

SIDE EVENT TO 63rd AALCO SESSION

UNIDROIT's Cooperation with AALCO and Instruments on Access to Credit

DATE & TIME

8 September, 2025 at 1PM

PLACE

Speke Resort and Conference Center Wavamunno Rd,
Kampala, Uganda, Albert Hall

THE CONCEPT

On **8 September 2025**, it will be UNIDROIT's privilege to be able to **showcase its partnership with AALCO and to present its instruments on Access to Credit** at the 63rd Annual Session of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation

The event will feature opening remarks from the **Secretary-General of AALCO, His Excellency Dr Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol**, followed by a **keynote** delivered by **Deputy Secretary-General of UNIDROIT, Professor Anna Veneziano**. Professor Veneziano will explain the operation of UNIDROIT, introduce its current work programme, and examine several of its most important instruments that would assist AALCO Membership in achieving the legal framework conducive to Access to Credit.

Access to credit is one of UNIDROIT's most prolific and successful fields of legislative activity. Spanning four decades and including 12 adopted instruments, with several more that are being considered for the future Work Programme 2026-2028. UNIDROIT's work on access to credit includes both hard law treaties (conventions and protocols) as well as a number of soft law instruments in recent years (model laws and guides to enactment).

UNIDROIT's access to credit instruments covers a range of different financing methods and products used by different parties in a variety of sectors. Some instruments are focused on facilitating **access to finance for high-value equipment in key industry sectors** such as aviation, rail, mining, agriculture, and construction (the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols). Others are focused on ensuring **small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) can access credit through their receivables or products**, when traditional finance methods would not usually be available to them, due to a lack of collateral (such as the UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring and the UNIDROIT-UNCITRAL Model Law on Warehouse Receipts).

In recent years, UNIDROIT has combined its work on access to credit with its emerging expertise on developing private law instruments in the field of agricultural law and development to prepare several instruments focused on facilitating **access to credit for agricultural enterprises**.



Facilitating asset-based financing through the Cape Town Convention

- The Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (the **Cape Town Convention**), which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2006, is one of the most important and innovative international conventions to have been concluded in the field of transnational commercial law. With 88 Contracting States in all continents, and **26 States Party from AALCO membership**, the Cape Town Convention and its Protocol on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment ('Aircraft Protocol') **are collectively considered to be two of the most successful international commercial law treaties in history.**
- The **Luxembourg Rail Protocol** and the **Mining, Agriculture and Construction (MAC)** Protocol to the Cape Town Convention provide a detailed legal framework for the secured financing and leasing of high value equipment in these key sectors and would directly assist the AALCO membership in investing in the construction of infrastructure, as well as improve regional trade and connectivity.

Factoring

- The UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring (MLF), accompanied by a Guide to Enactment, is a complete, self-standing legal regime to facilitate factoring transactions. It is designed to provide a set of black-letter law rules for States that have not yet implemented a modern, comprehensive secured transactions registry. For States that have undertaken a secured transactions reform, the MLF provides additional rules that could further strengthen their legal framework and encourage factoring, the assignment of receivables, and trade finance.

Agri-Finance – Warehouse Receipts

- The UNIDROIT- UNCITRAL Model Law on Warehouse Receipts (MLWR), which is accompanied by a Guide to Enactment, provide an advanced global model for warehouse receipt legislation. Developed by leading experts, it incorporates best practices and the most recent trade and finance models, and it reflects the most effective legal reforms worldwide. It establishes a standardised legal framework for both paper-based and electronic warehouse receipts, ensuring they can be issued, transferred, and used as collateral in financial transactions. Its main objectives are to: **enhance legal certainty** for warehouse receipt systems, **facilitate access to credit**, particularly for smallholder farmers and small enterprises, **promote international trade** and financial inclusion, and **support digital innovation**, including blockchain and distributed ledger technologies