



**UNIDROIT**

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



# UNIDROIT CENTENARY (1926-2026)

## CENTENARY CONTRACT LAW WORKSHOP

*Organised within the framework of the International Programme for Law and Development (IPLD) Africa Plus*

Time: 26 June 2026 | 11:15 – 16:30 (CEST)

Venue: Sala Rodinò, UNIDROIT, Rome

### AGENDA

#### 11:15 – 11:20 Opening and Welcome Remarks

**Prof. Anna Veneziano**, Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

#### 11:20 – 11:25 Introduction

**Prof. Arthur Hartkamp** (online) Chair of the Contract Law Workstream; Professor, Radboud University; Member ad honorem, UNIDROIT Governing Council

#### 11:25 – 13:00 Panel I - The Role of Soft Law in the Harmonisation and Modernisation of Contract Law

**Chair: Prof. Anna Veneziano**, Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

This panel would examine the role of UNIDROIT soft law instruments in the development, harmonisation, and modernisation of contract law. It will explore the practical use and implementation of the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (UPICC), as well as possible ways of enhancing their effectiveness. The discussion will also address issues currently covered by the UPICC that may benefit from further clarification, such as the principle of good faith, and consider topics that could usefully be addressed in a future general instrument on contract law, including network contracts. Particular attention will also be given to the interaction between contract law, soft law instruments, and international arbitration.

#### SPEAKERS

**Prof Giuditta Cordero-Moss**, Professor, University of Oslo; President, International Academy of Comparative Law

*The UPICC: success, challenges, recommendations for implementation and engagement*

**Prof Neil Cohen**, 1901 Distinguished Research Professor, Law Brooklyn Law School

*Good Faith and Fair Dealing: Need for further guidance?*

**Prof. Yeşim Atamer**, Professor, University of Zurich

*Outstanding Issues in general Contract Law: The Example of Network Contracts*

**Prof. Andrés Jana**, Professor, Universidad de Chile; Founding Partner, Jana & Gil Dispute Resolution; Chair, Working Group II, UNCITRAL

*The Relationship Between Contract Law Soft Law Instruments and International Arbitration*

#### 12:30 – 13:00 Open Discussion for Panel I

#### 13:00 – 13:50 Lunch Break



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



## 13:50 – 15:20 Panel II - From General Principles to Specific Contracts

**Chair: Ms Myrte Thijssen**, Senior Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

The second panel would examine the relationship between general and special contract law, with particular attention to areas such as distribution contracts, reinsurance contracts, investment contracts.

### SPEAKERS

**Prof. María Pilar Perales Viscasillas**, Professor, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid  
*Reinsurance Contracts*

**Prof. Hiroo Sono**, Professor, Hokkaido University  
*Distribution and Franchise Contracts*

**Prof. Lauro Gama**, Professor, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro  
*International Investment Contracts*

**Prof. Yeşim Atamer**, Professor, University of Zurich  
*Construction and Engineering Contracts*

## 14:40 – 15:20 Open Discussion for Panel II

## 15:20 – 16:20 Panel III - Emerging Issues and Future Developments in Contract Law

**Chair: Dr. Philine Wehling**, Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

This panel would explore emerging issues in contract law, including impact of technology, due diligence and sustainability, and other developments identified in the draft White Paper.

### SPEAKERS

**Prof. Christian Twigg-Flesner (online)** Professor, University of Warwick  
*New Technologies and the Future of Contract Law*

**Prof. María Pilar Perales Viscasillas/ Prof. Hiroo Sono**  
*Due Diligence and Sustainability*

## 15:45 – 16:20 Open Discussion for Panel III

## 16:20 – 16:30 Closing Remarks

**Prof. Anna Veneziano**, Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT