

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

UNIDROIT CENTENARY CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

The Role of International Arbitration in the Formation, Application, and Development of International Standards and Uniform Rules for Trade and Dispute Resolution

22-23 October 2026

UNIDROIT, Via Panisperna 28, Rome, Italy

AGENDA

Thursday, 22 October 2026

9.00 – 10.00 Welcome Coffee

10.00 – 10.30 Session 1 - Opening and Presentation of the Centenary Workstreams

The opening session will set the stage for the two-day conference. It will introduce the seven workstreams established by UNIDROIT on the occasion of its centenary in order to guide the Institute's substantive reflection on its past achievements and future direction across the major areas of its activity. The session will focus specifically on the Procedural Law and Dispute Resolution workstream and its intersection with the Contract Law workstream, which together frame the conference's core themes — including the role of arbitration in developing and applying transnational standards. Consideration will also be given to the workstream on Sustainable Development as it relates to the topics under consideration. The presentation will contextualise how UNIDROIT's historical engagement with arbitration — dating back to its preparatory work for the New York Convention — continues to shape its agenda today.

SPEAKERS

Ignacio Tirado (Secretary-General, UNIDROIT)

Maria Chiara Malaguti (President Emerita, UNIDROIT)

José Antonio Moreno Rodríguez (Member of the Governing Council, UNIDROIT)

Eduardo Silva Romero (Co-Chair of the UNIDROIT Working Group on International Investment Contracts and Member of the UNIDROIT Workstream on Procedural Law and Dispute Resolution)

10.30 – 12.30 Session 2 - The Role of Arbitral Institutions in the Application and Evolution of Substantive Transnational Law

The session will feature a moderated roundtable discussion among representatives of major arbitral institutions from different regions. The discussion will focus on how arbitral institutions contribute to the formation and progressive development of the substantive rules that govern international commercial transactions, with a particular focus on the use of the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (UPICC). Questions will be shared in advance to facilitate the discussion.

MODERATORS

Emilia Onyema (Professor of International Commercial law, SOAS University of London)

Luca Radicati di Brozolo (Founding Partner, ArbLit)

Participating arbitral institutions (in alphabetical order):

1. Casablanca Centre International de Mediation et d'Arbitrage (CIMAC)
2. China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC)
3. Corte Internacional e Iberoamericana de Arbitraje de Madrid (CIAM) and Club Español e Iberoamericano del Arbitraje (CEIA)
4. London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
5. Lusaka International Arbitration Center (LIAC)
6. Organization of Islamic Cooperation Arbitration Centre (OIC-AC)
7. Shanghai International Arbitration Centre (SHIAC)

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break**14.00 – 16.00 Session 3 - Topics for Harmonisation and Standardisation: An Institutional Debate**

This session will feature a moderated roundtable discussion among representatives of major arbitral institutions from different regions. Building on the analysis of the UNIDROIT Workstream on Procedural Law and Dispute Resolution, the session will identify specific areas of international arbitration practice that could benefit from harmonisation or standardisation of rules and will invite the institutional representatives to react, debate, and offer their perspectives on which initiatives are most needed and most feasible. Questions will be shared in advance to facilitate the discussion.

MODERATORS

Giuditta Cordero-Moss (Professor, University of Oslo)

Minn Naing Oo (Arbitrator and Mediator, Arbitration Chambers)

Participating arbitral institutions (in alphabetical order):

1. Centro Brasileiro de Mediação e Arbitragem (CBMA)
2. Ghana Arbitration Centre
3. International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
4. Milan Chamber of Arbitration (CAM)
5. Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA)
6. Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)
7. Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC)

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break**16.30 – 17.30 Session 4 - The UNIDROIT-ICC Principles on International Investment Contracts: Presentation and Discussion**

This session will include a presentation of the draft UNIDROIT-ICC Principles on International Investment Contracts by members of the Working Group responsible for the instrument's development, followed by a moderated discussion. The session will conclude by exploring how arbitral institutions can contribute to the sound implementation of international investment contracts through dispute settlement.

SPEAKERS

Eduardo Silva Romero (Co-Chair of the UNIDROIT Working Group on International Investment Contracts)

Pierrick Le Goff (Partner, De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés)

Jeremy Sharpe (Independent international arbitrator)

17.30 – 18.00 Keynote address

Claus Von Wobeser (Honorary Chairman and Of Counsel, Von Wobeser y Sierra)

18.30 Cocktail reception

Casa dei Cavalieri di Rodi, Piazza del Grillo 1

Friday, 23 October 2026

9.30 – 10.30 Session 5 — Public-Private Cooperation in the Harmonisation of International Arbitration Standards

This session will feature a roundtable discussion among representatives of major arbitral institutions and international organisations. This session will address the respective roles of the public and private sectors in developing standards for international arbitration. The discussion will seek to map out which tasks are best undertaken by the private sector, including arbitral institutions, which areas require autonomous institutional action, and those areas where collaboration between public international organisations and private actors is essential. The session will also consider how to navigate the institutional landscape in a constructive and forward-looking manner, ensuring that future initiatives are complementary rather than overlapping. Questions will be shared in advance to facilitate the discussion.

MODERATORS

Diego P. Fernández Arroyo (Professor, Sciences Po Law School)

Lauro Gama (Adjunct Professor, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio)

Participating arbitral institutions (in alphabetical order):

1. Astana International Arbitration Center (IAC)
2. Beijing Arbitration Commission/Beijing International Arbitration Court (BAC/BIAC)
3. FGV Chamber of Mediation and Arbitration (Brazil)
4. India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC)
5. International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
6. NUS Centre for Arbitration and International Dispute Resolution (CAIDR)
7. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA-CPA)

10.30 – 11.30 Session 6 — The IBA Project on Res Judicata in International Arbitration: A Case Study in State-Private Cooperation

Presented by the IBA rapporteurs, this session will be dedicated to the IBA's ongoing project on res judicata in international arbitration, presented as a concrete illustration of the themes discussed in Session 5.

SPEAKERS

Dietmar Prager (Co-Chair, International Bar Association Arbitration Committee)

Patricia Saiz (Senior Vice Chair, International Bar Association Arbitration Committee)

Luca Radicati di Brozolo (Founding Partner, ArbLit)

11.30 – 11.45 Coffee break

11.45 – 13.00 Session 7 — Identification of Future Projects and Closing Remarks

The conference will conclude with an open discussion aimed at identifying concrete projects and areas of future collaboration. Drawing on the insights and debates of the preceding sessions, participants will be invited to propose new topics or initiatives on which the international arbitration community — in partnership with UNIDROIT, and other organisations — could collaborate to build a legal framework suited to the evolving needs of international trade. The session will close with a summary of key outcomes and next steps.

SPEAKERS

Anna Veneziano (Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT)

Maria Chiara Malaguti (President Emerita, UNIDROIT)

Eduardo Silva Romero (Co-Chair of the UNIDROIT Working Group on International Investment Contracts and Member of the UNIDROIT Workstream on Procedural Law and Dispute Resolution)