



EN

GOVERNING COUNCIL
107th session
Rome, 27-29 May 2026

UNIDROIT 2026
C.D. (107) 12
Original: English
April 2026

Item No. 8 on the agenda: International Interests in Mobile Equipment

(c) Implementation and status of the Space Protocol

(prepared by the Secretariat)

<i>Summary</i>	<i>Update on the implementation and status of the Space Protocol to the Cape Town Convention</i>
<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>The UNIDROIT Secretariat invites the Governing Council to take note of the activities in relation to the implementation of the Space Protocol</i>
<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Work Programmes 2014-2016, 2017-2019, 2020-2022, 2023-2025, 2026-2028</i>
<i>Priority level</i>	<i>High</i>
<i>Related documents</i>	<u>UNIDROIT 2019 – C.D. (98) 17</u> ; <u>UNIDROIT 2020 – C.D. (99) B.13</u> ; <u>UNIDROIT 2021 – C.D. (100) B.10</u> ; <u>UNIDROIT 2022 – C.D. (101) 13</u> ; <u>UNIDROIT 2023 – C.D. (102) 15</u> ; <u>UNIDROIT 2023 – A.G. (81) 9</u> ; <u>UNIDROIT 2024 – C.D. (103) 15</u> ; <u>UNIDROIT 2025 – C.D. (105) 15</u>

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Under the 2026-2028 Work Programme, the implementation of the Space Protocol continues to be given a high degree of priority ([UNIDROIT 2025 A.G. \(85\) 3](#), para. 1). This document provides an update on the Institute's Depositary functions and additional details on UNIDROIT's activities regarding implementation and promotion of the Space Protocol since the 105th session of the Governing Council in May 2025.

II. STATUS AND DEPOSITARY FUNCTIONS

2. The Space Protocol was opened to signature in Berlin on 9 March 2012. As of 5 March 2026, it has one contracting State (Paraguay) and four Signatory States (Burkina Faso, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe). See Annexe I for further details. UNIDROIT has been designated as the Depositary of the Space Protocol (pursuant to its Article XLVIII (1)), which will enter into force following the procedure provided for in Article XXXVIII.

3. UNIDROIT's responsibilities as Depositary of the Space Protocol are specified in the instrument and, as for the Convention and the other Protocols, include the operation of a system for the receipt and notification of all instruments of ratification, declarations, and other documents lodged with the Depositary.

III. ACTIVITIES

A. Institutional implementation and Focus Group on the implementation of the Space Protocol

4. Pursuant to Resolution 1 of the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Space Protocol adopted on 9 March 2012, a Preparatory Commission was established to act as Provisional Supervisory Authority for the establishment of the International Registry for Space Assets. In 2017, the Commission's Members agreed to shift the focus of the Preparatory Commission's work and constitute a Sub-Group of experts to reassess industry participation for the promotion and development of the Space Protocol, which was considered a key factor in gaining support for the implementation of this instrument. In addition, the Secretariat has continued to develop and enhance strategic partnerships to promote the Protocol and generally support the understanding of asset-based financing in the space sector, through cooperation with intergovernmental organisations and other key global actors in the space sector.

5. In the course of 2025, the UNIDROIT Secretariat set up a Focus Group on the Implementation of the Space Protocol, designed to continue the work of the Sub-Group of experts in promoting knowledge and implementation of the Protocol among interested stakeholders from industry and governments. The Focus Group, chaired by Mr Hamza Hameed, Head of Space & Development at Access Partnership and former member of the UNIDROIT Secretariat, started its operation in 2026, with Terms of Reference for a two-year period. Deliverables include the development of a Practice Guide to the Protocol and the organisation of awareness-raising events for industry and governmental experts in various regions of the world.

6. Acting in his capacity as chair of the Focus Group, Mr Hameed participated in the Seventh International Space Forum at Ministerial Level, Southeast Asia Chapter, held in Manila, Philippines (4 December 2025), where he delivered a presentation outlining the objectives of the Protocol and its potential role in facilitating asset-based financing and supporting investment in space activities.

B. Cooperation with intergovernmental organisations

7. UNIDROIT was granted Observer status at the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) in 2021. Since the last session of the Governing Council, the Secretary-General delivered a statement on the Space Protocol to the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS at its 64th session (5-16 May 2025).

8. The Secretariat further contributed its customary statement on the activities related to space law to the 65th session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, to be held in Vienna from 13 to 24 April 2026. The Secretariat is planning to participate remotely.

C. Cooperation with other international organisations

9. The UNIDROIT Secretariat continued to engage in fruitful cooperation with the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). In particular, Senior Legal Officer Mr William Brydie-Watson attended the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) held from 30 September to 2 October 2025 in Sydney, Australia. The conference afforded the opportunity to liaise with industry and governmental participants and organise side meetings.

10. The Secretariat also participated as an observer institution in the IAF Committee for Liaison with International Organizations and Developing Nations (CLIODN) during the 76th International Astronautical Congress, as well as subsequent meetings in 2026.

D. Promotional activities

11. The Secretariat engaged in a targeted capacity-building activity with the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is considering ratification of all Protocols to the Cape Town Convention, including the Space Protocol. Two online consultation events were held between the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026, with participation of Principal Legal Officer and Treaty Depositary Ms Marina Schneider, Deputy Secretary-General Ms Anna Veneziano, and (for the Space Protocol) Mr Hamza Hameed, to introduce the benefits of the Protocol and discuss declarations.

12. A joint presentation entitled “Small Satellites, Public and Private Law Perspectives” was delivered by Senior Legal Officer Mr William Brydie-Watson and Mr Hameed in the framework of the IAC Conference in October 2025.

13. The Space Protocol was further featured in several lectures:

- The potential role of the Protocol in facilitating the financing of new space activities in African countries was presented during the 2025 International Programme for Law and Development (IPLD) Africa Plus;
- A lecture was delivered in the framework of the Master’s in International Business Law at Sapienza University in Rome (Italy) in July 2025, with participation of students from various Latin American countries;
- The newly-established 2025 IPLD for the Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, and the Caucasus (BEPCAC) also offered the opportunity to discuss financing of space assets and the Space Protocol through the presentation of a case study.

14. The Secretariat will continue to monitor developments in relation to the space sector and to promote the Space Protocol pursuant to its mandate and the high priority of its promotion.

IV. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

15. *The UNIDROIT Secretariat invites the Governing Council to take note of the activities in relation to the implementation of the Space Protocol.*

ANNEXE**PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS IN MOBILE EQUIPMENT ON MATTERS
SPECIFIC TO SPACE ASSETS****PROTOCOLE PORTANT SUR LES QUESTIONS SPECIFIQUES AUX BIENS SPATIAUX A LA CONVENTION RELATIVE
AUX GARANTIES INTERNATIONALES
PORTANT SUR DES MATERIELS D'EQUIPEMENT MOBILES**as of 13 April 2026 / *au 13 avril 2026***Adoption:** Place: Berlin / *Lieu: Berlin*
Date: 09.03.2012**Entry into force / *Entrée en*** Not in force / *Pas encore en vigueur* (ex Article XXXVIII)
vigueur:**Depositary / *Dépositaire:*** UNIDROIT

STATE / <i>ÉTAT</i>	SIGNATURE	RATIFICATION (RT) ACCEPTANCE / <i>ACCEPTATION</i> (AC) APPROVAL / <i>APPROBATION</i> (AP) ACCESSION / <i>ADHÉSION</i> (AS)	DECLARATIONS	ENTRY INTO FORCE / <i>ENTRÉE EN</i> <i>VIGUEUR</i>
Burkina Faso	09.03.2012	-	-	-
Germany / <i>Allemagne</i> (with declaration at signature / <i>avec</i> <i>déclaration à la signature</i>)	21.11.2012	-	-	-
Paraguay	-	27.11.2024	-	-
Saudi Arabia / <i>Arabie</i> <i>saoudite</i>	09.03.2012	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	09.03.2012	-	-	-