



**EN**

**Working Group on Orphan Objects**

*Fourth session*

Rome, 1 – 3 December 2025

UNIDROIT 2025

Study LXXB- W.G.4 - Doc. 1 rev.

Original: English

November 2025

**ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA**

1. Opening of the session and welcome by the UNIDROIT Secretary-General
2. Adoption of the draft agenda and organisation of the session (Study LXXB- W.G. 4 - Doc. 1 rev.)
3. Research Symposium on “Orphan Objects: Curatorial, Ethical, and Legal Aspects” (1<sup>st</sup> December 2025) – Concept note and Programme (Study LXXB- W.G. 4 - Doc. 2 rev.)
4. Memorandum prepared by Professor Janet Ulph, Leicester Law School, University of Leicester, UK (Study LXXB- W.G. 4 - Doc. 3)
5. Memorandum prepared by Mr Jacques Schumacher, Executive Director of Provenance Research at the Art Institute of Chicago, United States of America (Study LXXB- W.G. 4 - Doc. 4)
6. The notion of importance of cultural objects (Study LXXB- W.G. 4 - Doc. 5)
7. Current status of the Working Group discussions on key issues (Study LXXB- W.G. 4 - Doc. 6)
8. Proposal for a new Guideline on the scientific publication of orphan cultural objects (Study LXXB- W.G. 4 - Doc. 7)
9. Organisation of future work
10. Other business

## **ANNOTATIONS TO THE DRAFT AGENDA**

### **Item No. 1 Opening of the session and welcome by the Secretary-General**

1. The session will be held as a hybrid meeting with both in-person and remote participation via Zoom (UNIDROIT Headquarters). The session will be opened on Monday 1 December 2025, at 10:00 CET by the UNIDROIT Secretary-General.
2. To join the session, participants joining online will receive the link in due time.

### **Item No. 2 Adoption of the draft agenda and organisation of the session**

3. It is proposed that discussions be held as follows:

#### **Day 1**

Discussion	<b>10:00</b> – 13:15 CET
Coffee break	11:30 – 11:45 CET
Lunch break	13:15 – 14:30 CET
Discussion	14:30 – 16:45 CET

#### **Visit Brazilian Embassy **17:30****

<b>Day 2</b>	
Discussion	<b>9:30</b> – 13:00 CET
Coffee break	11:15 – 11:35 CET
Lunch break	13:00 – 14:30 CET
Discussion	14:30 – 17:30 CET

#### **Day 3**

Discussion	<b>09:30</b> – 13:00 CET
Coffee break	11:15 – 11:35 CET
Lunch break	13:00 – 14:30 CET
Discussion	14:30 – <b>16:00</b> CET

4. Draft programme for Days 2 and 3 of the Working Group:

**December 2, 2025** - Discussion on the preliminary draft Guidelines A, B and C in light of the Symposium speakers' presentation and their key issues' answers

**9:30 - 11:15 CET**      **Discussion on the preliminary draft of Guideline A. Definition of an [orphan/insufficiently provenanced] cultural object**

**Key issues asked to the Symposium speakers in relation to the Guideline:**

- How not to exclude an orphan object from the "cultural heritage"?

**11:15 – 11:35 CET**      **Coffee Break**

**11:35 – 13:00 CET**      **Discussion on the preliminary draft of Guideline B. Due diligence**

**Key issues asked to the Symposium speakers in relation to the Guideline:**

- What would you recommend the possessor do with an orphan object?
- Existing Best practices in your field/institution?

**13:00 – 14:30 CET**      **Lunch break**

**14:45 – 17:30 CET**      **Discussion on the preliminary draft of Guideline C. Provenance research**

**Key issues asked to the Symposium speakers in relation to the Guideline:**

- What connections do you see between provenance research and due diligence?
- Existing Best practices in your field/institution?
- What steps, if any, would you take towards the countries of origin, indigenous communities or any group that could have been the owner of the objects?

**December 3, 2025** - Discussion on the preliminary draft Guidelines D, E and F in light of the Symposium speakers' presentation and their key issues' answers

**9:30 - 11:15 CET**      **Discussion on the preliminary draft of Guideline D. Evidence**

**Key issues asked to the Symposium speakers in relation to the Guideline:**

- What elements would be needed according to you to make the presence of a particular object in a collection acceptable?

**11:15 – 11:35 CET**      **Coffee Break**

<b>11:35 – 13:00 CET</b>	<b>Discussion on the preliminary draft of <i>Guideline E. Publicizing</i></b>
	<b>Key issues asked to the Symposium speakers in relation to the Guideline:</b> - To what extent would you consider a database/platform of these objects to be relevant? - What would you suggest with a view to clarifying the object's provenance?
<b>13:00 – 14:30 CET</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14:30 – 15:30 CET</b>	<b>Discussion on the preliminary draft of <i>Guideline F. Dispute resolution</i></b>
	<b>Key issues asked to the Symposium speakers in relation to the Guideline:</b> - What steps, if any, would you take towards the countries of origin, indigenous communities or any group that could have been the owner of the objects? - Existing Best practices in your field/institution?
	<b>Discussion on the proposal for a new Guideline on the scientific publication of orphan cultural objects</b> (see document UNIDROIT 2025 – Study LXXB - W.G.4 - 7)

**Item No. 9    Organisation of future work**

5. The dates for the fifth session of the Working Group are to be determined. However, the Working Group may wish to consider organising intersessional work of thematic sub-groups.

6. Possible dates for the next meeting of the Working Group will be discussed at the meeting.