



UNIDROIT
International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
Institut International pour l'Unification du Droit Privé



UNIDROIT CENTENARY

ACCESS TO CREDIT WORKSHOP

Venue: Crausaz-Wordsworth Building, Robinson College, University of Cambridge

Friday 25 September 2026, 9:00 – 15:00 BST

To mark its Centennial year, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) has established seven Workstreams to develop strategic white papers on UNIDROIT's seven areas of work. The purpose of the white papers is to critically evaluate the development and success of existing instruments, as well as lay out future initiatives UNIDROIT could undertake to achieve its purpose of harmonising international private and commercial law in the respective legal fields.

In 2025, UNIDROIT established a Centenary Access to Credit Workstream to develop a white paper reviewing UNIDROIT's 12 existing international instruments and five ongoing projects in the access to credit field.¹ Over the past 12 months, the Workstream has prepared the Access to Credit draft white paper, which evaluates UNIDROIT's work in relation to (i) asset-based finance, (ii) factoring, (iii) leasing, (iv) agricultural finance, and (v) crowdfunding.

This Workshop will provide an opportunity to review and discuss the draft Access to Credit white paper in advance of its finalisation and submission to the UNIDROIT Governing Council and General Assembly for approval in December 2026. The Workshop will feature panels on the five topics covered by the White Paper, including presentations of the content and the opportunity for participants to discuss each topic. Each panel will have both a retrospective analytical element focusing on the success and impact of existing UNIDROIT standards in the field of access to credit, as well as a prospective element looking at potential future work and initiatives.

This event is by invitation only. International secured transactions experts and organisations involved in the access to credit field have been invited to participate. Online participation is possible, although in-person attendance is strongly encouraged, in order to facilitate active participation and discussion. Invited participants can register their participation in the Workshop at the following link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZKP4OYWVmEkmzliFBp1nfY1pDG3-ehJrwMOP9krJ7te-Hlg/viewform?usp=publish-editor>.

A light lunch will be provided for in-person participants.

This event is being held in the margins of the 15th Cape Town Convention Academic Conference to be held in Cambridge on 23 and 24 September, as well as the 9th International Secured Transactions Conference, to be held in London on 21 and 22 September 2026. Participants are warmly invited to consider attending all three events.

AGENDA

8:40 Registration Opens

9:00 - 9:10 Opening and Welcoming Remarks

Professor Louise Gullifer, Chair, University of Cambridge Faculty of Law

Professor Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

9:10 - 9:20 Introduction to the Access to Credit Workstream and Draft White Paper

Professor Neil Cohen, 1901 Distinguished Research Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School (Workstream Chair)

9:20 - 10:50 Panel I – Asset Based Finance

This panel will review the impact of the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft, Rail, Space and Mining, Agriculture and Construction (MAC) equipment Protocols. The panel will also consider the future Protocols currently on the Institute's work programme, including the possible Maritime Protocol and Renewable Energy Generation Protocol.

Chair: Professor Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

SPEAKERS

The Honourable Dr Ole Böger, German Federal Court of Justice

Professor Megumi Hara, Chuo University, Japan

Mr Paul Ng, Head of Aviation & Aerospace, Rajah & Tann

Mr Howard Rosen, Chairman, Rail Working Group (online)

Mr Hamza Hameed, Focus Group on the Space Protocol

Mr Satoru Koyama, Director and Executive Managing Director, Japan Construction Equipment Manufacturers Association

10:50 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00 Panel II – Factoring and Receivables Finance

This panel will review the impact of the UNIDROIT Convention on International Factoring, the UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring and the recently published Guide to Enactment for the Model Law on Factoring.

Chair: Mr William Brydie-Watson, Senior Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

SPEAKERS

Professor Louise Gullifer, Chair, University of Cambridge Faculty of Law

Professor Alejandro Garro, Columbia Law School

Mr Milot Amha, Principal Counsel, EBRD

Ms Betul Kurtulus, Deputy Secretary-General, FCI

Professor Orkun Akseli, University of Manchester Law School

12:00 - 12:40 Panel III - Leasing

This panel will review the impact of the UNIDROIT Convention on International Leasing, the UNIDROIT Model Law on Leasing and future work on the development of a future Guide to Enactment for the Model Law on Leasing.

Chair: Dr Theodora Kostoula, Legal Consultant, UNIDROIT

SPEAKERS

Professor Rafael Castillo-Triana, CEO, The Alta Group – Latin America

Mr Murat Sultunov, Senior Operations Officer, IFC

Mr Mike Dennis, Consultant, International Law Institute (online)



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12:40 - 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 - 14:20 Panel IV – Agricultural Finance

The panel will review the impact of the UNCITRAL-UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts, the Guide to Enactment to the Model Law as well as the recently initiated project to develop a Legal Guide on Agricultural Financing (and possible development of a UNIDROIT Model Law on Crop Receipts).

Chair: Professor Anna Veneziano, Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

SPEAKERS

Professor Iyare Otabor-Olubor, Aston University

Professor Dora Neo, National University of Singapore

Ms Christina Pak, Assistant General Counsel, ADB (online)

Dr Marek Dubovec, Director of Law Reform Programs, International Law Institute

14:20 - 14:50 Panel V – Crowdfunding

This panel will consider the recently initiated project on investment-based crowdfunding, including issues of typology and classification, intermediation, technology and the use of digital platforms.

Chair: Ms Kateryna Bovsunovska, Legal Consultant, UNIDROIT

SPEAKERS

Professor Teresa Rodriguez de las Heras Ballell, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Mr Ivor Istuk, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank Group (online)

14:50 - 15:00 Conclusions and Closing Remarks

Professor Neil Cohen, 1901 Distinguished Research Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School (Workstream Chair)

15:00 Closing of Event