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**Item No. 9 on the agenda: Implementation status and promotion strategy
for UNIDROIT Instruments**

**(d) UNCITRAL – UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts and Guide to
Enactment**

(prepared by the Secretariat)

<i>Summary</i>	<i>Update on the status of the UNCITRAL – UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts and related promotion activities</i>
<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>The Governing Council is invited to take note of the status and promotion update</i>
<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Work Programmes 2020-2022 and 2023-2025</i>
<i>Priority level</i>	<i>High</i>
<i>Related documents</i>	UNIDROIT 2020 – C.D. (99) A.8 ; UNIDROIT 2020 – C.D. (99) A.2 ; UNIDROIT 2021 – A.G. (79) 10 ; UNIDROIT 2021 – C.D. (100) B.24 ; UNIDROIT 2022 – C.D. (101) 8 ; UNIDROIT 2022 – C.D. (101) 21 ; UNIDROIT 2022 – A.G. (81) 9 ; UNIDROIT 2023 – C.D. (102) 4 rev. ; UNIDROIT 2023 – C.D. (102) 25 ; UNIDROIT 2024 – C.D. (103) 19

I. BACKGROUND AND STATUS

1. At its 99th session in April/May 2020, the Governing Council agreed to recommend that the General Assembly include the drafting, jointly with UNCITRAL, of a Model Law on Warehouse Receipts as a new project with high-priority status in the 2020-2022 Work Programme ([UNIDROIT 2020 – C.D. \(99\) A.8](#)). UNCITRAL's Commission approved the project at its 53rd session in September 2020 ([UN Doc. A/75/17](#)), followed by the UNIDROIT General Assembly at its 79th session in December 2020 ([UNIDROIT 2021 – A.G. \(79\) 10](#)).

2. In close collaboration with the UNCITRAL Secretariat, a UNIDROIT Working Group prepared the draft UNCITRAL – UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts (MLWR) over six Working Group sessions between December 2020 and April 2023, followed by intergovernmental negotiations of the draft at UNCITRAL Working Group I, which met twice between 2023 and 2024. The MLWR and its Guide to Enactment were approved by the UNIDROIT Governing Council at its 103rd session in May 2024 ([UNIDROIT 2024 – C.D. \(103\) 30](#)) and UNCITRAL's Commission at its 57th session in June/July 2024 ([UN Doc. A/79/17](#)).

3. On 4 December 2024, the United Nations General Assembly, at its 47th plenary meeting, adopted a resolution expressing its appreciation for the MLWR and requesting the Secretary-General of the United Nations to publish the Model Law together with the Guide to Enactment in the six official languages of the United Nations, and to disseminate it broadly to Governments and other interested bodies. Moreover, the General Assembly recommended that all States give favourable consideration to the MLWR when revising or adopting legislation relevant to warehouse receipts, and invited States that used the MLWR to advise the Commission accordingly ([UNGA Resolution A/RES/79/118](#)).

4. The purpose of the MLWR is to assist States in considering and adopting a modern warehouse receipts law supporting the issuance and transfer of electronic and paper-based receipts alike. The Model Law should be especially useful to States that currently do not have a warehouse receipts law, as well as to States that already have such laws but wish to modernise them, for instance to support the use of electronic warehouse receipts. The Model Law is accompanied by a Guide to Enactment to assist States in enacting its provisions and offer guidance to other users of the Law. The Guide contains an article-by-article commentary of the MLWR as well as guidance for designing implementing regulations and other complementary legislation that may be necessary to implement the Law at the country level.

5. Pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution, the MLWR and its Guide to Enactment are currently being translated from English into other United Nations languages, following which they will be available in six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

6. The official joint launch of the MLWR (in the English language) by UNIDROIT and UNCITRAL is scheduled for 23 May 2025 as a Side Event to the 105th session of the Governing Council at the seat of the Institute. All Governing Council Members are invited to join in celebrating the launch of this joint instrument.

7. Following the launch of the MLWR, the Secretariats of UNIDROIT and UNCITRAL envisage joint dissemination activities. The Institute's Secretariat is also liaising with associated experts and organisations that participated in the UNIDROIT Working Group on the Model Law concerning potential promotion activities. All Governing Council Members are invited to liaise with the Secretariat if there is an interest in promotion and dissemination activities from the part of their governments, academia or industry.

II. UPDATE ON PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

8. With the goal to raise awareness about the MLWR and the potential advantages of its use for legislative reform, the Secretariat relies on the experts and partner organisations that contributed to the drafting of the Model Law, its Correspondents and Governing Council Members, as well as other experts and organisations active in the field. The following are examples of initiatives co-sponsored by UNIDROIT and/or with the participation of the UNIDROIT Secretariat that featured the MLWR since the 103rd Governing Council session on 8-10 May 2024:

- On 21 June 2024, Mr José Angelo Estrella Faria, then Head of the UNCITRAL Legislative Branch, presented the MLWR to African legal experts at a dedicated session during the UNIDROIT International Programme for Law and Development.
- On 11 July 2024, UNIDROIT Legal Officer Ms Philine Wehling presented the MLWR to students as part of their master studies in International Business Law at Sapienza University in Rome, Italy.
- On 21 and 22 August 2024, UNIDROIT participated in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Committee's second annual session in Lima, Peru. Senior Legal Officer Mr

William Brydie-Watson presented the MLWR alongside other relevant UNIDROIT instruments as part of a Policy Dialogue on “Secured Finance Reform for Food Security”. As a follow-up, APEC approved a workshop for 2025 to provide an opportunity for APEC Member Economies to receive technical assistance and capacity-building support to assist in the implementation of UNIDROIT instruments.

- On 10 November 2024, UNIDROIT co-hosted a symposium on warehouse receipt legislation in Shanghai, People’s Republic of China, in collaboration with the National Warehouse Receipt Registration Center for Bulk Commodities and the Shanghai International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (SHIAC). The symposium sought to address challenges in China’s bulk commodities market and brought together legal experts, industry leaders, and policymakers, all focusing on the MLWR.
- On 19 and 20 November 2024, the MLWR was discussed together with other UNIDROIT instruments at the seventh conference organised by the Joint Network held in Istanbul, Türkiye, hosted by the Turkish Association of Financial Institutions and organised by the International Law Institute (ILI).
- On 20-21 February 2025, Professor Dora Neo, Member of the MLWR Working Group, held a presentation about the MLWR at the UNCITRAL Colloquium on Navigating the New Era of Digital Finance organised by UNCITRAL in New York.

III. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

9. *The Governing Council is invited to take note of the status and promotion update.*