



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



UNIDROIT CENTENARY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Venue: Rome, Villa Aldobrandini

Friday 18 September 2026, 14:00 – 18:30

To mark its Centennial year, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) has established seven Workstreams to develop strategic white papers on UNIDROIT's main areas of work. The purpose of the white papers is to critically evaluate the development and success of existing instruments, as well as lay out future initiatives UNIDROIT could undertake to achieve its purpose of harmonising international private and commercial law in the respective legal fields.

The Centenary Workstream on Sustainable Development was established in 2025 to develop a white paper critically examining how UNIDROIT's instruments and activities advance sustainability across key private law domains and to consider areas of improvement and recommendations going forward.

This Workshop will provide an opportunity to review and discuss the draft Sustainable Development Workstream White Paper (the 'White Paper') in advance of its finalisation and submission to the UNIDROIT Governing Council and General Assembly for approval in December 2026. Workshop attendees will be asked to review the draft White Paper in advance of the event and to discuss any suggestions for improvement.

This event is by invitation only. Institutions and individuals with expertise in relevant fields of law and subject matters in sustainable development (including e.g., agriculture, climate change, cultural heritage, etc.) have been invited to participate. Online participation is possible, although in-person attendance is strongly encouraged in order to facilitate active participation and discussion. Invited participants can register at the [Workshop registration link](#).

This event is held in conjunction with UNIDROIT's International Programme for Law and Development (IPLD) for the Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, and the Caucasus (BEPCAC) which seeks to provide participants with a thorough, practice-oriented understanding of UNIDROIT's legal instruments for harmonising and modernising private and commercial law, with a focus on their application in real legal and institutional contexts.

This Workshop will follow the workshop being organised for the UNIDROIT Centenary Private Law and Agriculture Workstream, which will take place at UNIDROIT on 18 September 2026 from 9:30 to 13:00 Rome, CEST. Participants are warmly invited to consider attending both workshops.



AGENDA

14:00 – 14:05 Opening

Jeannette Tramhel, Chair of the Committee for the UNIDROIT Workstream on Sustainable Development

14:05 – 14:45 Session I – UNIDROIT and sustainable development

Introduction: Maria Chiara, President Emerita, UNIDROIT

DISCUSSION

Before delving into the particular instruments addressed by the White Paper, participants are invited to reflect on the scope and structure of the document, as well as on the more general links between UNIDROIT's mandate, working methodology, and non-legislative activities to sustainable development (Section II.A and Section III). Relevant questions for consideration include:

1. Is the White Paper well-organised and structured?
2. Is there anything that should be included or removed from the draft document?
3. Is the working definition of sustainable development, as used in the White Paper, reasonable and are the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) appropriate as the main benchmark for assessing the UNIDROIT instruments in terms of their contributions towards these goals and sustainable development more broadly?
4. Does the section on UNIDROIT as an organisation (Section II.A.) adequately explain how its mandate and working methodology are relevant to sustainable development? Do the given examples accurately illustrate how UNIDROIT's work supports SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and in particular, Target 16.3 and promotion of the rule of law? (Para 16). Do the given examples illustrate how UNIDROIT's work with other organisations reflects inter-agency cooperation in support of SDG 17 Target 17.16? (Para 19).
5. As it was not considered practical for the Committee to review every instrument produced by UNIDROIT, those that were analysed were deliberately chosen for their relevance to sustainable development. Are there other instruments that should be specifically analysed and if so, why?
6. Does the section on UNIDROIT's non-legislative activities (Section III) adequately explain how these activities might contribute towards sustainable development? Are the examples clear and reasonable? Should anything further be added?
7. Are the Tables in the Annexe useful? Should they be retained in the final version?

Comments and conclusions: Jeannette Tramhel, Chair of the Committee for the UNIDROIT Workstream on Sustainable Development

14:45 – 15:30 Session II – Instruments directly linked to sustainable development

Introduction: Giulia Previti, Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

DISCUSSION

Participants are invited to reflect on Section II.B with particular focus on: (i) the links of the relevant instruments to sustainable development; and (ii) the recommendations being offered. Relevant questions for consideration include:

1. For those instruments that have been reviewed, is the analysis of their relevance and contribution to sustainable development sufficiently clear and accurate?
2. Are there other ways in which any of these instruments might effect sustainable development that have not been mentioned?
3. Are the recommendations sound?
4. Are there any further recommendations that should be considered?

Comments and conclusions: Belinda Ellington, Senior Advisor, International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) and **Elif Dilek Yilmaz**, Associate, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)



15:30 – 16:00 Session III – Instruments concerning agriculture and private law

Introduction: Priscila Pereira De Andrade, Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

DISCUSSION

Participants are invited to reflect on Section II.C with particular focus on: (i) the links of the relevant instruments to sustainable development; and (ii) the recommendations being offered. Relevant questions for consideration include:

1. For those instruments that have been reviewed, is the analysis of their relevance and contribution to sustainable development sufficiently clear and accurate?
2. Are there other ways in which any of these instruments might effect sustainable development that have not been mentioned?
3. Are there any instruments that might benefit from revision, additions, supplementary or explanatory texts in order to improve their positive impacts in terms of sustainable development or mitigate any negative impacts?
4. Are the recommendations sound?
5. Are there any further recommendations that should be considered?

Comments and conclusions: Maria Ignacia Vial Undurraga, Universidad de los Andes, Chile, and Member of UNIDROIT Governing Council

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 – 16:45 Session IV – Instruments concerning access to credit

Introduction: Philine Wehling, Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

DISCUSSION

Participants are invited to reflect on Section II.D with particular focus on: (i) the links of the relevant instruments to sustainable development; and (ii) the recommendations being offered. Relevant questions for consideration include:

1. For those instruments that have been reviewed, is the analysis of their relevance and contribution to sustainable development sufficiently clear and accurate?
2. Are there other ways in which any of these instruments might effect sustainable development that have not been mentioned?
3. Are there any instruments that might benefit from revision, additions, supplementary or explanatory texts in order to improve their positive impacts in terms of sustainable development or mitigate any negative impacts?
4. Are the recommendations sound?
5. Are there any further recommendations that should be considered?
6. Are there other instruments that should also be reviewed herein?

Comments and Conclusions: Megumi Hara, Chuo University, Tokyo

16:45 – 17:15 Session V – Instruments concerning financial markets and technology and contracts

Introduction: Myrte Thijssen, Senior Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

DISCUSSION

Participants are invited to reflect on Section II.E and Section II.F with particular focus on: (i) the links of the relevant instruments to sustainable development; and (ii) the recommendations being offered. Relevant questions for consideration include:

1. For those instruments that have been reviewed, is the analysis of their relevance and contribution to sustainable development sufficiently clear and accurate?



2. Are there other ways in which any of these instruments might effect sustainable development that have not been mentioned?
3. Are there any instruments that might benefit from revision, additions, supplementary or explanatory texts in order to improve their positive impacts in terms of sustainable development or mitigate any negative impacts?
4. Are the recommendations sound?
5. Are there any further recommendations that should be considered?
6. Are there other instruments that should also be reviewed herein?

Comments and Conclusions: Camila Villard Duran, ESSCA School of Management, France

17:15 – 17:45 Session VI – Instruments concerning cultural property

Introduction: Marina Schneider, Principal Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

DISCUSSION

Participants are invited to reflect on Section II.G with particular focus on: (i) the links of the relevant instruments to sustainable development; and (ii) the recommendations being offered. Relevant questions for consideration include:

1. For those instruments that have been reviewed, is the analysis of their relevance and contribution to sustainable development sufficiently clear and accurate?
2. Are there other ways in which any of these instruments might effect sustainable development that have not been mentioned?
3. Are there any instruments that might benefit from revision, additions, supplementary or explanatory texts in order to improve their positive impacts in terms of sustainable development or mitigate any negative impacts?
4. Are the recommendations sound?
5. Are there any further recommendations that should be considered?

Comments and Conclusions: Giuditta Giardini, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

17:45 – 18:30 Session VII – Conclusions and recommendations

Introduction: Anna Veneziano, Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

DISCUSSION

Participants are invited to reflect on Section IV. Relevant questions for consideration include:

1. Are the conclusions and recommendations in the draft well-supported by analysis? Are they sound and reasonable?
2. Are there any other recommendations that might be offered?
3. Are there other relevant references, scholarly works, cases, etc. that the Committee should take into consideration in its final deliberations?

Comments and Conclusions: Vesselina Haralampieva, Senior Counsel, EBRD