

UNIDROIT'S CONTRIBUTION TO PRIVATE LAW AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Focus on Warehouse Receipts and Contract Farming

Date: 23 May 2025 | Time: 10:00 am to 1:30 pm CEST

Venue: UNIDROIT, Rome, Italy

Format: In-person and Online



Register Here



UNIDROIT

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PRIVATE LAW
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL POUR L'UNIFICATION DU DROIT PRIVE



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Overview

Launch of the UNCITRAL/UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts

UNIDROIT and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) are pleased to launch the UNCITRAL – UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts (MLWR) adopted in 2024 together with its Guide to Enactment.

The MLWR seeks to facilitate commercial transactions that involve warehoused goods, which may be traded or used as collateral through the transfer of the corresponding warehouse receipts. The MLWR promotes short-term financing and is particularly important in the agricultural sector. Adoption of the MLWR may facilitate access to credit, reduce financing costs for farmers, attract agricultural investments, enhance farmers' ability to grow, store and sell agricultural commodities, and ultimately contribute to overcoming the challenge of food security.

A panel comprised of experts from different jurisdictions will introduce the main features of the MLWR, explore the growing importance of warehouse receipts in supply chain finance, and discuss the potential benefits of warehouse receipt legislation implementing the MLWR at the domestic level, notably in the agricultural sector.

UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming – Ten Years on

Contract farming arrangements are commonly used worldwide for agricultural production. In 2015, UNIDROIT published the Legal Guide on Contract Farming, which it co-drafted and adopted with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Based on internationally accepted standards of practice, the Guide offers legal guidance to agricultural producers and businesses engaged in the production, export and marketing of agricultural goods. The Guide is accessible on the websites of the three organisations.

Ten years on, it is an opportune time to reflect on the practical implementation of the Guide across different legal systems. The event brings together a panel of international experts who will explore how the Guide has facilitated the creation of a favourable legal framework for sustainable contract farming, as well as the impact that the Guide may make over the next decade.



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Agenda

10:00 – 10:10 am | Welcome Remarks by Prof. Maria Chiara Malaguti, President, UNIDROIT

10:10 – 11:40 am | Panel 1: Launch of the UNCITRAL – UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts

- **Introductory Addresses:**
 - Prof. Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General, UNIDROIT
 - Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary, UNCITRAL
- **Panel Speakers:**
 - Dr. Philine Wehling, Legal Officer, UNIDROIT (Chair)
 - Prof. Eugenia Dacoronia, University of Athens; Governing Council Member, UNIDROIT
 - Dr. Luca Castellani, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL
 - Prof. Hiroo Sono, Hokkaido University, Japan
 - Dr. Marek Dubovec, Director of Law Reform Programs, International Law Institute
- **Q&A Session**

11:40 am – 12:00 pm | Break (*hors d'œuvres reception*)

12:00 – 1:30 pm | Panel 2: UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming – Ten Years On

- **Introductory Addresses:**
 - Prof. Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General, UNIDROIT
 - Dr. Guido Acquaviva, Deputy Legal Counsel, FAO
 - Ms Katherine Meighan, Chief Legal & Governance Officer, IFAD
- **Panel Speakers:**
 - Prof. Anna Veneziano, Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT (Chair)
 - Prof. Henry D. Gabriel, Elon University School of Law; Governing Council Member a.h., UNIDROIT
 - Ms Carmen Bullon, Legal Officer, FAO
 - Prof. Carlos A. da Silva, Agribusiness Development Consultant, Brazil
 - Prof. Letzadzo Isaac Kometsi, Dean of Faculty of Law, National University of Lesotho
- **Q&A Session**

1:30 pm | Conclusion by Prof. Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General, UNIDROIT



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