seconded a senior diplomat to the Secretariat and it had provided funding for a research Chair in the area of law and agriculture. In addition, thanks to the Bank of Italy, an expert in financial law would soon assist the Secretariat in its work on the Bank Insolvency project. The *Secretary-General* expressed his sincere gratitude for all this support, which had effectively allowed the Secretariat to increase its staff at no cost. He added that such support would be very welcome from other Member States as well.

32. The *Chair* thanked the Secretary-General for his oral update and appreciated the Secretariat's efforts in expanding its workforce without budget implications. He looked forward to receiving an update on the social media policy once developed.

33. *The Committee took note of the update concerning the long-term sustainability of the compensation structure.*

Item No. 6 on the agenda: Draft Budget for 2024 – First Estimates ([F.C. \(95\) 4](#))

34. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (95) 4 and invited the Secretary-General to present that document.

35. The *Secretary-General* briefly recalled the process for the establishment of UNIDROIT's budget. Document F.C. (95) 4 contained the first estimates for the Institute's receipts and expenditure in 2024, for a preliminary opinion by the Finance Committee. The Draft Budget for 2024 would then be submitted to the Governing Council at its 102nd session in May 2023 and, subsequently, to Member States for comments. The Draft Budget would be considered again during the next meeting of the Finance Committee in the autumn of 2023. Afterwards, it would be submitted to the General Assembly for approval at its 82nd session in December 2023.

36. The *Secretary-General* indicated that the Secretariat was proposing an increase in Member State contributions of 6%. He explained that UNIDROIT was suffering from the high inflation rates in 2021 and 2022, which were expected to remain an issue also at least in 2023 and 2024. Other international organisations had already substantially increased their budgets for this reason. UNIDROIT had done its utmost to limit its costs but had now reached the limits of what it could reasonably do to cut its expenditure. Essentially, the Secretariat was not asking for an increase in the budget, but rather for a containment of the loss it suffered due to the high inflation. He noted that the proposed increase of 6% was conservative considering that: (i) other organisations had obtained approval for a higher budget increase, while they already had a larger budget than UNIDROIT; and (ii) UNIDROIT was particularly affected by the high inflation rates due to its working method. Regarding the second point, he noted that travel costs have increased substantially, due to the inflation in the energy and aviation sectors. While travelling tends to be crucial for any international organisation, this is particularly so for UNIDROIT given that travel expenditure concerned not only its staff, but also -and especially- the experts who participate in Working Groups for the various projects. The inflation in combination with the high number of projects that UNIDROIT was running simultaneously led to a significant increase in costs.

37. The *Chair* thanked the Secretary-General for his introduction. He anticipated that the Finance Committee may need more time to consider the proposed increase in Member State contributions, considering that document F.C. (95) 4 had been submitted only some days before the meeting.

38. The *Secretary-General* apologised for the late submission of Document F.C. (95) 4 and explained that the Secretariat had wanted to take into consideration the outcome of a similar proposal that had been submitted to another organisation active in UNIDROIT's field of work. That proposal -for a 7% increase- had in the meantime been approved by the organisation's constituencies. Furthermore, he underlined that this was only meant to be a first discussion within the Finance Committee, which would have the opportunity to review the Draft Budget for 2024 again during its session in the autumn of 2023.

39. The *Representative of Canada* expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General and its team for the comprehensive and transparent set of meeting documents. She noted that UNIDROIT had kept a consistent budget level for many years and commended the efforts throughout the years to maintain a zero-growth budget. The preliminary view of the Government of Canada was that it would accept the proposed increase in Member State contributions. She asked whether the proposed increase was not too modest, considering the number of ongoing and new projects that were expected to run simultaneously in 2024. She underlined that the Institute's work programme should not suffer from budgetary constraints. If need be, the Government of Canada would be willing to consider a higher increase.

40. The *Secretary-General* explained that the Secretariat had followed a conservative approach by asking for an increase of 6% in Member State contributions. He anticipated that a further review of UNIDROIT's Contributions Chart might be needed in light of the revision of the Institute's Regulations and given the expected update of the United Nations (UN) scale of assessments in 2024.

41. The *Representative of the United States* asked how the 6% increase would be calculated.

42. The *Secretary-General* explained that the unit value would be increased by 6%. In absolute terms, this would lead to an increase of less than € 8,000 per year for Member States falling in the highest contribution category.

43. The *Representative of Germany* indicated that the German Government in principle recognised the need for a budget increase in light of the high inflation but it was conscious of the budgetary constraints of some Member States. She asked whether it would be possible to further cut the Institute's expenditure, especially under Chapter 1 (Meeting costs and official travel) and Chapter 6 (Library).

44. The *Representative of Brazil* noted that Brazil did not yet have a position on the proposed increase in Member State contributions. On a different matter, he asked whether Brazil would remain in the same, lower contribution category in line with its requests in the last years. The *Secretary-General* confirmed that this would be possible so long as the requirements (formal petition with explanation of the reason and approval by the General Assembly) were met.

45. The *Representative of Japan* indicated that the Government of Japan had not yet been able to formulate a position on the proposed increase in Member State contributions, given the limited time to reflect on the proposal prior to the meeting. He asked whether the Secretary-General would be able to provide further explanations regarding the reasons why a budget increase would be necessary. Furthermore, the Government of Japan suggested considering whether it would be possible to realise savings in expenditure, possibly by making a distinction between essential and non-essential activities of the Institute.

46. The *Representative of France* indicated that the Government of France did not yet have an official position on the proposed increase in Member State contributions. She took note of the requests for clarification made by the representatives of Germany and Japan.

47. The *Representative of Indonesia* noted that an increase in contributions would be a measure of last resort. He expressed the hope that the Secretariat might find alternative solutions to deal with the financial pressure.

48. The *Representative of Italy* thanked the Secretary-General for his explanations and indicated that the Government of Italy would consider the proposed increase in budget.

49. The *Representative of the United States* noted that the United States highly valued the Institute's work and recognised the financial pressure under which UNIDROIT was operating given the high inflation. He observed that UNIDROIT's budget was relatively small and that the Secretariat was already seeking to obtain financial support beyond Member State contributions. For instance, UNIDROIT relied on the expertise of renowned legal scholars who were participating in UNIDROIT's work on a *pro bono* basis. Those committees of experts were the heart and soul of the Institute. He suggested the Secretariat to explain how UNIDROIT had already sought to achieve cost savings and to specify what the consequences would be for the organisation in case the Member State contributions would not increase by 6%.

50. The *Secretary-General* emphasised that the Secretariat was not really asking for an increase in budget, since the 6% applied to the nominal contributions. Rather, it was asking to be compensated for a substantial loss in the value of money over the past few years – which was estimated to be around 10%. This loss of value due to inflation had put UNIDROIT's budget under enormous strain. Asking the Secretariat to further cut its expenditure would essentially mean reducing the Institute's budget with more than 10%.

51. With regard to the expenditure under Chapter 1 (Meeting costs and official travel), he noted that UNIDROIT's current budget for Official Journeys (€ 60,000) was already very small for an international organisation. Travelling was crucial given the need to promote the Institute's work and instruments across jurisdictions. The Secretariat tried to benefit as much as possible from kind invitations of States and organisations that were willing to pay for the travel expenses of UNIDROIT staff. However, not all countries were in the position to cover such costs. Cutting the travel budget would limit the Secretariat's possibilities to travel to developing countries, while those countries would be expected to benefit most from UNIDROIT's instruments and assistance in many areas. Furthermore, regarding the budget line for Committees of Experts (Chapter 1, Art. 4), he explained that UNIDROIT relied on the participation of prominent experts in its Working Groups – that was at the core of its working method. UNIDROIT only reimbursed those experts' travel expenses (economy class tickets) to attend Working Group meetings and paid a daily allowance to cover their accommodation costs. These experts did not receive any other compensation from UNIDROIT, although they contributed immensely to the Institute's work – not only during Working Group meetings but also in between meetings. Further cutting this part of the budget (e.g., asking experts not only to work on a *pro bono* basis but also to pay for their own travel and accommodation costs) would be excessive and would substantially affect the quality of UNIDROIT's instruments.

52. With regard to the expenditure under Chapter 6 (Library), the *Secretary-General* explained that it was impossible to further cut costs. UNIDROIT's Library was one of the world's most renowned libraries for comparative law, and its budget was much lower than comparable libraries. The budget line for the purchase of books had shrunk over the years to € 80,000 per year. Given this limited budget, the Library already had to rely on donations of books from other organisations. He emphasised that the Library was a necessary part of UNIDROIT, as recognised in the organisation's Statute.

53. The *Deputy Secretary-General* added that the Library was an essential source for the research conducted by UNIDROIT staff. Furthermore, the Library hosted interns and legal scholars from all over the world, providing them with a unique opportunity to conduct research and to contribute to the activities of an international organisation. Such experiences were key for young academics. Moreover, these visitors played an important role in promoting UNIDROIT's work in their home countries.

54. The *Secretary-General* proposed that the Secretariat would prepare a note with additional explanations about the proposed increase in Member State contributions, to allow Members of the Finance Committee to provide feedback on the proposal after the meeting. Should the members of the Finance Committee provide comments before the 102nd session of the Governing Council in May 2023, the Secretariat would update the Governing Council accordingly.

55. The *Chair* summarised the discussion, noting that the Members of the Finance Committee recognised the financial pressures for UNIDROIT and appreciated the Secretary-General's transparency in explaining the current challenges. While there was a general openness to consider a possible increase in Member State contributions, the Committee would appreciate receiving additional information.

56. The *Representative of Canada* wished to underline that the increase proposed by UNIDROIT was small compared to the increase in the budgets of other international organisations. Furthermore, other organisations had regularly asked for budget increases during the last 15 years, while UNIDROIT had always been very cautious in proposing an upward adjustment of its budget. Given the experiences with other international organisations, the Government of Canada had been surprised that the increase proposed by UNIDROIT was only 6%. It much appreciated that UNIDROIT had only asked what would seem the bare minimum required, for very well justified reasons. The Government of Canada considered an increase in Member State contributions of 6% more than reasonable - perhaps even overly cautious- considering the high inflation rates.

57. *The Committee took note of the draft Budget for 2024, which contained a proposal to increase contributions of Member States by 6%. It was agreed that the Secretariat would provide additional explanations regarding the proposed increase, to allow the Members of the Finance Committee to provide feedback on this proposal after the meeting.*

Item No. 7 on the agenda: Update on the social security package applicable to UNIDROIT staff ([F.C. \(95\) 5](#))

58. The *Chair* drew the Committee's attention to document F.C. (95) 5, and invited Legal Officer Ms Thijssen to present that document.

59. *UNIDROIT Legal Officer Ms Thijssen* recalled that UNIDROIT's 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 it would become attractive to move them to a portfolio for 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, mainly due to the significant increase in custodian bank fees. During a meeting of the Committee for the Administration of Funds (CAF) in November 2022, the ISRP had explained that a procurement procedure would be launched to select a new custodian bank. This process was expected to be finalised in the summer of 2023. *Ms Thijssen* emphasised that UNIDROIT would not have to pay any custodian bank fees until its funds would be invested. Although the total assets in the pension fund had increased to around € 700,000 by end-February 2023, it was not expected that the threshold for investment would be reached in 2023, given that leaving allowances were to be paid this year.

60. *Ms Thijssen* recalled that the Finance Committee at its 94th session (October 2022) had 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. To this end, the Secretariat in cooperation with the ISRP had evaluated the offers of several banks. Ultimately, it had been decided to open a bank account at *Crédit Agricole*, which had offered a 2.5% interest rate for a 3-month term deposit. In the meantime, the interest rate at the current bank account (*Crédit Industriel et Commercial*) had increased as well. The Secretariat would decide together with the ISRP how to best distribute the assets between the various bank accounts. Furthermore, *Ms Thijssen* mentioned that UNIDROIT had signed a new Memorandum of Agreement with the ISRP, which had resulted in a reduction of fees to be paid to the ISRP of around € 7,000 per year. Following a question by the Chair, *Ms Thijssen* explained that the assistance provided by the ISRP in respect of UNIDROIT's pension fund now mainly consisted in reporting and treasury management (i.e., managing, on behalf of UNIDROIT, the bank accounts in which UNIDROIT's assets were held and any transfers between bank accounts). The ISRP's new fee structure reflected the fact that the ISRP's services were more relevant once long-term investments were made in the financial markets.

61. With regard to health insurance, *Ms Thijssen* explained that UNIDROIT had obtained an insurance policy with AXA in 2019, which was tacitly renewed in September each year. UNIDROIT staff members who were covered by this insurance policy were generally dissatisfied with the service provided by AXA. They had faced significant issues with reimbursements and the system and service had proven to be challenging for colleagues who were not fluent in Italian. Therefore, the Secretariat had obtained a quotation from another insurance company, Cigna, which served many international organisations. The premium quoted by Cigna was very similar to the premium under the Allianz Silver Plan that had been approved by the General Assembly at its 76th session (December 2017). At the time, it was ultimately decided to choose the policy offered by AXA, based on its lower cost. However, the Allianz Silver Plan had remained a benchmark and the quotation by Cigna fell within the range of that plan. The Secretariat proposed following up with Cigna to verify the coverage and terms under the proposed Beta plan, to change the insurance plan from AXA to Cigna if beneficial. The Finance Committee was asked to take note of this update and to share any views on the proposed way forward given that the Secretariat would have to timely notify AXA in case it was decided to cancel the current insurance policy and move to Cigna instead.

62. The Chair thanked *Ms Thijssen* for the update and for the efforts of the Secretariat in finding the best possible solution regarding health insurance for UNIDROIT's staff members.

63. The Committee took note of the updates with regard to the social security package applicable to UNIDROIT staff.

Item No. 8 on the agenda: Any other business

64. The Chair opened the floor for further interventions.

65. The *Secretary-General* thanked the Chair for his excellent leadership of the Finance Committee during the last years.

66. 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 Alexandre SCUDIÈRE FONTENELLE	(Brazil)
Ms Manon DOSTIE <i>(remotely)</i>	(Canada)
Ms HU Rui	(People's Republic of China)
Mr XIONG Jungyan	
Ms Stéphanie FELIX <i>(remotely)</i>	(France)
Ms Eva DA SILVA	(Germany)
Ms Annika STRIEWE <i>(intern)</i>	
Ms Katharina WAGNER <i>(intern)</i>	
Mr Purna Cita NUGRAHA <i>remotely</i>	(Indonesia)
Mr Costantino TARDUCCI	(Italy)
Mr Masamichi YAMASHITA	(Japan)
Mr Moisés MORERA MARTÍN	(Spain)
<i>Excused</i>	(Switzerland)
Mr Samuel ROTHENBERG	(United States of America)
Ms Leighton BARNES	
Mr Ian THOMPSON <i>(remotely)</i>	(United Kingdom)

UNIDROIT Secretariat

Mr Ignacio TIRADO	(Secretary-General)
Ms Anna VENEZIANO	(Deputy Secretary-General)
Ms Myrte THIJSSSEN	(Legal Officer)

ANNEXE II**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda (F.C. (95) 1 rev.)
3. First review of the Accounts of the financial year 2022 (F.C. (95) 2)
4. Adjustments to the Budget for the 2023 financial year (F.C. (95) 3)
5. Oral update concerning the long-term sustainability of the compensation structure
6. Draft Budget for 2024 – First estimates (F.C. (95) 4)
7. Update on the social security package applicable to UNIDROIT staff (F.C. (95) 5)
8. Any other business