



9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE COORDINATION OF SECURED TRANSACTIONS REFORMS

Scaling Access to Finance Through Law, Policy, Digitalisation and Investment

The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are pleased to co-organise the 9th International Conference on the Coordination of Secured Transactions Reform.

The Conference is an initiative of the Joint Network for Coordinating and Supporting Secured Transactions Reforms (Joint Network). With an Executive Committee comprised of UNIDROIT, UNCITRAL, the World Bank Group, the EBRD and the International Law Institute, the Joint Network seeks to facilitate the modernisation and enhancement of secured transactions frameworks, particularly through the adoption and implementation of international standards in this area.

Following the successful 8th Conference on the Coordination of Secured Transactions Reform held in Hong Kong in November 2025, this 9th edition will convene the key decision makers and main actors in the secured transactions field, including international standard setters, multilateral development banks, financial institutions, development agencies, government representatives, regulators, private sector associations and legal experts to discuss emerging trends and current challenges in strengthening the global legal framework facilitating secured transactions and access to credit.

Building upon almost a decade of coordination through the Joint Network, the 9th Conference will focus on how access to finance can be scaled across the world through the coordination of law, policy, digitalisation and investment. This theme will be explored through a variety of lenses and cover different forms of secured financing, including asset-based financing and leasing, digital assets and tokenisation, the financing of goods in transit, supply chain finance and factoring, and agri-finance. The Conference will also include core panels on the coordination of international standards, implementation and investment, with a special panel dedicated to the specific challenges and opportunities of scaling finance in Africa.

When

21-22 September 2026
Monday and Tuesday

8.30-18.30
British Summer Time

Where

European Bank for
Reconstruction and
Development

Five Bank Street,
London E14 4BG,
United Kingdom

21 September: Room 16.28-16.30
22 September: Room 16.26

Join Microsoft Teams meeting:

Meeting ID: 380 548 315 642 268
Passcode: VR3VW6KZ

Any questions regarding the conference can be directed to PagkouN@ebrd.com

21 September 2026

Level 16, Rooms 16.28 – 16.30

AM

8:30 – 9:00 | Registration

9:00 – 9:30 | Opening Remarks

Alba Bozo, Deputy General Counsel, EBRD
Shona Tatchell, Director of Trade Facilitation Programme, EBRD
Ignacio Tirado, Secretary General, UNIDROIT

9:30 – 10:00 | Opening Roundtable – Coordinating International Standards

This panel offers an update on the latest developments in the development of international standards on secured transactions from the executive leadership of the two major international legislative organisations working in the field.

Ignacio Tirado, Secretary General, UNIDROIT
Jae Sung Lee, Principal Legal Officer, UNCITRAL

10:00 – 10:15 | Coffee Break

10:15 – 12:15 | Panel 1 – Coordinating the Implementation of Legal Reforms and Investment: the Role of Multilateral Development Banks

This panel surveys recent reform efforts undertaken by multilateral development banks (MDBs) in secured transactions law across the world, and how the law reforms complement MDB investment and lending.

Milot Ahma, Principal Counsel, EBRD (Moderator)
Christina Pak, Assistant General Counsel, ADB
Murat Sultanov, Senior Operations Officer, IFC
Markus Renfert, Senior Counsel, Banking, EBRD
Irina Tyan, Senior Banker, Trade Facilitation Programme, EBRD

12:15 – 13:30 | Lunch

PM

13:30 – 15:15 | Panel 2 – Asset Based Finance and Leasing

This panel focuses on recent positive developments in the implementation of specialist legal regimes that support asset-based finance and leasing, including the Cape Town Convention and its Rail Protocol and Mining, Agricultural and Construction Equipment (MAC) Protocol, as well as the UNIDROIT Model Law on Leasing.

Anna Veneziano, Deputy Secretary General, UNIDROIT (Moderator)
William Brydie-Watson, Senior Legal Officer, UNIDROIT
Natalia Pagkou, Associate Counsel, EBRD
Rafael Castillo-Triana, CEO, Alta Group Latin America
Martin Fleetwood, Consultant, Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Johan Kip Eideberg, Senior VP, Association of Equipment Manufacturers

15:15 – 15:30 | Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:15 | Panel 3 – Digital Assets: Institutional and Market Perspectives

This panel considers the implications of the digitalisation and tokenisation of security interests, encompassing views from both standard setting organisations as well as legal practitioners and finance providers that are using digital assets and tokenisation to facilitate finance. The panel will discuss several international standards and ongoing projects, including the UNIDROIT Principles of Digital Assets and Private Law (DAPL) and the HCCH Digital Tokens Project as well as UNCITRAL's work on the application of the Model Law on Secured Transactions to Digital Assets.

Teresa Rodriguez de las Heras Ballell, President, European Law Institute (Moderator)
Gerardine Goh Escolar, Deputy Secretary General, HCCH
Theodora Kostoula, Legal Consultant, UNIDROIT
Monica Canafoglia, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL
Megumi Hara, Professor of Law at Chuo University, Tokyo
Monica Sah, Partner, Clifford Chance UK

17:15 – 18:30 | Panel 4 – The Financing of Goods in Transit: the Emergence of New Standards and Interaction with Existing Instruments

In anticipation of the signing ceremony for the UN Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents (NCD) in Accra in October 2026, this panel will examine the impact of the new treaty on access to credit for goods in transit, as well as how it will operate alongside other existing legal instruments, such as the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferrable Records (MLETR) and the Cape Town Convention and its Protocols.

Jae Sung Lee, Principal Legal Officer, UNCITRAL (Moderator)
Yanying Li, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL
Jun Xu, Vice President, ICC Banking Commission
James Hookham, Director, Global Shippers Forum
Luca Castellani, Senior Digital Trade Specialist, EBRD
Andrea Tang, Head of Legal, FIATA

18:30 Cocktail Reception (Level 14, Ante Boardroom)

22 September 2026

Level 16, Room 16.26

AM

8:30 – 9:00 Welcome Coffee

9:00 – 9:15 | Recap of Day 1

Gian Piero Cigna, Head of Financial Law Unit, EBRD

9:15 – 11:00 | Panel 5 – Supply Chain Finance and Factoring

Countries around the world are increasingly undertaking legal and regulatory reforms to facilitate trade finance to increase access to credit for SMEs. This panel will explore recent developments in the field, reflecting on recent success stories, challenges and emerging digital trends.

Marek Dubovec, Director of Law Reform Programmes, ILI (Moderator)

Giuliano Castellano, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong

Milot Ahma, Principal Counsel, EBRD

Murat Sultanov, Senior Operations Officer, IFC

Betül Kurtulus, Deputy Secretary General, FCI

Duarte Pedreira, Chair, Trade Finance Coalition of Parties (TFCOP)

11:00 – 11:15 | Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45 | Panel 6 – Agricultural Finance

This panel (i) assesses the impact of recently adopted standards, such as the UNCITRAL-UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts and whether existing legal standards have created an investment enabling environment for MDBs, and (ii) considers the need for new international standards for pre-harvest financing and further guidance on coordinating the implementation of different international legal instruments designed to support agricultural finance.

William Brydie-Watson, Senior Legal Officer, UNIDROIT (Moderator)

Katherine Meighan, General Counsel, IFAD

Christina Pak, Assistant General Counsel, ADB

Walter Ludwig Seitz, Senior Investment Officer, IFC

Peter Hopkins, CEO, Drum Advisory

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12:45– 13:45 | Lunch

13:45 – 15:15 | Panel 7 – Focus on Africa

Africa remains the continent with the greatest need for, combined with the greatest potential economic impact of, secured transactions reforms. This final panel will consider recent initiatives and the impact of previous reforms, taking into account the EBRD's recent expansion of its operations into Africa.

Catherine Bridge Zoller, Senior Counsel, EBRD (Moderator)

Anna Veneziano, Deputy Secretary General, UNIDROIT

Marek Dubovec, Director of Law Reform Programmes, ILI

Ubong Awah, Senior Credit Infrastructure Specialist, IFC

Iyare Otabor-Olubor, Senior Lecturer in Commercial Law, Aston University

Dennis Okyere, Senior Leader, Bsystems Limited

Enga Kameni, Head, Banking Legal Services, Intra-African Trade & Export Development

15:15 – 16:00 | Concluding Roundtable

This final roundtable will provide an opportunity for the five organisations that sit on the Joint Network's Executive Committee to discuss the outcomes from this 9th Conference and reflect on possible future work for the Joint Network.

Ignacio Tirado, Secretary General, UNIDROIT

Jae Sung Lee, Principal Legal Officer, UNCITRAL

Michel Nussbaumer, Director Legal Transition Programme, EBRD

Murat Sultanov, Senior Operations Officer, IFC

Bob Trojan, Senior Advisor, ILI

We look forward to welcoming you!

