

UNIDROIT Middle East and North Africa Transnational Law Academic Symposium
“Transnational Commercial and Investment Law and Middle East Regional
Developments”

PROGRAMME

Rome, UNIDROIT Headquarters
3-4 February 2026

DAY 1: 3 FEBRUARY 2026

Timing	Topic	Speaker	Commentator
9:30 - 9:40	Welcome remarks	Ignacio Tirado and Jeffrey Wool	N/A
9:40 - 10:00	Opening Keynote Speech	Malik R. Dahlan	N/A
10:00 - 12:00	1. Contracts - terms and enforcement		
10:00 - 11:00	1.1. Principles of commercial contracts and contract farming	Priscila Pereira de Andrade	Yotam Kaplan
11:00 - 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:15 - 12:00	1.2 Best Practices of Enforcement	Anna Veneziano	Jeffrey Wool
12:00 - 15:50	2. Trade, investment and economic impacts		
12:00 - 13:00	2.1. Investment contracts, including agricultural land investment contracts	Myrte Thijssen and Priscila Pereira de Andrade	Hajji Amin and Nahla Djabi
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		

14:00 - 15:00	2.2. Private and public law frameworks for regional trade and investment	Tomer Broude	Ali Kairouani
15:00 - 15:50	2.3. Economic evaluation of commercial and investment law reform	Theodora Kostoula	May El Shaarawy
15:50 - 16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
16:00 - 17:50	3. Access to Credit		
16:00 - 17:00	3.1. Cape Town Convention implementation of and compliance with the Aircraft Protocol	Jeffrey Wool	Sheriff El Hossey
17:00 - 17:50	3.2. Rail and MAC Protocols to the Cape Town Convention	Anna Veneziano	N/A

DAY 2: 4 FEBRUARY 2026

Timing	Topic	Speaker	Commentator
9:00 - 9:20	Keynote Speech: International perspective on MENA Project	Stéphane Braconnier	N/A
9:20 - 10:10	3. Access to Credit (continued)		
9:20 - 10:10	3.3. Factoring and warehouse receipts. Future projects on best practices on agricultural financing and the model law on investment-based crowdfunding.	Ignacio Tirado	N/A

10:10 - 10:30

Coffee Break

10:30 - 13:00

4. Contemporary issues: technology and energy/sustainability

10:30 - 11:30

4.1. Digital assets in private law

Theodora Kostoula

Berk Kapanci;
Baiba Broka
(specialised comment): *Case study on sharia law and digital assets trading*

11:30 - 13:00

4.2. Energy, sustainable finance, and private law

Giulia Previti

Damilola Olawuyi

Round table with the law firms:
Boden Law, Gibson Dunn, Watson
Farley & Williams

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 14:45

5. Commercial Arbitration in the MENA Region: Recent Developments and Transnational Perspectives

Dhafer Dridi

Mutaz Qafisheh

14:45 - 15:15

6. Cultural Property

Marina Schneider

N/A

15:15 - 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:15

7. Course materials for joint or parallel teaching of comparative, transactional and transnational commercial and investment law

Jeffrey Wool

Omar Ariqat,
Basak Basoglu,
Susan
L-Karamanian

16:15 - 17:30

8. Future work and project development

16:15 - 17:30

8.1 MENA commercial and investment law and case/arbitration database (AI aided)

Jeffrey Wool

Open Discussion

16:15 - 17:30

8.2 Academic study on interplay between religious law and commercial law and transactional practice, historically and currently

Jeffrey Wool

N/A

16:15 - 17:30

8.3 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in MENA, including best practices and foundational materials

Jeffrey Wool

Rob Cowan

16:15 - 17:30

8.4 Next steps & Comparative/transnational law scholarship and research opportunities

Jeffrey Wool and Ignacio Tirado

N/A