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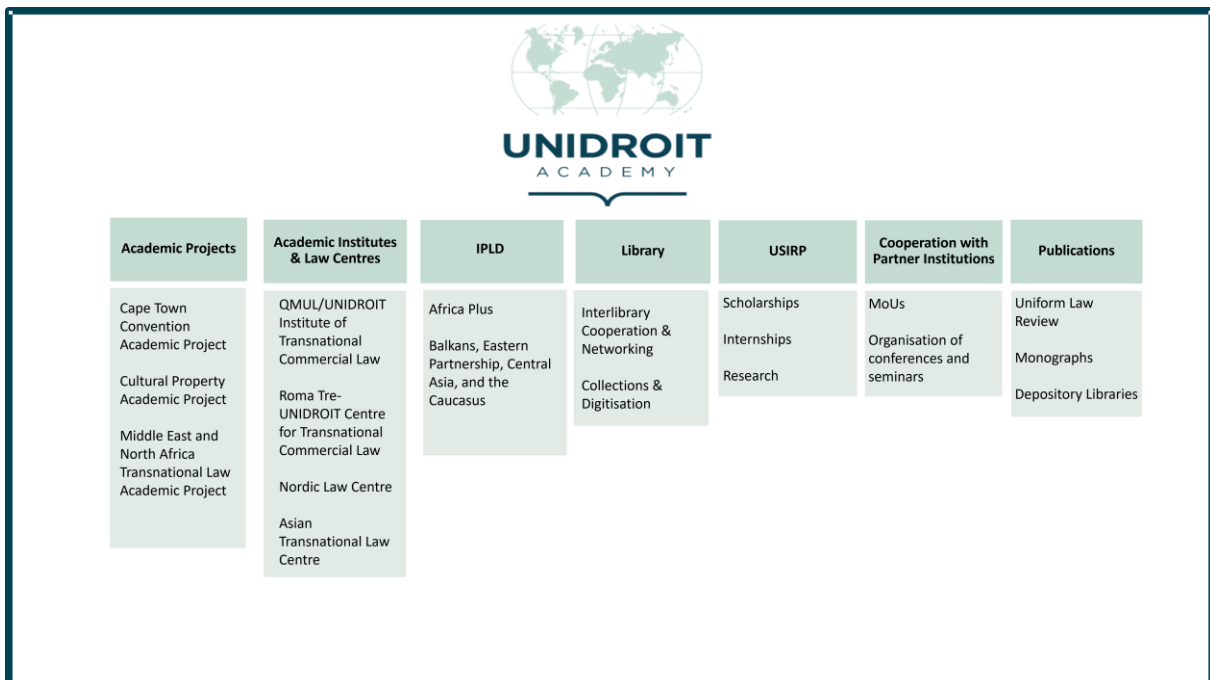
Item No. 11 on the agenda: UNIDROIT Academy

(prepared by the Secretariat)

<i>Summary</i>	<i>Development of UNIDROIT's academic network and activities</i>
<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>Take note of the activities and support the initiatives of the Secretariat</i>
<i>Related documents</i>	<i>Linked within text</i>

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 2021, at its 100th session, the Governing Council approved the Secretariat's proposal to create the UNIDROIT Academy, with a view to enable the adoption of a unified approach to UNIDROIT's many interrelated non-legislative, academic activities ([C.D. \(100\) B.22](#)). This document provides an update on all activities with a predominantly academic component, as noted in the figure below.



II. UNIDROIT ACADEMIC PROJECTS

A. Cape Town Convention Academic Project



2. The Cape Town Convention Academic Project (CTCAP) is a joint undertaking between UNIDROIT and the University of Cambridge Faculty of Law, under the auspices of the Centre for Corporate and Commercial Law (3CL). The Aviation Working Group is the founding sponsor of CTCAP, whereas Prof. Ignacio Tirado (UNIDROIT), Prof. Louise Gullifer (University of Cambridge), and Prof. Jeffrey Wool (Aviation Working Group) serve as the Directors.

3. The primary objective of CTCAP is to facilitate and further the academic study and assessment of the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols. It does this by providing a comprehensive, digitised and searchable repository (www.ctcap.org) of documents and publications related to the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols. From time to time, CTCAP also issues annotations to the Official Commentary on the Convention and the Aircraft Protocol in order to provide further guidance on specific issues relevant to practitioners and researchers of the Cape Town Convention. It also publishes the Cape Town Convention Academic Journal and organises the annual Cape Town Convention Academic Project Conference, now regularly organised at Cambridge University, having previously taken place at the University of Oxford and at UNIDROIT.

4. Finally, CTCAP also oversees three related projects: the [Economic Evaluation of International Commercial Law Reform \(EE ICLR\) Project](#), the [Best Practices in the Field of Electronic Registry Design and Operation \(BPER\) Project](#), and the [Implementation of, and Compliance with, International Commercial Law Treaties Project \(Treaty Project\)](#). These projects further complement research on the Cape Town Convention and transnational law in general. In 2021, the BPER Project published a [Best Practices Guide for Electronic Collateral Registries](#) and, since then, it has focused on developing best practices for electronic business registries.

5. Since the 105th session of the Governing Council, two additional moot court competitions have been organised under the auspices of CTCAP with the purpose of familiarising students and judges with the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol through complex hypothetical fact patterns and educational exercises in a simulated judicial setting. The hypothetical scenarios and related materials are tailored to the jurisdiction of each competition venue. On 24 June 2025, a moot court competition took place between teams from Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin. The moot court was presided over by three Irish judges: Justices Eileen Roberts, Michael Quinn, and Denis MacDonald. A second moot court competition based on an Ireland-Nigeria cross-border insolvency scenario took place on 12 November 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria, between teams from the University of Benin and the University of Lagos. The panel of judges featured three Federal High Court judges: Justices Joyce Abdulmalik, Binta Nyako, and James Omotosho. More detailed information on the CTC moot court programme is provided in the Annexe.

6. The 14th annual CTCAP Conference took place at Robinson College, University of Cambridge, in a hybrid format on 2-3 September 2025. The Conference brought together 65 in-person participants and 46 online participants. The Conference's focus was on "Treaty implementation and the Cape Town Convention". The programme included contributions from leading academics and Cape Town Convention experts from all fields. The conference was highly interactive, with each session including ample opportunity for comments and questions.

7. The ninth Workshop for the BPER Project was organised by CTCAP on 18-19 June 2025 at UNIDROIT in Rome and online, with the support of the UNIDROIT Foundation and Aviareto. The participants reviewed the 24 Critical Performance Factors (CPFs) that collectively form a framework for a fit-for-purpose electronic business registry and agreed that the Guide on Best Practices for Electronic Business Registries would undergo targeted consultation before its finalisation.

8. The targeted consultation was launched on 1 September at Robinson College, University of Cambridge, and ran until 22 November 2025. On 7-10 October 2025, it was promoted at the Corporate Registers Forum 2025 Annual Meeting in Tunisia. The responses received offered diverse perspectives from targeted stakeholder groups from Europe, the Americas, and the MENA region.

9. The tenth and final workshop took place online on 5 February 2026 and was dedicated to finalising the Guide in view of the feedback collected during the targeted consultation. The participants agreed, *inter alia*, on clarifications of registry models and functions, as well as the varying scope of legal authority and liability of registrars across jurisdictions. The continued role of human oversight in automated processes and emerging technologies, plus technical standards for interoperability, were elaborated on in the Guide. The Guide on Best Practices for Electronic Business Registries is planned to be launched during the 107th Governing Council session on 29 May 2026.

10. The eleventh (restricted) workshop on the EE ICLR Project was followed by a targeted consultation launched on 28 April 2025 and a consultation workshop held on 17 June 2025 at UNIDROIT in Rome and online. That workshop brought together 23 participants, including academics and representatives from organisations such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Trade Organisation, and Asian Development Bank and discussed feedback received on the improvement and finalisation of the Framework and Guide. This feedback informed subsequent revisions, the development of new Case Studies, and the finalisation of the Guide. The Framework and the Guide for the Economic Evaluation of International Commercial Law Reform are expected to be launched in May 2026.

11. The second Workshop of the Treaty Project was held on 4 September 2025 at the Lauterpacht Centre of the University of Cambridge and online, and was attended by 18 participants from various treaty areas. It focused on discussing the first draft of guidance that was prepared by the UNIDROIT Secretariat and providing feedback. The next and final workshop is scheduled for 8 June 2026 and will be devoted to discussing and finalising the guidance.

B. The 1995 UNIDROIT Cultural Property Academic Project



12. The [1995 UNIDROIT Convention Academic Project \(UCAP\)](#) aims to increase awareness and knowledge of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention and to promote and create ties between relevant (inter)national research carried out by universities and other bodies that are active in the field of cultural heritage law.

13. As of March 2026, 14 universities (from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, and the United States of America), the Law Schools Global

League (an association of 31 top law schools from all five continents), and the European Students' Association for Cultural Heritage (ESACH) had joined UCAP as institutional partners, while 44 professors, researchers, lawyers, PhD candidates, etc., had joined as individual partners. In 2025, UCAP welcomed three new individual partners: Ms Sarah Boxer (J.D. candidate, Harvard Law School; LL.M., University of Cambridge, 2025, United Kingdom), Ms Elaine Tornes Blanco (Librarian and Assistant Professor, University of Miami School of Law, USA), and Ms Varna Vadász (Research Fellow, Scientific Officer, ELTE CSS Institute for Legal Studies, Hungary).

14. Several lectures on UNIDROIT instruments and work on cultural property were given in 2025 and early 2026 within the framework of UCAP by the Secretariat or partners of UCAP, among which: an online Seminar on "Private International Law and restitution of cultural Objects" organised by the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain), the annual lecture at LUISS University for the Master's in Art Law, and a lecture for the UNICATT Master's in Advanced Public and Cultural Diplomacy for International Relations.

15. Several partners have organised courses or conferences to promote UNIDROIT instruments in this field and in particular a webinar to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention, entitled "Challenges of the restitution of cultural property. The 30th anniversary of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention", organised by the Department of Law, Faculty of Legal and Political Sciences, Universidad Loyola Andalucía; the Department of Civil Law and Department of Business Law, Law Faculty, Universidad Externado de Colombia; and UCAP.

16. Within the framework of UCAP, UNIDROIT has been invited to deliver lectures on its instruments relating to cultural property in several universities, as detailed in the 2025 Annual Report (C.D. (107) 2).

C. The UNIDROIT Middle East and North Africa Transnational Law Academic Initiative

17. In line with UNIDROIT's mandate to identify regions and areas of law where UNIDROIT's technical expertise, convening authority, and institutional legacy can generate the greatest practical benefit, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region presents a compelling and timely opportunity. The MENA region encompasses a diverse set of legal systems rooted in civil law, common law, Islamic law, and hybrid traditions. Its economies range from resource-rich Gulf states to emerging markets in North Africa and the Levant, and together they represent a significant proportion of global energy, agricultural, and infrastructure investment. Yet, distinct legal traditions, linguistic diversity, and limited access to comparative legal resources have created persistent friction in cross-border commerce, investment, and dispute resolution.

18. Following preliminary consultations, UNIDROIT has begun exploring ways to strengthen its engagement with stakeholders across the MENA region. The MENA Transnational Law Academic Initiative seeks to assess interest in, and the feasibility of, developing a dedicated area of activity aimed at promoting economic and social development, facilitating trade and investment, and fostering peace, prosperity, and mutual understanding among countries in the MENA region. As a first step in advancing this work, on 3-4 February 2026, UNIDROIT organised the Middle East and North Africa Transnational Law Academic Symposium, focusing on "Transnational Commercial and Investment Law and Middle East Regional Developments", at its seat in Rome and online, serving as an exploratory forum to canvass interest in the Initiative. The Academic Symposium brought together approximately 30 leading academics and practitioners from across the region and generated substantial interest in further collaboration. The present section provides background and context for the Initiative, summarises the outcomes of the Academic Symposium, and describes the objectives, activities, and governance of the proposed MENA Initiative.

1. Background and context

19. The MENA region stands at a critical juncture in its legal and economic development. Cross-border trade and investment flows, infrastructure finance, sustainable energy transition, digital transformation, and agricultural modernisation all present both enormous opportunity and considerable legal complexity. Effective commercial and investment law – transparent, predictable, and internationally aligned – is a necessary condition for realising that opportunity. The absence of such enabling legal framework (or its inconsistent application) raises transaction costs, deters investment, and undermines the conditions for economic growth and prosperity. As globalisation continues to drive economic and social development, effective communication and mutual understanding among countries in the MENA region and their legal systems, and the promotion and facilitation of transactions and investment among, from, and to countries in the region, become increasingly important.

20. Several characteristics of the regional legal landscape make UNIDROIT's engagement both particularly appropriate and practically significant. First, many MENA jurisdictions are actively engaged in law reform, creating genuine demand for internationally-recognised instruments and best practices. Second, the interaction between civil and common law traditions, and the role of Islamic law and jurisprudence across the region, calls for the kind of comparative, synthesis-oriented methodology that is a hallmark of UNIDROIT's work. Third, the region hosts a number of sophisticated financial and legal centres – including, by way of example, the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), or the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) – that have already adopted or resorted to UNIDROIT instruments such as the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (UPICC), and are well-positioned to serve as laboratories for the practical application of transnational commercial law. UNIDROIT instruments already in active use across the region include the UPICC, the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (CTC) and its Aircraft Protocol (ratified by a large number of MENA States), and the Model Law on Factoring.

2. The Academic Symposium

21. The Academic Symposium brought together leading academics and practitioners from across the MENA region, attending in their academic capacity and representing a wide range of institutions and organisations, including Al-Quds University (Jerusalem), Boden Law (Türkiye), DFL Law (Tunisia), Gibson Dunn (Saudi Arabia), Hajji & Associés (Morocco), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar), Hebron University (Hebron), Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Jerusalem), Law School of Piri Reis University (Türkiye), Matouk Bassiouny (Algeria and Egypt), the Faculty of Law of Cairo University (Egypt), MEF University (Türkiye), Mohammed V University of Rabat (Morocco), Paris-Panthéon-Assas University (France), Reichman University (Israel), University Hassan II of Casablanca (Morocco), University of Oran 2 (Algeria), University of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), University of St Andrews (United Kingdom), Watson Farley & Williams (Italy), Aviareto Limited (Ireland), and ZIG Chain (United Arab Emirates).

22. The Symposium featured two keynote speeches by Prof. Malik R. Dahlan (University of St Andrews) and Prof. Stéphane Braconnier (Paris-Panthéon-Assas University), alongside presentations and commentaries by UNIDROIT staff and other participants. These were complemented by roundtable exchanges and open discussions centred on UNIDROIT instruments of particular relevance to the region and related areas of work, with a view to advancing comparative and transnational dialogue on these issues. The discussions covered a broad range of topics, including (i) contracts, contract farming, and best practices in enforcement; (ii) trade, investment, and economic impacts, including investment contracts, regional trade frameworks, and the economic evaluation of legal reforms; (iii) access to credit, covering the implementation of the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols, as well as factoring, warehouse receipts, and agricultural financing; (iv) contemporary issues, notably digital assets and Sharia law, energy, and sustainable finance, examined from a private-law

perspective; (v) commercial arbitration in the MENA region, focusing on recent developments and transnational perspectives; (vi) cultural property; and (vii) teaching and capacity-building, including the development of course materials for joint or parallel instruction in comparative, transactional, and transnational commercial and investment law. In a dedicated session on future work and project development, participants discussed possible avenues for future collaboration, expressing interest in developing proposals such as joint academic studies, collaborative teaching and research projects, the exchange of teaching and preparatory materials, and the creation of databases and regional research networks to support comparative and transnational legal scholarship.

23. The breadth of substantive engagement at the Academic Symposium, and the depth and quality of the discussions, confirm that the intellectual and institutional foundations for a sustained MENA Initiative are firmly in place. The agenda for proposed future work, reflected in the [Programme](#) and [Report](#), provides a concrete and viable roadmap for the MENA Initiative activities described in the following section, and demonstrates both the strong interest and the value of continued UNIDROIT engagement in the region.

3. The Proposed MENA Initiative

24. Given the region's longstanding importance as a crossroads of international commerce, its considerable natural and cultural resources, and its centrality to the future of global peace and prosperity, the Initiative seeks to foster dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation among legal systems. By strengthening legal engagement and promoting transnational legal principles, it seeks to contribute to a more predictable and reliable legal environment capable of supporting cross-border transactions and investment within the region and beyond. Through academic collaboration, legal capacity-building, and the exchange of knowledge and best practices, the Initiative would bring together scholars, jurists, policymakers, and private-sector representatives. In doing so, it would provide a neutral platform for intellectual engagement and help foster deeper regional cooperation, economic development, and stability. The MENA Initiative would focus broadly on transnational commercial and investment law, including legal issues relating to trade and investment within, from, and to the MENA region. In this context, the Initiative would aim to:

- (a) establish a premier legal hub for MENA transnational commercial and investment law at the seat of UNIDROIT in Rome, with outreach and activities across the MENA region;
- (b) promote UNIDROIT's work, instruments and projects in MENA jurisdictions;
- (c) strengthen cooperation between UNIDROIT and regional institutions and stakeholders, including academic and legal institutes, governmental programmes, law firms, and private sector actors; and
- (d) support and facilitate transactions, trade, and investment among, from, and to MENA countries, thereby deepening regional cooperation and contributing to stronger economic relations, stability, and growth.

25. To achieve its objectives, the MENA Initiative would purport to undertake a range of activities, including:

- (a) developing and disseminating legal resource materials, including comparative law surveys and case and arbitration databases, with AI-assisted tools to support collection, translation, and analysis across the principal legal languages of the region (Arabic, English, French, Hebrew, and Turkish);
- (b) developing academic materials, including course materials for joint or parallel teaching of comparative, transactional, and transnational commercial and investment law, building on the pedagogical discussions and proposals at the Academic Symposium;

- (c) preparing publications and translations of relevant UNIDROIT instruments and related scholarship;
- (d) establishing secondment, scholarship, internship, and research opportunities for scholars and practitioners from the MENA region;
- (e) undertaking academic research on priority topics, including the interaction between religious law and commercial law, the legal frameworks for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the region, digital assets and Sharia law, and sustainable finance and private law; and
- (f) organising events, consultations, and meetings, building on the model established by the Academic Symposium and the programme of future work identified therein.

26. This Initiative is conceived and will be implemented as a technical project. Its purpose is to advance private and commercial law harmonisation, legal capacity-building, and access to internationally-recognised legal instruments. It is, by design, separate from the political dimensions and disputes that affect the region. This was demonstrated in a compelling and practical way at the Academic Symposium, where leading legal experts from various MENA countries engaged productively and collegially on substantive legal questions, demonstrating that law can and does serve as a platform for constructive intellectual cooperation across political divides. This dimension – the contribution of law and legal institutions to peace and stability through shared professional purpose – is itself a significant benefit that this Initiative can offer to the region and to humanity more broadly. It aligns with UNIDROIT’s history, purpose, and the wider importance of its work, which are being highlighted this year in the Institute’s Centenary.

27. The MENA Initiative would operate within the UNIDROIT Academy framework, with the support of the UNIDROIT Foundation, and will draw on precedents established by other regionally-focused UNIDROIT centres. Its activities will be conducted under the guidance of the UNIDROIT Governing Council and the General Assembly, with ultimate responsibility for the MENA Initiative operation resting with the Secretary-General.

28. As part of its future development, the Initiative would also explore the feasibility of establishing a permanent MENA Transnational Law Centre (MENA TLC) to provide a more structured and sustained platform for the activities described above. Subject to the Governing Council’s support, it would be the Secretariat’s intention to transition the MENA Initiative to a MENA TLC as a formal academic institute within the UNIDROIT Academy. Similarly to other centres within the Institute, that would be conditioned on demonstrated stakeholder engagement and existing financial support, as assessed by the Secretary-General.

29. The Secretary-General has designated Prof. Jeffrey Wool, UNIDROIT Senior Academic Fellow, as the contemplated MENA Lead of the MENA Initiative. Prof. Wool has played a central and indispensable leadership role in the intellectual conception of the MENA Initiative and in the extensive preliminary work undertaken to date, including the organisation and execution of the Academic Symposium. He brings deep expertise in UNIDROIT instruments – most notably the Cape Town Convention, on which he has been a leading global authority – and a broad network of professional relationships across the MENA region and globally. As the long-standing President of the UNIDROIT Foundation, he is mindful of practical, financial, and procedural matters of the Initiative.

30. If and when the Initiative becomes operational, an Advisory Committee would be established to provide guidance and support for the development of the Initiative and its activities. The Advisory Committee would be composed of UNIDROIT Governing Council representatives and distinguished MENA scholars and jurists with significant expertise in UNIDROIT instruments and in transactions, trade, and investment in the MENA region. The MENA Initiative would report on its activities to the

Governing Council and the General Assembly through the established channels of the UNIDROIT Academy.

31. *The Governing Council is invited to (i) note the activities developed and endorse the UNIDROIT Middle East and North Africa Transnational Law Initiative, and (ii) authorise the Secretary-General to take steps to advance the MENA Initiative within the framework of the UNIDROIT Academy.*

III. ACADEMIC LAW INSTITUTES AND LAW CENTRES

A. Queen Mary University London (QMUL)-UNIDROIT Institute of Transnational Commercial Law

32. The QMUL-UNIDROIT Institute for Transnational Commercial Law, originally founded in 2016 following an initiative of Prof. Sir Roy Goode and the then UNIDROIT President Prof. Alberto Mazzoni, was formally relaunched on 9 January 2023 with the signing of the renewed Concordat and Regulations and new governance (Prof. Rosa Lastra, Sir John Lubbock Chair in Banking Law at QMUL/CCLS, and Prof. Anna Veneziano, UNIDROIT Deputy Secretary-General, as Co-Directors, Dr Franziska Arnold-Dwyer as Deputy Director, Prof. Sir Roy Goode as Founding Director and Honorary Chair of the Institute, and UNIDROIT Secretary-General Prof. Ignacio Tirado on the Executive Board).

33. Since the 105th session of the Governing Council, the QMUL-UNIDROIT Institute has continued to fulfill its mandate, particularly focusing on the organisation of events for academics, practitioners and/or students, and on collaboration in the presentation and promotion of UNIDROIT instruments, as well as through participation of QMUL experts in UNIDROIT projects.

34. The Advisory Board of the Institute met remotely on 25 February 2026. The Board discussed upcoming events and shared proposals for new initiatives with the involvement of the Institute (see below). A follow-up Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for 16 June 2026.

35. On 15 October 2025, UNIDROIT President Emerita Prof. Maria Chiara Malaguti delivered the inaugural lecture in the QMUL-UNIDROIT Institute of Transnational Commercial Law Advisory Board Lecture Series, discussing "The role of UNIDROIT in the harmonisation of law". The Series continued in 2025 with a 5 November lecture by Secretary-General Prof. Ignacio Tirado on "The liquidation of banks and the birth of a new international standard". On 11 February, Prof. Dominic Spenser Underhill spoke about "Ethics in International Arbitration. Are arbitration agreements relational contracts? Some ethical perspectives", and on 11 March, Dr Thomas Keijser (Radboud University) presented on "Intermediated and Digital Securities: Legal Framework Convergence".

36. The Series is planned to continue throughout 2026 and 2027 with participation of members of the Advisory Board and on a wide variety of subject matters. In particular, a special event will take place when Prof. Sir Roy Goode's lecture will be delivered on 16 June 2026. Other confirmed lectures include: "Digitalisation of trade and trade finance" (8 April 2026), by Prof. John Taylor; "The codification of international commercial law: the case of the ICC Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees" (13 May 2026), by Mr Georges Affaki; "The Cape Town Convention: Genesis and Current Challenges in Asia" (September 2026), by Prof. Paul Ng; and "Long-Term Contracts and the UNIDROIT Principles" (9 December 2026) by Prof. Djakhongir Saidov. Additional lecturers will include Prof. Isabel Margarita Zuloaga Rios (14 October 2026), and Prof. Franziska Arnold-Dwyer will lead a panel discussion on "The Principles of Reinsurance Contract Law (PRICL): One year on – What have we learned" (11 November 2026).

37. Several proposals for events and activities to be held in the second part of the year were flagged during the last meeting of the Advisory Board, including a supply chain financing event for South East Asia, to be held in Singapore, in cooperation with the International Bar Association (IBA).

B. Roma Tre-UNIDROIT Centre for Transnational Commercial Law and International Arbitration

38. In April 2023, UNIDROIT and the Roma Tre University School of Law constituted the Centre for Transnational Commercial Law and International Arbitration, thereby implementing the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two institutions of 15 November 2021. The Centre aims to promote research and scholarly debate on transnational commercial law and international arbitration.

39. The Centre is co-directed by Prof. Maria Chiara Malaguti (President Emerita of UNIDROIT) and Prof. Giacomo Rojas Elgueta (Professor of Private Law at Roma Tre University School of Law) and its activities revolve around four main pillars. The first pillar is dedicated to research projects, which currently include the [Global Crises and Contract Remedies Academic Project](#) and a [Task Force on International Investment Contracts \(IICs\)](#), the latter aiming to provide information and legal analysis to the UNIDROIT Working Group on UPICC and international investment contracts.¹ The second pillar is that of publications, and the third is teaching, which currently includes the Certificate in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration, and the University of Roma Tre-UNIDROIT Annual International Arbitration Lecture. The last pillar is the organisation of conferences and events, including an Annual Conference held every autumn in Rome. Additionally, this pillar includes the organisation of closed-door meetings and seminars on various topics relating to the mandate of UNIDROIT.

40. The Centre organised several activities since the 105th session of the Governing Council. It co-organised a seminar on “International Arbitration in Financial Disputes: Recent Trends”, together with the Queen Mary-UNIDROIT Institute of Transnational Commercial Law and Sciences Po Law School on 9 April 2025. As an official side event of Italian Arbitration Day (IAD), on 9 June 2025, the Centre co-organised a workshop entitled “Human Rights and Arbitration – Intersections, Challenges, and the Way Ahead” together with the law firm Withers LLP. From 10-15 November 2025, the 12th edition of the Certificate in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration took place in Rome, with 22 participants coming from 12 countries across four continents. In that context, the 12th University of Roma Tre-UNIDROIT Annual International Arbitration Lecture took place at the seat of UNIDROIT, delivered by Mr Eduardo Silva Romero (Chair of the ICC Institute of World Business Law), who addressed “The Notion of ‘Context’ in International Arbitration”. The day after, the [Second Annual Conference on “Governance of Risk in a Risk Society: Perspectives from Private, Public and International Law”](#) took place at the Bank of Italy in Rome, with more than 80 people attending in person. The conference identified the key challenges of a risk society and explored the role of private, public and international law in addressing systemic risks.

41. Planned future activities include: (i) from 21-25 September 2026, the 13th edition of the Certificate in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration will take place; (ii) following the success of the first two editions, a third Annual Conference will be held in November 2026. Further details will be provided in due course.

C. UNIDROIT Centre for Nordic Law Studies and Transnational Private Law

42. The UNIDROIT Centre for Nordic Law Studies and Transnational Private Law (“Nordic Law Centre”, NLC) is a research centre established in May 2023 under the UNIDROIT Academy. Its objective is to strengthen cooperation between the Nordic jurisdictions and UNIDROIT in the field of private law. The Centre seeks to promote the instruments and projects of UNIDROIT in the Nordic region, and increase international awareness of Nordic law in areas relevant to UNIDROIT’s work, primarily through

¹ For further details on the work of the Roma Tre-UNIDROIT task force on IICs, see [UNIDROIT 2025 - C.D. \(105\) 11](#).

academic collaboration and the organisation of academic events. The NLC operates as a research hub with a dedicated space in Villa Aldobrandini, which also hosts the Cordero-Moss Collection.

43. The Centre has continued to develop activities aimed at strengthening cooperation between Northern European jurisdictions and UNIDROIT in the field of private law. On 29 October 2025, the NLC organised a seminar entitled "Cross-Border Assignment in Private International Law – Nordic Perspectives", held in a hybrid format in Rome and online. The event brought together scholars from the Nordic countries and beyond to discuss the third-party effects of assignments of claims from a conflict-of-laws perspective. The seminar opened with an examination of the European Commission's long-debated proposal for a regulation and then explored how cross-border assignments are addressed in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Czech Republic, situating these approaches within a broader European and international context.

44. Planned future activities include a Nordic Private Law Conference on "Direct claims, forum and choice of law", jointly organised with the Centre of Private Governance at the Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, to be held on 11-12 June 2026, as well as a workshop scheduled for 22 April 2027.

45. To further enhance the Centre's visibility, broaden its activities, and expand its audience, on 29 October 2025 UNIDROIT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Italian-Norwegian Research Institute for Law and Economics (INRILE). The agreement aims to support joint research initiatives and the co-organisation of seminars and conferences.

D. UNIDROIT Asian Transnational Law Centre

46. The Asian Transnational Law Centre (ATLC) was founded in May 2024, drawing on the need to strengthen the Institute's endeavours in the implementation and dissemination of its instruments in the Asia-Pacific region. Jointly led by UNIDROIT Principal Legal Officer Prof. Meiling Huang and Senior Legal Officer Mr William Brydie-Watson as the ATLC's Co-Directors, under the supervision of the UNIDROIT Secretary-General, the ATLC operates with the objectives of (i) promoting the work of UNIDROIT, UNIDROIT international instruments, and UNIDROIT projects in the Asia-Pacific region, and (ii) strengthening connections between relevant stakeholders from Asia and UNIDROIT. The Centre is operated in accordance with its Terms of Reference (2024) and its Strategic Plan 2024-2026.

47. The ATLC is entirely funded through external contributions, with no use of the UNIDROIT budget. In April 2024, the ATLC secured a sponsorship agreement with an international law firm headquartered in China, according to which the sponsor would provide the UNIDROIT Foundation with funding to support the ATLC's operations over its initial three-year period of operation (2024-2026).

48. To guide the ATLC's strategic development, an Advisory Committee comprising 11 legal experts from the Asia-Pacific region was established in September 2024.² The Advisory Committee is composed of distinguished Governing Council Members, academics, and other relevant stakeholders with significant expertise in UNIDROIT instruments and activities, as appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the ATLC Co-Directors, taking into account UNIDROIT Membership and subregional diversity. The first two sessions of the Advisory Committee, held in November 2024 and March 2025, provided strategic guidance on the Centre's initial activities and work programme. Since May 2025, the Advisory Committee has convened four additional sessions

² The ATLC Advisory Committee is comprised of the following experts: Prof. Sheelagh McCracken (Australia), Prof. Ji Wenhua (China), Ms Uma Sekhar (India), Prof. Prita Amalia (Indonesia), Prof. Hideki Kanda (Japan), Prof. Amarsanaa Batbold (Mongolia), Prof. Inho Kim (Korea), Prof. Yusuf Çalışkan (Türkiye), Prof. Dora Neo (Singapore), Prof. Virgilio de los Reyes (the Philippines), and Prof. Petra Butler (New Zealand).

on a quarterly basis.³ These meetings have served to review the Centre's activities undertaken in the preceding quarter and to seek the Committee's views on forthcoming initiatives. The feedback provided by Committee members has contributed to the continued development and implementation of the Centre's activities.

49. Building upon its foundational work in 2024, the ATLC continued to advance its mission in 2025 and early 2026 through a range of academic, institutional and outreach initiatives aimed at promoting UNIDROIT's work and strengthening engagement with the Asia-Pacific region:

1. Institutional

50. Since mid-2025, the ATLC has continued to strengthen its institutional framework and partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region, including by expanding cooperation agreements with academic institutions and developing collaborative platforms to support the promotion of UNIDROIT's work.

- (a) Facilitation of cooperation agreements: The ATLC has actively engaged with academic institutions in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam to explore potential avenues for collaboration. These efforts culminated in the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the University of Law, Vietnam National University, Hanoi on 14 September 2025, and with the Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia on 26 September 2025. The MoUs aim to strengthen institutional cooperation between UNIDROIT and the universities in areas of legal research and education. On 26 November 2025, the ATLC and the Hong Kong University (HKU) Asian Institute of International Financial Law (AIIFL) signed an Enhanced Cooperation Agreement. Building upon the 2020 Memorandum of Understanding signed by UNIDROIT and HKU, the Enhanced Cooperation Agreement provides for joint initiatives between the ATLC and AIIFL to study and promote the impact of UNIDROIT instruments in Asia in the fields of access to credit, financial markets, international contracts, investment law, digital technology, and sustainable development.
- (b) Establishment of the ATLC Legal Network: The ATLC Legal Network is envisaged as a platform connecting universities, legal societies, and research bodies to promote UNIDROIT's work and foster collaboration. Initial work to establish the Legal Network was undertaken in 2025.

2. Library, publications and translations

51. The Centre has been committed to supporting the development of research resources and promote wider accessibility of UNIDROIT instruments in Asia. In 2025, the ATLC secured additional sponsorship to establish the ATLC Research Hub within the UNIDROIT Library. The Hub, which was inaugurated in July 2025,⁴ provides expanded space for the Asian law collection, working areas for ATLC-funded scholars and interns, and meeting facilities for expert collaboration. The ATLC has also continued to expand the Asian Transnational Law collection within the UNIDROIT Library through the acquisition of additional publications from Asian jurisdictions. In addition, the ATLC has supported the translation and dissemination of UNIDROIT instruments in Asian languages. In 2025, the Japanese and Chinese translations of the UNIDROIT Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law were released. Work has also continued on Chinese translations of the UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring and the

³ The Advisory Committee's third session was held on 18 July 2026, the fourth session was held on 23 October 2025, the fifth session was held on 22 January 2026 and the sixth session was held on 14 April 2026.

⁴ See <https://www.unidroit.org/inauguration-ceremony-of-the-asian-transnational-law-centre/#:~:text=On%2010%20July%202025%2C%20the,headquarters%20of%20UNIDROIT%20in%20Rome.>

UNIDROIT Legislative Guide on Bank Liquidation, with the aim of facilitating broader understanding and implementation of these instruments across the region.

3. Scholarships, internships and research opportunities

52. The ATLC has continued to provide scholarship, internship and research opportunities. In 2025, ATLC funding supported five scholars and two interns from the Asia-Pacific region,⁵ enabling them to undertake research stays and internships at the seat of UNIDROIT in Rome. These opportunities contribute to strengthening academic cooperation and fostering expertise in international private law among emerging scholars and practitioners from the region. The ATLC has also continued discussions with academic institutions and partners in the region to expand opportunities for research collaboration and academic exchanges.

4. Activities

53. The ATLC organised and supported a number of academic and professional activities aimed at promoting the work of UNIDROIT in the Asia-Pacific region and strengthening engagement with regional stakeholders. Major events organised or supported by the ATLC since mid-May 2025 have included:

(a) Flagship initiatives

- (i) 2025 UNIDROIT ATLC Summer School (First Edition): The Summer School was officially inaugurated on 8 September 2025 at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law (ZUEL) in Wuhan, China. The event brought together representatives from UNIDROIT, ZUEL, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office, and the Beijing Arbitration Commission/Beijing International Arbitration Court (BAC/BIAC), alongside guests from the judiciary, arbitration institutions and legal associations. Over two weeks, 100 law students from 18 countries engaged in an intensive programme of academic lectures based on UNIDROIT instruments, thematic workshops, and cultural activities designed to broaden their perspectives and inspire them to contribute to the unification and harmonisation of private law.⁶
- (ii) UPICC International Arbitration Moot (First Edition): Following its official launch in 2024, the preliminary rounds of the inaugural edition were held in Shanghai from 3 to 5 November 2025, attracting 26 teams from across Asia. The semi-final and final rounds took place at the seat of UNIDROIT in Rome on 27 January 2026, marking the successful completion of the first edition of the competition. The Moot has become an important platform for promoting the use of the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (UPICC) within the international arbitration community.⁷
- (iii) ATLC Seminar Series: The ATLC's regular legal ATLC Seminars ("ATLC Seminar Series") invites legal scholars from Asia and beyond to discuss the connection between UNIDROIT's projects and Asia, as well as the impact of UNIDROIT's instruments on the region. Each session focuses on a specific theme or topic related to a UNIDROIT project, instrument, or area of work. The second ATLC Seminar was held in July 2025, co-hosted with the Department of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR),

⁵ In 2025, ATLC sponsored interns and scholars from China, India, Indonesia, Iran and Nepal.

⁶ See <https://www.unidroit.org/2025-unidroit-atlc-summer-school-opens-in-wuhan/>.

⁷ See <https://www.unidroit.org/unidroit-hosts-semi-final-and-final-rounds-of-the-2025-upicc-international-arbitration-moot-competition/>.

entitled “Hong Kong as a Gateway to the Asia-Pacific” in Rome, Italy.⁸ The third ATLC Seminar was held on 26 November 2025, co-hosted with the University of Hong Kong (HKU) Asian Institute of International Financial Law (AIIFL), entitled “Transnational Commercial Law: Trade and Finance in the Digital Age: UNIDROIT’s Role and Future Work”.⁹ The fourth ATLC Seminar was held on 28 January 2026 at the seat of UNIDROIT in Rome, entitled “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).¹⁰

(b) Conferences:

- (i) Conference on private-law matters in the metaverse: Held on 13 June 2025 at the seat of UNIDROIT in Rome, this academic conference entitled “The Digitalised World and the Transformation of Private Law: Cybernetic Avatars and Beyond” was co-hosted by the ATLC, in collaboration with the Moonshot Research & Development Program, a research project of Japan’s Government. It brought together scholars and legal practitioners to examine how rapid advances in artificial intelligence, metaverse technologies, and cybernetic agents are reshaping traditional private-law concepts and transnational legal frameworks.¹¹
- (ii) 2025 Rome Summit on Commercial Dispute Resolution in China: Held on 27 June 2025 at the Sapienza University in Rome, the Summit brought together leading arbitrators, legal practitioners, and academics from across the globe to explore key developments in international commercial dispute resolution, focusing on emerging fields and evolving practices and regulations.¹²
- (iii) International conference on the theory and structure of property law in Viet Nam: On 14 September 2025, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, and UNIDROIT co-organised an international conference entitled “Reforming property law in the new era: International and Vietnamese Perspectives” in Hanoi. The conference provided a scholarly platform for debate on building a modern and effective property law framework aligned with Viet Nam’s legal and economic reforms.¹³
- (iv) China-ASEAN Commercial Law Forum – 2025 China Arbitration Week Nanning Session: Held on 18 September 2025, this high-level forum brought together policymakers, legal experts, and arbitral institutions to discuss cross-border commercial dispute resolution and strategies to enhance legal certainty while reducing transactional costs in regional trade and investment.
- (v) The Fourth International Forum of Law School Deans and Jurists – Communication and Cooperation among Global Legal Professionals in the Age of AI Conference: Within the framework of this conference, hosted by Renmin

⁸ See <https://www.unidroit.org/unidroit-hosts-seminar-on-hong-kong-as-a-gateway-to-the-asia-pacific/>.

⁹ See <https://www.unidroit.org/unidroit-asian-transnational-law-centre-and-hong-kong-university-asian-institute-of-international-financial-law-sign-enhanced-cooperation-agreement/>.

¹⁰ See <https://www.unidroit.org/unidroit-hosts-the-atlc-seminar-on-the-unidroit-principles-of-international-commercial-contracts-upicc/>.

¹¹ See <https://www.unidroit.org/unidroit-hosts-international-conference-on-the-digitalised-world-and-the-transformation-of-private-law-cybernetic-avatars-and-beyond/>.

¹² See <https://www.unidroit.org/unidroit-co-hosts-2025-rome-summit-on-commercial-dispute-resolution/>.

¹³ See <https://www.unidroit.org/unidroit-signs-mou-with-vnu-ul-and-co-hosts-international-property-law-conference-in-hanoi-viet-nam/>.

University of China (RUC) on 3-4 October 2025, the ATLC, in collaboration with the Renmin University of China Law School, co-hosted the thematic forum “Global Legal Responses to Digital Assets”.¹⁴

- (vi) The International Conference on the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment: Held on 7 November 2025 in Beijing, China, and co-hosted by the UNIDROIT ATLC, the Chinese Society of Private International Law, and the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), the conference brought together senior judges, government officials, practitioners, leading scholars, and arbitrators for an in-depth exchange on how the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols can support the development of a modern, efficient secured transactions framework in China.¹⁵
- (vii) The UNIDROIT–RULE Conference on “Modernizing Private Law for the Digital Economy. East Asia-Europe Comparative Perspectives and Cambodian Practice”: Held on 5 March 2026 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and co-hosted by UNIDROIT and the Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE), with the support of the ATLC and the RULE English Language-Based Master of Law (ELBML) Program, the conference brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss the modernisation of private law in the digital economy, focusing on digital commerce, digital assets, international commercial contracts, and cross-border dispute resolution from comparative East Asia–Europe perspectives.
- (viii) UNIDROIT Mission to Australia and New Zealand: The ATLC supported a high-level UNIDROIT delegation to Australia and New Zealand between 9 and 20 March 2026, involving stakeholder events in Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

5. Future ATLC activities

54. Further 2026 activities will include, in addition to the continued organisation of UPICC Moot, the ATLC Summer School, and the ATLC Seminar Series as flagship initiatives, and the organisation of consultation and promotional events aimed at enhancing awareness and understanding of UNIDROIT projects and legal instruments across the region. Additionally, the ATLC will continue to translate UNIDROIT legal instruments into Asian languages, bridging knowledge gaps and promoting the adoption and implementation of UNIDROIT initiatives. The ATLC will also continue its efforts to sponsor outstanding legal scholars and students from Asia, providing them with opportunities for research stays at the UNIDROIT Library and internships at UNIDROIT. Specific information on 2026 initiatives is set out below:

- (a) Library, publications and translations
 - (i) Translation of UNIDROIT Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law (DAPL) from English into Turkish, Vietnamese and Mongolian: These translations will broaden access for legal professionals, academics, and policymakers, and support closer alignment with international standards.
 - (ii) Translation of UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring into Chinese (reissued) and Japanese: in 2025 the translations initiated and in 2026 will be finalised and published

¹⁴ See <https://www.unidroit.org/unidroit-participates-in-international-conference-and-co-hosts-thematic-forum-at-renmin-university-of-china/>.

¹⁵ See <https://www.unidroit.org/unidroit-co-organises-the-international-conference-on-the-convention-on-international-interests-in-mobile-equipment/>.

- (iii) Provision of at least 200 additional relevant Asian-language publications for the ATLC Research Hub within the Unidroit Library.
- (b) Scholarships, internships and research opportunities
 - (i) Sponsorship of at least five scholars and five interns from Asia;¹⁶
 - (ii) The ATLC is continuing to work with the China Scholarship Council (CSC) to facilitate up to 20 internship opportunities and 10 fellowship (scholarship) opportunities for Chinese legal experts at UNIDROIT in 2026-2027 under the 2024 MoU concluded between UNIDROIT and the CSC.
- (c) Events, consultations and meetings
 - (i) ATLC Summer School (Second Edition): Building on the successful results of the inaugural programme, the second edition of the ATLC Summer School will be co-organised with East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL). It is tentatively scheduled for 22 June to 3 July 2026 in Shanghai, China, offering an intensive learning and exchange programme for participants.
 - (ii) UNIDROIT UPICC Moot Competition (Second Edition): The second edition of the UNIDROIT UPICC Moot Competition is tentatively planned for November 2026 in Hong Kong, China, continuing to foster rigorous advocacy and deeper engagement with the UPICC.
 - (iii) ATLC Seminar in Mongolia: In collaboration with the National University of Mongolia School of Law (NUM), an ATLC Seminar is planned for June or July 2026 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, providing a forum for dialogue and engagement on issues of shared academic and practical interest.
 - (iv) Facilitation of cooperation agreements: Currently, the ATLC is engaging with academic institutions in China and Thailand to explore possible collaborations, including facilitating discussions to sign an MoU with the East China University of Political Science and Law.
 - (v) Establishment of the ATLC Legal Network: Further work will be undertaken to fully establish the ATLC Legal Network in 2026.

IV. UNIDROIT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR LAW AND DEVELOPMENT

55. The Secretariat initially proposed the organisation of a UNIDROIT International Summer School specifically aimed at participants from African countries in 2022 during the 100th session of the Governing Council. This initiative, made possible with the contribution of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (DGCS-MAECI), aimed to bring together judges, legal drafters, government officials, and public-sector lawyers as well as distinguished scholars and practitioners in a dynamic educational setting ([C.D. \(100\) B.22](#)). From the second year, the International Summer School was renamed the International Programme for Law and Development (IPLD) – reflecting its broadened scope. With continued support from the DGCS-MAECI, the IPLD has continued to grow and develop.

¹⁶ ATLC scholars and interns are recruited annually through the established UNIDROIT Scholarship, Internship and Research Programme (SIRP). ATLC scholars are provided with a maximum of EUR 1,500 per month for two months and interns are provided with a maximum of EUR 1,000 per month for three months. These opportunities will focus on non-Chinese scholars and interns, as Chinese applicants can apply for internship and scholarship opportunities at UNIDROIT under UNIDROIT'S MOU with the China Scholarship Council (CSC).

A. Africa Plus

56. The success of the first three editions led to renewed support of the DGCS-MAECI for a fourth, significantly expanded edition of the IPLD (rebranded as “IPLD 2025 Africa Plus”). This renewed commitment has enabled an increase in the number of participants to 30, broader geographical representation, and enhanced logistical support for both lecturers and participants. It has also allowed for strengthened capacity-building. The Call for Applications launched in early February 2025 attracted 122 applications from 24 countries.

57. Building on the foundations of previous editions, the 2025 IPLD Africa Plus programme featured a two-week online preparation phase followed by a three-week in-person component. The curriculum provided in-depth training on UNIDROIT’S key instruments and thematic areas, including: international commercial contracts; private law for agricultural development; instruments on access to credit (including the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols, the UNIDROIT-UNCITRAL Model Law on Warehouse Receipts, and the UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring), protection of cultural property, enforcement of creditors’ rights, bank liquidation, digital assets, and legal dimensions of artificial intelligence. It also explored the broader role of private law in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

58. A dedicated section on the UNIDROIT website offers resources and updates, and a LinkedIn Community has been created to support alumni networking and collaboration. UNIDROIT also has an ongoing agreement with the Foundation IES Abroad under which selected international interns help contribute to the programme while gaining valuable experience in legal research.

59. The Call for Applications for the 2026 edition of IPLD Africa Plus closed on 28 February 2026 and attracted 234 applications from 34 African countries, confirming the growing visibility and institutional relevance of the programme across the region.

B. Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, and the Caucasus

60. As a parallel programme to the IPLD Africa Plus, and drawing from the success of the experience for the African region, a dedicated regional programme targeting countries in the Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, and the Caucasus was launched in 2025. This new training course, made possible thanks to the steadfast support of DGCS-MAECI, drew upon the experience and methodology developed in the context of the IPLD Africa editions. The programme offered a tailored curriculum adapted to the specificities of the participating regions, combining one week of online preparation and two weeks of in-person seminars in Rome. It covered key areas such as access to credit, international commercial contracts, private law and agricultural development, civil procedure and enforcement, cultural property, bank insolvency, legal aspects of digital technologies, and sustainable development. Participants benefited from exposure to leading international and regional experts, with collaboration from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). As part of a longer-term perspective, it is envisaged that the programme will also include field missions and follow-up activities to multiply its impact in the target countries.

61. The first edition was organised from 8 to 26 September 2025 and involved 20 selected professionals from countries including Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The second edition is scheduled to take place from 5 to 20 September 2026.

V. UNIDROIT LIBRARY

62. The UNIDROIT Library was positively bustling in 2025, hosting dozens of researchers, scholars, and visitors at a time, all throughout the year and all while working to bolster its holdings, reorganise

its stacks, and of course fulfil its original role of supporting the work of the Secretariat. Very significantly, in 2025 the Library staff undertook the process of applying for a declaration of “exceptional cultural interest” through the Italian Ministry of Culture’s Special Superintendency for Roman Fine Arts and Landscape of the Regional Commission of Cultural Heritage – which was ultimately accepted and announced in January 2026. This declaration is a confirmation of the Library’s cultural and historical significance, and its new status will open up opportunities for access to funding for specific projects for the conservation, preservation, and dissemination of its collections.

63. Over 1,500 bibliographic records were added to the Library’s catalogue in 2025 – representing monographs, new entries in continuing publications, bound annual journal volumes, and even hand-picked individual law review articles which stood out as particularly interesting for Library patrons. As in previous years, donations were crucial to the expanding of the Library’s holdings. In 2025, the Library received donations of approximately € 9,000 worth of monographs and € 4,500 worth of law reviews and journals (some of the latter being on an exchange basis). In particular, the UNIDROIT Library received a large assortment of books from the personal library of the late Sapienza University Professor Emeritus Paolo Picone, thanks to the coordination by his widow, Ms Bettina Maxion, UNIDROIT’s former Head Librarian. In fact, Library staff finalised cataloguing the Picone Collection in the first months of 2026 – amounting to a total of 558 volumes, spanning not only international and comparative private law, but also public law, law and economics, history of law, politics, and sociology. In addition, the Library is thankful to UNIDROIT President Emerita Professor Maria Chiara Malaguti, who also donated a diverse collection of books to the Library in 2025, which will be catalogued in 2026 as the Malaguti Collection. Furthermore, as ever, the UNIDROIT Library expresses its most heartfelt thanks to the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, Germany, for its ongoing generosity and support.

64. In the second half of 2025, the Library staff began carrying out a long-term project of “shifting” its stacks, beginning from the upper two floors, to optimise space and distribution to better manage growth. Moreover, the Library notably made additional progress towards (i) completing the indexing of the Cordero Collection, an important donation thanks to Prof. Giuditta Cordero-Moss from 2024, spanning several centuries of wide-ranging themes on law, history, and literature; (ii) digitising the Scialoja Collection of approximately 700 historically significant records of Vittoria Scialoja, the ideator and first President of UNIDROIT, thanks to a substantial donation by Prof. Achille de Nitto; and (iii) digitising the Library’s collection of historical Miscellanea and other hard-to-find resources thanks to the help of a part-time volunteer.

65. In 2025, the Library staff began planning for an upgrade of its library management software and migration of its catalogue to a more up-to-date platform, with the goal of optimising patrons’ searches and better utilising the resources the Library maintains and preserves. Seeing that the cost of such transition would be quite substantial, the Library also began to explore fundraising and other alternative funding opportunities. More generally, Library staff also began developing further long-term plans for strengthening collaboration with various partner institutions through the UNIDROIT Academy, in addition to other law libraries and library networks from across the world.

VI. UNIDROIT ARCHIVES

66. UNIDROIT’s Historical Archives preserve documents produced through the Institute’s activities from its founding in 1926 to the present day. Housed in a dedicated series of rooms adjacent to the Library Annexe, the Archives occupy a total area of approximately 300 linear meters, equivalent to approximately 2,700 files. In preparation for the Centenary celebrations, a project under the supervision and with the collaboration of the Lazio region’s Archival and Bibliographic Superintendence (*Soprintendenza archivistica e bibliografica del Lazio*), and with financial support from the *Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna*, has been underway since October 2023 to restore, reorganise, and ultimately make more accessible the Institute’s Archives.

67. With professional archivist Ms Diana Fiore leading the project, having also coordinated the work of a team of recent graduates in earlier phases, the archival material is being processed according to the national and international guidelines and regulations through a multi-step process of reorganisation, inventorying, and digital cataloguing, with the addition of a unique progressive number. Once this process is completed, it will enable the subsequent phase of assessing which documents can then be digitised for easier access and consultation. Since the last session of the Governing Council, work continued to progress in this respect, and internal staff as well as Library patrons have already been able to benefit from the project, consulting relevant files and documents from the earliest years of the Archives.

68. Moreover, in the early months of 2026, an exhibition of documents from UNIDROIT's Archives (as well as external archives) was prepared as part of the Institute's Centenary celebrations: a thematic itinerary to present the history of UNIDROIT through archival records, which was then unveiled on 20 April 2026 at the official inauguration of the Centenary, in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic.

VII. UNIDROIT SCHOLARSHIP, INTERNSHIP AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME

69. UNIDROIT's Scholarship, Internship and Research Programme (USIRP) is one of the Institute's most important tools for promoting UNIDROIT's work and related research in the fields of international private law, international commercial law and comparative law. Since it was first launched in 1993, the Programme has enabled the Institute to host over 800 scholars and interns from more than 76 countries to undertake research and internship opportunities. Participants in the programme are selected through a robust and competitive selection process. Successful scholarship candidates are invited to undertake two-month research stays in the UNIDROIT Library, and successful internship candidates are invited to undertake three-month internships with the UNIDROIT Secretariat. Additionally, each year the Institute selects one outstanding scholar to undertake the prestigious six-to-nine-month Sir Roy Goode Scholarship.

70. The USIRP has been entirely funded by voluntary extra-budgetary contributions since 2014, relying exclusively on the generosity of Programme sponsors.¹⁷ Participants are provided with stipends (EUR 1,500 per month for scholars, EUR 1,000 per month for interns) during their time in Rome. The long-term goal of the Programme is to provide funding to all accepted applicants; however, due to limited resources, currently only a limited percentage of applicants receive research scholarships or internship stipends.

71. For the 2025 Programme, UNIDROIT received a record total of 295 internship, 162 scholarship applications and 30 Sir Roy Goode Scholarship applications. The Secretariat welcomed 67 interns from 30 countries in 2025 who collaborated on current projects with the UNIDROIT Secretariat. Of the 67 interns, 15 were granted stipends for the duration of their internships. Additionally, the Secretariat welcomed 16 scholars from 14 different countries and 64 researchers from 24 countries to undertake research stays in the UNIDROIT Library. Mr Joseph Chu (PhD Candidate, University of Oxford) was selected from a field of 30 candidates as the 2025 Sir Roy Goode Scholar. Finally, 13 Senior Internships and five Fellowships were selected in 2025 under a specialised programme supported by the Chinese Scholarship Council. For further details regarding the Programme and its beneficiaries in 2025, see the 2025 UNIDROIT Scholarship and Internship Programme Implementation Report.

72. For the 2026 Programme, UNIDROIT received a new record total of 776 applications, comprising 447 internship applications, 285 scholarship applications and 44 Sir Roy Goode

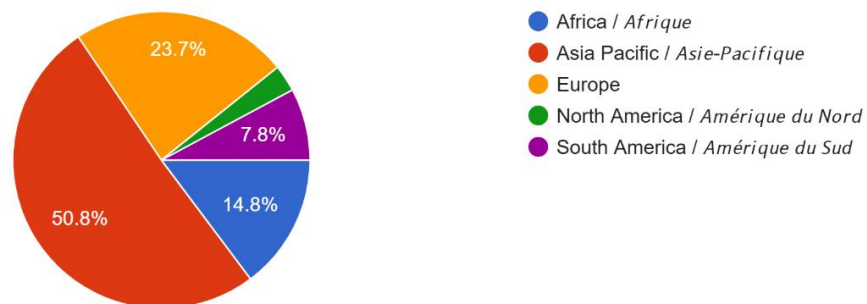
¹⁷ USIRP sponsors include the UNIDROIT Asian Transnational Law Centre (ATLC), the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOFCOM), Members of the Governing Council, the UNIDROIT Alumni Association, the United Rule of Law Appeal (UROLA), and the Madruga BTW law firm (Brazil).

Scholarship applications. A statistical summary of the gender, nationality, and areas of research is included below. Applications were received from candidates in 76 countries, with a majority of applications coming from female applicants with at least an LL.M. qualification wanting to undertake research or work on UNIDROIT projects in the fields of (i) international commercial contracts, and (ii) law and technology. Assistant Professor Kristijan Poljanec (University of Zagreb) was selected from a field of 44 candidates as the 2026 Sir Roy Goode Scholar.

UNIDROIT Internship Applications 2026 – Region, Gender, Qualifications and Project Preference

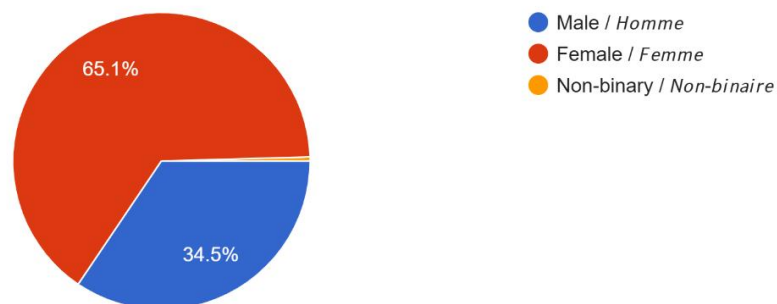
Region of Nationality / Région de nationalité

447 responses



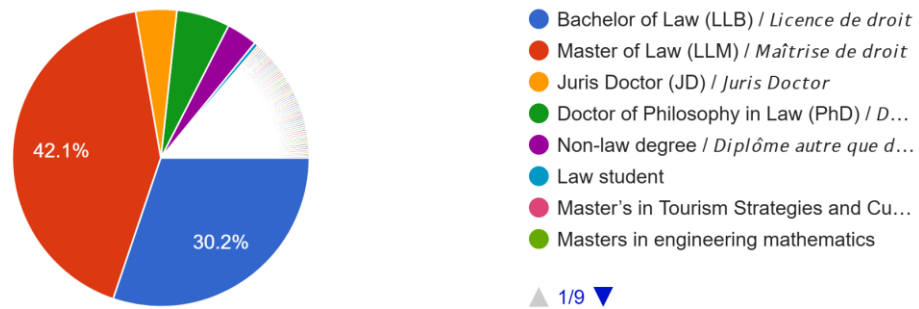
Gender / Genre

447 responses



University Degree (either currently underway or highest level of graduation) / Diplôme universitaire (en cours ou le plus élevé)

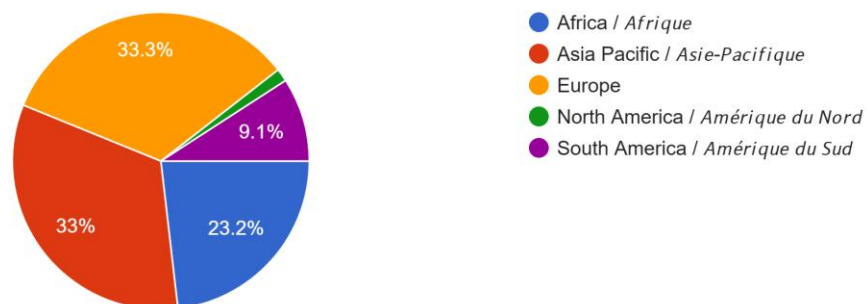
447 responses



UNIDROIT Scholarship Applications 2026 – Region, Qualification, Gender and Research Area

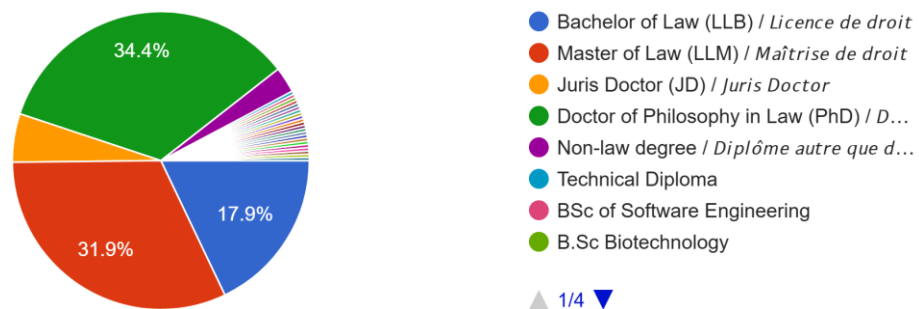
Region of Nationality / Région de nationalité

285 responses



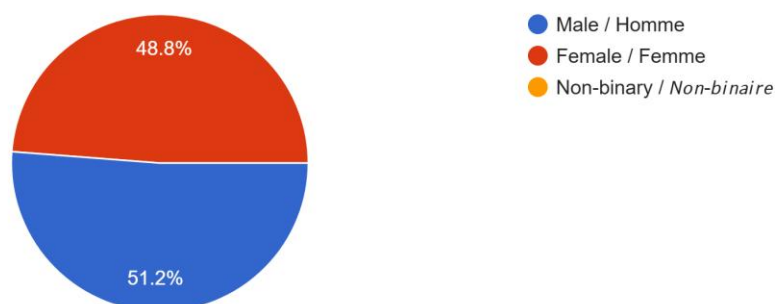
Highest Academic Qualification (Including ongoing study) / Qualification académique la plus élevée (y compris études en cours)

285 responses



Gender / Genre

285 responses



Area of Research / Domaine de recherche

285 responses



VIII. COOPERATION WITH ACADEMIC AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

73. UNIDROIT is firmly committed to fostering global academic collaboration, practical legal training, and institutional partnerships, with the overarching aim of advancing the application and understanding of its instruments worldwide. This commitment is demonstrated through the Institute's sustained and strategic expansion of cooperation with universities and other institutions, designed to promote research, education, and professional engagement across the full spectrum of UNIDROIT's mandate. Many of the Secretariat's promotional and educational activities are implemented within the framework of cooperation agreements, which formalise and focus cooperation on areas of mutual interest with academic and institutional partners.

A. Academic Cooperation Agreements

74. Since the 105th session of the Governing Council, UNIDROIT has concluded new cooperation agreements with eight universities and research institutes. These agreements aim to enhance collaboration, facilitate joint initiatives – including research projects, study programmes, and co-organised events – and promote the UNIDROIT Scholarship, Internship, and Research Programme. In

several cases, partner institutions administer competitive selection processes for interns and may provide full financial support for internships.

75. The new academic partnerships include:

- Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (Saudi Arabia) – 26 May 2025;
- Chinese University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law (CHUK LAW) – 29 May 2025;
- University of Zurich (UZH), Faculty of Law – 15 August 2025;
- University of Law, Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNU-UL) – 14 September 2025;
- Royal University of Law and Economics (Cambodia) – 26 September 2025;
- Italian-Norwegian Research Institute for Law and Economics (INRILE) – 29 October 2025;
- Hong Kong University (HKU), Asian Institute of International Financial Law (AIIFL) – 26 November 2025; and
- Hong Kong University (HKU), Faculty of Law (HKU Law) – 10 December 2025.

76. Additionally, on 21 July 2025, UNIDROIT signed an Additional Protocol to its 2024 Memorandum of Understanding with the Roma Tre Law Department to undertake a joint project in the space sector, thereby broadening the scope of academic and research collaboration.

B. Institutional Partnerships Beyond Academia

77. UNIDROIT has also strengthened its engagement with key institutions through cooperation agreements, thereby enhancing collaboration in legal reform, arbitration-related educational programmes, and justice administration. Since May 2025, formalised partnerships have been concluded with four institutions:

- Beijing Arbitration Commission/Beijing International Arbitration Court (BAC/BIAC) – 26 June 2025;
- Italian Arbitration Association (*Associazione Italiana per l'Arbitrato*, AIA) – 1 August 2025;
- Ministry of Justice, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – 21 October 2025; and
- Egyptian State Lawsuits Authority (ESLA) – 29 April 2026.

IX. UNIDROIT PUBLICATIONS

A. Uniform Law Review

78. The new online method for submission of articles to the *Uniform Law Review*, their review and treatment (the “ScholarOne” submission system) introduced in 2023 is now fully operative. It should be noted that Oxford University Press (OUP) is transforming all their journals into online-only publications, thereby eliminating the paper copies. To meet the need of the Institute to have the *Uniform Law Review* in paper format for the Centenary in 2026, the OUP has agreed to postpone the transfer of the *Uniform Law Review* onto the online-only platform to 2027.¹⁸

79. Subscription data supplied by OUP indicate that there is a general trend towards online subscriptions. The special arrangement OUP has in place for developing countries, which offers online

¹⁸ The Uniform Law Review is available on the OUP website at: [Uniform Law Review | Oxford Academic](https://www.oxfordacademic.com/ulr).

subscriptions to journals at lower rates and, in some cases, for free, should be noted, as UNIDROIT does not have the means to reach out to all the developing countries included in that programme.

80. The importance of the *Uniform Law Review* as a source of information on both the Institute and its instruments, as well as on the instruments of other organisations active in the area of transnational private law, and the reception of the international private law instruments in the nations that adopt them, cannot be overstated. Its importance can also be seen in the increased number of articles submitted by the authors, many of which come from Africa and Asia. In 2025, 82 articles were submitted to the *Uniform Law Review*. At the time of writing (2 March 2026), 13 articles had been submitted.

81. Every year OUP provides statistics on the online consultation of the *Uniform Law Review*. The table below relates to the consultation of the full text of the articles published in the *Review* in the twelve months between January and December 2025. The table confirms the ongoing interest of readers in the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts and in other more traditional subjects, such as contract law. Submissions relating to new subjects, such as digital assets, are on the rise after having had a slow start.

Top 10 articles with the most full-text views (html – pdf) during the last 12 months			
Title	Author	Year published	Views
Shaping the future of AI: balancing innovation and ethics in global regulation	Pouya Kashefi, Yasaman Kashefi, and Ghafouri Mirsaraei, AmirHossein	2024 p. 524	2,388
The law governing international commercial contracts and the actual role of the UNIDROIT Principles	Michael Joachim Bonell	2018 p.15	2,019
The impact of blockchain technologies and smart contracts on dispute resolution: arbitration and court litigation at the crossroads	Pietro Ortolani,	2019 p. 430	1,647
The significance of a forum selection agreement as an indicator of the implied choice of law in international commercial contracts	Chukwuma Samuel Adesina Okoli	2023 p. 197	1,495
Electronic bills of lading, transnational and English law: blocking the blockchain?	Thomas Krebs	2024 p.323	1,395
Sustainable development clauses in international contracts through the lens of the UNIDROIT Principles..	Ekaterina Pannebakker	2024 p. 352	994
State subsidies and aircraft financing in the EU, USA, and China: a balancing act	Steven Truxal	2024 p.17	901
The update obligation for smart products under the EU Sale of Goods Directive: the seller’s right of ..	Katarzyna Kryla-Cudna	2024 p. 287	716
Political barriers in the ratification of international commercial law conventions	Johanna Hoekstra	2021 p. 43	689
Joint and several liability at the interface of national and international law and the FIDIC conditions..	Nisreen Mahasneh	2024 p. 412	673

B. Other publications

1. UNIDROIT/IFAD Legal Guide on Agricultural Land Investment Contracts – French version

82. In February 2025, UNIDROIT published the French version of its *Legal Guide on Agricultural Land Investment Contracts (Guide juridique sur les contrats d'investissement en terres agricoles)* and hosted the official launch event of the publication on 1 July 2025.

2. UNCITRAL-UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts and Guide to Enactment

83. In May 2025, UNIDROIT published a limited-edition run of the *UNCITRAL-UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts and Guide to Enactment*, which was distributed during a side event to the 105th session of the Governing Council on 23 May, entitled “UNIDROIT’S Contribution to Private Law and Agricultural Development”.

3. Thirty Years of the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts: Past, Present and Future Relevance

84. In May 2025, UNIDROIT published several articles deriving from interventions at its May 2024 conference celebrating the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UNIDROIT Principles, along with a few additional contributions, all pulled together as a monograph. The contributors examined past and present achievement and identified strengths and areas where improvement and further development could be envisaged for the future.

4. UNIDROIT Legislative Guide on Bank Liquidation

85. In September 2025, UNIDROIT published its *Legislative Guide on Bank Liquidation*, which had been adopted by the Governing Council in May 2025.

5. Principles of Reinsurance Contract Law 2025 (PRICL 2025)

86. In October 2025, UNIDROIT published the *Principles of Reinsurance Contract Law 2025*, the fruit of the PRICL Project Group in cooperation with UNIDROIT.

6. UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring – Spanish version

87. Finally, in December 2025, UNIDROIT published the Spanish translation of its *Model Law on Factoring (Ley Modelo de UNIDROIT sobre Factoraje)*; with the translation coordinated by Prof. Alejandro Garro of Columbia University, this publication was made possible through a generous donation by the Government of Spain.

C. Translations

1. UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts

88. The year 2025 saw the addition of the Arabic translation of the black-letter rules of the UPICC 2016 to the UNIDROIT website. In addition, the Portuguese translation of the integral version of the UPICC 2016 was published in Brazil in June 2025 and, as per the translation agreement, would be added to the UNIDROIT website in June 2026.

2. ELI-UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure

89. The Ukrainian translation of the black-letter rules of the *ELI-UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure* was finalised and published for online reference in 2025.

3. UNIDROIT Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law

90. The Chinese and Japanese translations of the black-letter rules of the *UNIDROIT Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law* were published on the UNIDROIT website in 2025. The Spanish version of the DAPL was published in February 2026.

4. UNIDROIT Legislative Guide on Bank Liquidation

91. The Japanese translation of the *UNIDROIT Legislative Guide on Bank Liquidation* was published on the UNIDROIT website in 2025, and the Chinese translation was published on the UNIDROIT website in early 2026.

5. UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring

92. As mentioned above, in 2025, UNIDROIT published the Spanish translation of the Model Law on Factoring.

X. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

93. *The Governing Council is invited to take note of the all the Academy activities and to support the Secretariat's initiatives in these fields*

ANNEXE**Information Paper on the CTC International Moot Court Series**

(prepared by Professor Jeffrey Wool, Director of the Cape Town Convention Academic Project and UNIDROIT Senior Academic Fellow)

A. Background: The Cape Town Convention and The Cape Town Convention Academic Project

1. The Cape Town Convention Academic Project (CTCAP) was established to facilitate and further the academic study and assessment of the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols. The Project is a joint undertaking between UNIDROIT and the University of Cambridge Faculty of Law. The Aviation Working Group (AWG) – the international aviation industry body that played a leading role in the development of the Convention – is the founding sponsor of the CTCAP. The CTCAP is co-directed by Professor Louise Gullifer (Rouse Ball Professor of English Law, University of Cambridge), Professor Jeffrey Wool (Senior Academic Fellow, UNIDROIT; Distinguished Fellow and Visiting Professor of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and Secretary-General of AWG), and Professor Ignacio Tirado (Secretary-General of UNIDROIT). Senior advisers include Professor Sir Roy Goode (Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Oxford) and Rob Cowan (Managing Director of Aviareto Ltd).

2. CTCAP undertakes a wide range of educational and research activities, including:

- maintaining a comprehensive online Repository of documents relating to the CTC and its Protocols, including legal texts, case law, and legislative materials from Contracting States;
- publishing the Cape Town Convention Academic Journal (an open-access, online publication);
- hosting the annual CTC Academic Conference, widely considered the leading Cape Town Convention event, bringing together academics, practitioners, government officials, and industry leaders;
- developing educational materials; and
- administering the CTC International Moot Court Programme.

B. The CTC International Moot Court Programme: Purpose and Benefits

3. The CTC International Moot Court Programme (the “CTC moot court”) was created under the auspices of CTCAP. The CTC moot court was formally announced in December 2022, and the inaugural moot court took place in September 2023.

4. The CTC moot court serves two principal objectives:

- to familiarise students, academics, and judges with the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol in the context of complex, multi-jurisdictional hypothetical fact patterns, presented in a simulated judicial setting; and
- to provide law students with rigorous educational exercises involving the CTC instruments, developing both substantive knowledge of the treaty and practical advocacy skills.

5. Each moot is heard before sitting judges drawn from the host jurisdiction, providing participants with an authentic judicial experience. Fact patterns are tailored to reflect the legal framework and treaty declarations of the participating jurisdictions, ensuring that the exercise is directly relevant to practitioners, judges, and students in those countries. Law firms from the AWG

global legal network tutor and advise participating students on the basics and relevant details of the CTC.

6. The CTC moot court offers a distinctive range of benefits to participants and to the broader international legal community:

- Judicial Education. Sitting judges engage directly with the CTC through realistic contested scenarios, deepening their understanding of the CTC framework. This is particularly valuable in jurisdictions where CTC-related disputes remain relatively novel.
- Student Training. Students develop specialised expertise in international commercial law, learning to master complex treaty provisions, apply them to multi-jurisdictional fact patterns, and present persuasive arguments before an experienced bench.
- Cross-Border Legal Awareness. Multi-jurisdictional fact patterns train participants to analyse how the CTC operates across different national insolvency and commercial laws, fostering cross-border legal awareness and practical problem-solving skills.
- Global Outreach. By working across different jurisdictions, the CTC moot court promotes awareness of and engagement with the CTC in regions where ratification and implementation are at various stages of development.
- Capacity-Building. The Programme builds a cadre of lawyers and judges equipped to handle CTC-related disputes with expertise and confidence, supporting the long-term effectiveness of the treaty.
- Industry Engagement. In jurisdictions where the AWG's Legal Advisory Panel is active, contact group law firms brief and mentor participating student teams, bringing real-world industry experience directly into the academic exercise.

C. Moot Courts Held to Date

7. Since the launch of the Programme in 2022, seven moot court sessions have been held on four continents. The CTC moot court has operated in two phases: (i) an initial phase featuring cross-border litigation fact patterns and (ii) a current phase featuring cross-border insolvency fact patterns.

8. Across both phases, fact patterns have been adjusted to the specific treaty declarations made by each participating jurisdiction, ensuring that each exercise is legally accurate and directly relevant to local practice. Phase I patterns focused on enforcement disputes – testing participants' ability to analyse the exercise of creditor remedies across jurisdictions and the priority of international interests. Phase II patterns have addressed cross-border insolvency scenarios, requiring participants to assess the interaction between the CTC's insolvency provisions – particularly Article XI of the Aircraft Protocol (Alternative A), Article XXX(4) (choice of law rule on Alternative A) – and the national insolvency and restructuring laws of the participating jurisdictions.

9. The first three sets of moot courts employed a cross-border litigation fact pattern involving the CTC, addressing the enforcement of international interests in aircraft objects. These were conducted in the following jurisdictions.

- United Kingdom: The inaugural CTC moot court was held on 26 September 2023 at Jesus College, University of Cambridge, as a curtain-raiser to the Twelfth CTCAP Annual Conference. The competition was contested by teams from the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford and was presided over by Mr Justice Antony Zacaroli of the UK High Court.
- Canada: A second moot court was hosted by McGill Law School in Montreal. This session took the form of a friendly competition between student teams from McGill Law School, applying the CTC cross-border litigation fact pattern in a Canadian context. There were three judges,

from common and civil law provinces, with former Justice Descamps of the Supreme Court of Canada presiding.

- Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia: A third set of moot courts was held across Asia, with national competitions in Singapore and Malaysia. The Asian series culminated in a grand finale between the winners of the two national competitions, presided over by sitting High Court judges from Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, and including Justices Mary Lim and Vinod Coomarswamy.

10. From 2025, the CTC moot court moved to cross-border insolvency fact patterns, reflecting the growing importance of CTC insolvency provisions in the context of airline restructurings worldwide. Three moot courts have been held during this phase.

- United States: The first moot in the insolvency phase was held on 2 April 2025 in New York, hosted by Brooklyn Law School with teams from Brooklyn Law School and Fordham Law School. The fact pattern was based on a US-China cross-border insolvency scenario, involving a foreign airline seeking Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the United States and the application of the CTC Aircraft Protocol, including questions regarding administrative claims. The moot was presided over by US Bankruptcy Court Judge Elizabeth Stong of the Eastern District of New York and retired US Bankruptcy Court Judge Shelly Chapman of the Southern District of New York.
- Ireland: The second moot in this phase was held on 24 June 2025 in Dublin, using an Ireland-Nigeria cross-border insolvency fact pattern. The competition was held between teams from Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin, Schools of Law. It was presided over by three Irish judges, Justices Eileen Roberts, Michael Quinn, and Denis MacDonald.
- Nigeria: The third moot court took place in Abuja on 12 November 2025 between teams from the University of Benin and the University of Lagos. The fact pattern mirrored that used for the Irish moot, based on the Ireland-Nigeria cross-border insolvency scenario. The moot was presided over by three Federal High Court judges, Justices Joyce Abdulmalik, Binta Nyako, and James Omotosho.

D. Conclusion

11. The CTC International Moot Court Programme is a unique and valuable initiative that serves the purposes of legal education for both students and judges and deepens judicial familiarity with the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols. As the Programme continues to expand across new jurisdictions and new fact pattern themes, it is becoming an increasingly important vehicle for building global CTC expertise at both the student and judicial levels.

12. Governing Council members are encouraged to facilitate the continued development and expansion of the Programme across new jurisdictions, working with the CTCAP.