

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sustainable Economic Development through Credit Expansion

A Focus on the Mining, Agriculture and Construction (MAC) Protocol and Rail Protocol

Cavonius Centre, Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge
West Road, CB3 9DS, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Friday 13 September 2024

11:00 – 16:00 British Summer Time

In this period of economic recovery following the global pandemic, businesses in different countries around the world increasingly face challenges in obtaining finance for major projects that would support sustainable economic development. These challenges are particularly acute in the mining, agriculture and construction (MAC) and rail sectors. One major constraint on access to credit in these critical sectors is a lack of clear, balanced and harmonised legal rules.

The MAC and Rail Protocols to the Cape Town Convention provide a solution to these problems. As international treaties developed by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), the MAC and Rail Protocols create an international legal framework that will fuel sustainable development, improve access to credit, and enable businesses to access modern machinery.

Hosted by the University of Cambridge and UNIDROIT, this international conference will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the operation of the MAC and Rail Protocols and how they facilitate credit expansion and sustainable development. The conference will also consider regional perspectives from Africa, Asia and Latin America, and what countries can do to realise the benefits of the MAC and Rail Protocols.

Diplomatic representatives, government officials, private sector stakeholders, legal practitioners and academic experts are warmly invited to attend the conference. The Conference will be conducted in English. Attendance is free, and online participation is possible. Coffee, tea and a light lunch will be provided for participants.

HOW TO REGISTER

③ Participants can register (free) for the Conference using the below link by **6 September 2024**:

[LINK FOR REGISTRATION](#)

③ Participants are also encouraged to consider attending the Cape Town Convention Academic Conference, which will be held in Cambridge on **11 and 12 September 2024** (more information and registration: <https://ctcap.org/event/13th-cape-town-convention-academic-project-conference-2024/>).

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Speaker
10:00	Registration, tea and coffee	
11:00	Opening remarks and welcome	Louise Gullifer Rouse Ball Professor of English Law, University of Cambridge
11:20	A model of success: the role of the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol in the facilitation of access to credit supporting economic development	Ignacio Tirado Secretary-General, UNIDROIT Sir Roy Goode Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Oxford, Author of CTC Official Commentaries
11:50	Expanding the Cape Town Convention to new sectors – the legal operation and economic benefits of the MAC and Rail Protocols	Marek Dubovec Director of Law Reform Programmes, International Law Institute Howard Rosen Chairman, Rail Working Group
12:40	Light lunch (provided)	
13:30	Fuelling sustainable development – regional perspectives on the MAC Protocol in Africa, Asia and Latin America	Mark Smith Chair, MAC Preparatory Commission Iyare Otabor-Olubor Senior Lecturer, Aston University Megumi Hara Professor, Chuo University
14:30	Coffee break	
14:45	Benefits of the MAC Protocol: a view from industry and financiers	Tim Burnhope Vice President, European Construction Equipment Manufacturing Association IfeanyiChukwu Egbuniwe Senior Counsel, United States EXIM Bank
15:15	Into the future - how Governments can realise the benefits of the MAC and Rail Protocols	William Brydie-Watson Senior Legal Officer, UNIDROIT Anna Veneziano Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT
15:45	Closing remarks	
16:00	End of conference	