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**Item No. 10 on the agenda: Implementation status and promotion strategy
for UNIDROIT Instruments**

(a) UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts

(prepared by the Secretariat)

<i>Summary</i>	<i>Update on the promotion and implementation strategy and activities for the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts</i>
<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>The Governing Council is invited to take note of the promotion and implementation update</i>
<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Work Programme 2026-2028</i>
<i>Priority level</i>	<i>High</i>
<i>Related documents</i>	UNIDROIT 2024 - C.D. (103) 19 ; UNIDROIT 2024 - C.D. (103) 30 ; UNIDROIT 2025 - C.D. (105) 19 ; UNIDROIT 2025 - C.D. (105) 32 ; UNIDROIT 2025 - A.G. (85) 3

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the 103rd session of the Governing Council on 8-10 May 2024 (see [UNIDROIT 2024 - C.D. \(103\) 19](#)), the Secretariat had presented a renewed promotion strategy for the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (UPICC), following the UPICC 30th Anniversary Conference held earlier that year. The Conference had served as a key forum for strategic reflection and had generated numerous proposals for the future promotion of the UPICC, a number of which were subsequently integrated by the Secretariat into its promotion activities (see [UNIDROIT 2025 - C.D. \(105\) 19](#)).

2. Since then, the Secretariat has refined and consolidated its promotion and implementation strategy. Its objective is still to enhance the UPICC's global and regional visibility, as well as its practical application in international commercial contracting, dispute resolution, legal reform, and legal education. To achieve this goal, the Secretariat continues to leverage its global network of Governing Council Members, UNIDROIT Correspondents, and other experts. At the same time, building upon lessons learned, the Secretariat is channelling its efforts towards attainable goals and a durable impact.

3. In relation to the initiatives organised or co-sponsored by UNIDROIT, or involving the Secretariat, the promotion strategy is structured around **five interrelated pillars** providing a coherent framework to consolidate ongoing efforts and guide future action. This document contains examples of such initiatives since the last update provided to the Governing Council at its 105th session. An additional element is represented this year by the activity of the **Centenary Contract Law Committee** that was established, alongside the other Workstream Centenary Committees, to take stock of the past and the present and to propose recommendations for the future. For more information about the Committee, see UNIDROIT 2026 – C.D. (107) 27 on Initiatives related to the Centenary of UNIDROIT.

II. UPICC AS BACKGROUND LAW FOR SPECIFIC CONTRACT TYPES

4. In line with the Secretariat's strategy to extend the UPICC's application to sector-specific contracts and increase their visibility in key industries, the General Assembly, following the Governing Council's proposal, included a high-priority project on International Principles for Construction and Engineering Contracts in the Work Programme 2026–2028 (see [UNIDROIT 2025 – A.G. \(85\) 3](#) and UNIDROIT 2026 – C.D. (107) 9, on Projects initiated under the 2026-2028 Work Programme). Undertaken jointly with the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), the project will develop a soft-law instrument tailored to the specificities of construction and engineering contracts, complementing the UPICC's general principles and providing a coherent, practical framework for the sector.

5. This initiative builds on the successful practice of leveraging the UPICC as background law for contract-specific projects, such as the 2015 UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming,¹ the 2021 UNIDROIT/IFAD Legal Guide on Agricultural Land Investment Contracts,² and the 2025 Principles of Reinsurance Contract Law.³ It also complements the ongoing project on the UPICC and International Investment Contracts,⁴ carried out in partnership with the ICC Institute of World Business Law, demonstrating the UPICC's continued adaptability and its role as a practical reference across diverse sectors.

III. ENHANCING AWARENESS AND WIDER DISSEMINATION AMONG PRACTITIONERS, ARBITRAL COURTS, AND JUDGES

6. A primary objective of the Secretariat's promotion and implementation strategy is to increase awareness and encourage the use of the UPICC among practitioners, with particular focus on the application by arbitral tribunals, but also considering their use by national courts. This pillar further covers formal institutional recognition by professional organisations, as well as focused initiatives in cooperation with arbitral centres and other institutions. Examples of events that were not reported in last year's document for the Governing Council include the following.

A. Endorsement by professional organisations

7. A relevant milestone was achieved on 8 October 2025, when Secretary-General Tirado formally witnessed and signed the Resolution adopted by the **International Association of Young Lawyers (Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats, AIJA)**, marking a significant step towards a broader professional endorsement of the UPICC. Presented by AIJA President Ms Kato

¹ The UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming is available at <https://www.unidroit.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Contract-farming-legal-guide.pdf>.

² The UNIDROIT/IFAD Legal Guide on Agricultural Land Investment Contracts is available at <https://www.unidroit.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ALICGuidehy.pdf>.

³ The Principles of Reinsurance Contract Law are available [here](#).

⁴ Information on the ongoing project on the UPICC and International Investment Contracts is available at <https://www.unidroit.org/work-in-progress/investment-contracts-upicc/>.

Aerts, the Resolution “[r]ecommends that the UNIDROIT Principles 2016 be considered by its members and by the international legal community as an important option in connection with drafting, interpretation, and resolution of disputes relating to international contracts”. The online signing ceremony also involved Deputy Secretary-General Prof. Anna Veneziano and Prof. Eckart Brödermann (Hamburg University), a key advocate of the Resolution. This endorsement further strengthens the authority of the UPICC and complements recognition already expressed by other professional organisations and intergovernmental organisations, consolidating their status as a recognised reference point in international commercial practice.

B. Capacity-building programmes

8. Over the years, the Secretariat has embedded the promotion of the UPICC into recurring annual programmes. Most notably, the UPICC feature prominently in the framework of the **International Programme for Law and Development (IPLD)**, organised by UNIDROIT and sponsored by the Italian Government. Since the last session of the Governing Council, the UPICC were the subject of several lectures and workshops in the fourth edition of the IPLD “Africa Plus” (June-July 2025) and in the first edition of the IPLD BEPCAC (Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia and the Caucasus) (September 2025). In particular, during the IPLD Africa Plus, the Deputy Secretary-General presented the UPICC and their Model Clauses, followed by an intervention by Counsellor Mohamed Ismail, Vice President of the Egyptian State Council, who discussed the use of the UPICC in the MENA region in dialogue with Legal Officer Ms Philine Wehling (17 June 2025). During the IPLD BEPCAC programme, the Deputy Secretary-General and Principal Legal Officer Meiling Huang explored issues of contract drafting in arbitration together with Mr Michele Ius, Head of Contracts at the Danieli Group (16 September 2025).

9. Other annual programmes include the **International Trade Law Programme at the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO)**, co-sponsored by UNIDROIT since 2019, and the Master’s in International Business Law at Sapienza University of Rome, co-organised with UNIDROIT and coordinated by the Secretary-General since 2023. On 26 June 2025, Legal Officer Ms Wehling delivered a lecture on the UPICC to LL.M. students as part of the Master’s in International Business Law at Sapienza University of Rome, and she will participate in the next reiteration of the ITCLC Programme in May 2026.

C. Conferences and seminars

10. On 16 May 2025, UNIDROIT and **ICC Tunisia** jointly organised **a conference in Tunis**, “*Les Principes d’UNIDROIT et l’arbitrage international: un cadre émergent pour le règlement des conflits dans la région MENA*”. This event, facilitated by UNIDROIT Correspondent Mr Dhafer Dridi, brought together over 100 participants, including arbitrators, judges, lawyers, government officials, academics, and students. It provided an in-depth discussion on the expanding role of the UPICC in international arbitration across the Middle East and North Africa. Opening and closing remarks were delivered by then-UNIDROIT President Prof. Maria Chiara Malaguti and Ms Selma Babbou, Vice-President of ICC Tunisia. Prof. Malaguti also presented on “*Les contrats d’investissement et les Principes d’UNIDROIT*”. The Deputy Secretary-General contributed to “*Les Principes d’UNIDROIT: un ensemble équilibré de règles pour les contrats du commerce international*”, while Legal Officer Ms Wehling addressed “*Les fonctions des Principes d’UNIDROIT et leur influence sur la région MENA*”.

11. The role of the UPICC in providing solutions for the new challenges in international arbitration was also showcased at the Seventh **Shanghai International Arbitration Forum**, held on 8 November 2025, where the Deputy Secretary-General delivered a keynote speech in the context of the workshop on “*Connecting Asia-Pacific, Serving the World: New Developments in International Dispute Resolution Mechanisms*”.

12. On 28 January 2026, UNIDROIT hosted the **UNIDROIT Asian Transnational Law Centre (ATLC) Seminar**, with the title “*The UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (UPICC) in China and beyond: Theoretical Reception and Its Practical Implications*”, co-organised with the Civil Law Society of the China Law Society and supported by the Shanghai International Arbitration Center (SHIAC). While the first part of the seminar focused on a high-level academic discussion regarding the impact of the UPICC on the new Chinese Civil Code (see below), the second part targeted its practical application in arbitration. The seminar featured opening remarks by Secretary-General Prof. Tirado and keynote speeches by Prof. Liming Wang, who examined contract termination under Chinese law through the lens of the UPICC, and by Ms Weijun Wang, SHIAC Secretary-General. Each was followed by a panel moderated, respectively, by Deputy Secretary-General Prof. Veneziano and Principal Legal Officer Prof. Meiling Huang.

13. On 5 February 2026, UNIDROIT Legal Officer Ms Philine Wehling delivered a webinar dedicated to the UPICC, in collaboration with the **Egyptian State Lawsuits Authority (ESLA)**, organised under the auspices of its President, H.E. Counsellor Hussein Madkour. ESLA represents the Egyptian State before national and international courts and arbitral tribunals and plays a central role in judicial capacity-building, including for State Council judges. The webinar gathered judges and counsellors from across Egypt. ESLA subsequently requested that the webinar be integrated into its formal training programme, representing a concrete step toward institutionalising the UPICC within national judicial training in Egypt.

14. The **Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA)**, which had already endorsed the use of the UPICC in contract drafting and dispute resolution, will hold a conference in Krakow (Poland) on 23 and 24 April 2026. Deputy Secretary-General Prof. Veneziano has been invited to deliver a keynote speech at the event.

15. Other recent initiatives included a presentation on the UPICC by Legal Officer Ms Wehling to members of the Latvian Supreme Court during their official visit to UNIDROIT headquarters on 16 October 2025. The UPICC will also be a prominent part of the ICC Italy 2026 capacity-building project addressed to Zambian arbitral practitioners and judges, financed by the Italian Government and co-sponsored by UNIDROIT, with the participation of several UNIDROIT Legal Officers.

IV. SUPPORTING REGIONAL PROMOTION AND OUTREACH

16. The Secretariat is continuing its activity in promoting engagement with the UPICC at the regional level, with a focus on regions where the UPICC, while underutilised, could be usefully applied by parties, judges and arbitrators, and legislators. This involves cultivating institutional partnerships with arbitral centres, judicial bodies, academic networks, government consultants on legislative drafting, and other local stakeholders, fostering long-term institutional and professional engagement. UNIDROIT’s regional focus in relation to the UPICC is targeting, **Africa, the MENA region, and Asia**, with numerous professional, capacity building, and academic initiatives that are specifically mentioned under other pillars (see paras 8, 10-12, 17-18 and 20).

17. Additional promotional activities focusing on regional strategy included: (i) on 1-3 December 2025, keynote and roundtable moderation at a conference at Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, focusing on *Advancing Sustainable Justice through Transnational Commercial Law*, and a workshop for LL.M. students in collaboration with UNIDROIT correspondent in Egypt Prof. Radwa Elsamani, by Legal Officer Ms Philine Wehling; and (ii) on 3 and 4 February 2026, a presentation by Legal Officer Ms Priscila Andrade in the wider context of the Middle East and North Africa Transnational Law Academic Symposium, hosted by UNIDROIT in Rome (see UNIDROIT 2026 – C.D. (107) 21, on the UNIDROIT Academy, Section (c)).

V. PROMOTING AWARENESS AMONG YOUNGER GENERATIONS THROUGH LEGAL EDUCATION

A. UPICC International Arbitration Moot Initiatives

18. As part of its efforts to engage the next generation of legal academics and practitioners, the Secretariat launched the first edition of the **UPICC International Arbitration Moot in 2025**, jointly organised by the Asian Transnational Law Centre and SHIAC. The Moot provided law students with a practical opportunity to deepen their understanding of the UPICC in arbitration, thereby fostering early and sustained familiarity with the instrument among emerging legal professionals.

19. The competition was open to teams from universities and research institutions across Asia. Of the 39 registered teams, 26 from 10 Asian countries advanced to the preliminary rounds in Shanghai (3–5 November 2025). Approximately 150 participants took part, with the rounds presided over by nearly 70 international arbitrators. The semi-final and final rounds took place on 27 January 2026 at UNIDROIT's headquarters in Rome, with almost 55 participants and a panel of arbitrators and legal experts from six jurisdictions. Throughout the competition, participants demonstrated a high level of preparation and technical mastery of the UPICC, reflecting the Moot's effectiveness as a capacity-building tool. Further information on this first edition of the UPICC International Arbitration Moot in Asia is provided in document UNIDROIT 2026 – C.D. (107) 21.

20. The success of the UPICC Moot in Asia inspired related initiatives beyond the region. Notably, a **Peruvian Moot Court** focusing on the application of the UPICC was being organised for 2026 by the Peruvian Arbitration Moot (*Moot de Arbitraje Peruano*), in collaboration with the Andean University of Cuzco (*Universidad Andina del Cusco, UAC*), on the initiative of UNIDROIT correspondent Sergio Alonso Garcia Long, demonstrating the replicability and growing international resonance of the initiative.

B. ATLC Summer School at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law (ZUEL)

21. During the 2025 ATLC Summer School, inaugurated on 8 September 2025 at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law (ZUEL) in Wuhan, China, Prof. Başak Başoğlu presented the UPICC to around 100 law students from 18 countries. For more information on this flagship initiative of the Asian Transnational Law Centre, see UNIDROIT 2026 – C.D. (107) 21, on the UNIDROIT Academy, Section (b)(iv).

C. Lecture series "Martes de UNIDROIT"

22. Another teaching initiative was organised by UNIDROIT Correspondent Prof. Sergio Alonso Garcia Long, who conceived a series of online lectures in Spanish and English by international scholars, called "*Martes de UNIDROIT: Aspectos esenciales sobre los Principios UNIDROIT*", in preparation for the Peruvian UPICC Moot Court to be held in 2026 (see above para. 20). On 3 December 2025, Deputy Secretary-General Prof. Anna Veneziano delivered an online presentation on "*Contractual remedies in the UPICC and their application to specific contracts: need for further guidance?*". The sessions featured eminent experts from multiple jurisdictions, including Governing Council Members José Antonio Moreno Rodriguez and Maria Ignacia Vial Undurraga, as well as UNIDROIT President Emerita Prof. Maria Chiara Malaguti. The full series is publicly available online, extending its reach beyond the live sessions.

D. Additional teaching activities

23. The Secretariat engaged in several other initiatives addressed to students, in particular: (i) on 20 January 2026, Legal Officer Ms Philine Wehling delivered a presentation at the University of Bremen, Germany, as part of the University's Master's in Transnational Law programme; (ii) on 26

January 2026, UNIDROIT Deputy Secretary-General Prof. Anna Veneziano introduced the UPICC at the event “UNIDROIT Insights: Briefing and Discussion”, hosted by the Ahmad Ibrahim Law Faculty of the International Islamic University Malaysia; (iii) on 6 February 2026, Legal Officer Wehling gave a presentation to students from the University of Seoul Law School during their visit to UNIDROIT; and (iv) on 12 February 2026, Legal Officer Wehling delivered a presentation to students from the Rule of Law for Development Program (PROLAW) at the John Felice Rome Center Campus of Loyola University Chicago School of Law during their visit to UNIDROIT.

VI. ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSLATIONS

24. Translations and publications remain a central strategic lever to ensure the UPICC are accessible to legal professionals worldwide, supporting their practical use and reinforcing their role as a global standard.

25. In 2025, the Arabic translation of the UPICC 2016 black-letter rules was completed and made available on the UNIDROIT website,⁵ improving accessibility for Arabic-speaking practitioners, academics, and students. The integral UPICC 2016 Portuguese translation was published in print and is available in the UNIDROIT Library; it will be accessible online from June 2026. Work on the Latvian and Georgian translations continues, based on agreements concluded prior to 2025, further extending the UPICC’s linguistic reach and usability.

26. The volume compiling the contributions to the conference celebrating the 30th anniversary of the UPICC (*Thirty Years of the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts: Past, Present and Future Relevance*) was published in 2025, documenting key discussions, lessons learned, and insights on the development and application of the UPICC, further promoting its use and reference in academic and professional contexts.

VII. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

27. In 2026 and 2027, the Secretariat will continue implementing the five-pillar strategy for the UPICC. Efforts will focus on strengthening institutional and professional partnerships, expanding education and training initiatives, and promoting sector-specific applications. Targeted regional engagement will remain a priority, particularly in jurisdictions where the UPICC are less widely known or applied. At the same time, the Secretariat will further enhance accessibility through translations, publications, and user-oriented dissemination tools, with a view to reinforcing practical relevance and global authority.

28. The *white paper* being prepared by the Committee on Contract Law Workstream in the context of the UNIDROIT Centenary 2026, assessing UNIDROIT’s work in the field of contract law – including the UPICC – and formulating recommendations for future work,⁶ is expected to provide further strategic guidance for the promotion and implementation of the UPICC. The Secretariat will incorporate relevant recommendations into the continued development of this strategy.

⁵ The Arabic translation of the UPICC 2016 black-letter rules is available here. <https://www.unidroit.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Black-letter2016-Arabic.pdf>.

⁶ For further information on the work of the Committee on Contract Law Workstream, see <https://www.unidroit.org/centenary/contract-law-workstream-e/>.

VIII. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

29. *The Governing Council is invited to take note of the update on the Secretariat's strategy of promotion and implementation in relation to the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (UPICC).*