



SUPPORTING THE WORK OF UNIDROIT

Policy Plan 2025

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1. General information

1.1. Purpose of the UNIDROIT Foundation

Mission: To support the activities of UNIDROIT

The [UNIDROIT Foundation](#) is a Dutch not-for-profit organisation established in 1996 to support the activities of the [International Institute for the Unification of Private Law \(UNIDROIT\)](#), in the advancement of education in the field of international uniform law and comparative law (in the Netherlands and elsewhere) and the promotion of the development of international uniform law. In particular, and as described in more detail in Article 2 of its [Statute](#), the Foundation facilitates and provides support for:

- Research into uniform law and comparative law, and the dissemination of research results;
- The development of legal instruments;
- The promotion of UNIDROIT instruments;
- Fellowships, studentships, scholarships and bursaries;
- The establishment and expansion of databases, library materials and other information systems and facilities.

The UNIDROIT Foundation is the organisation through which non-government organisations can support the work of UNIDROIT¹ and directly contribute to its future success.

1.2. Activities

The UNIDROIT Foundation supports the work of UNIDROIT by providing (i) substantive support; and (ii) financial support. As for substantive work, the Foundation is currently supporting the following complementary projects, which aim at contributing to realising the full potential of UNIDROIT's work:

- [Best Practices in Electronic Registry Design and Operations](#);
- [The Economic Assessment of International Commercial Law Reform](#);
- [Implementation of and Compliance with International Commercial Law Treaties](#) .

Regarding financial support, the Foundation provides funding to UNIDROIT's Scholarship and Internship Programme. Moreover, the Foundation promotes UNIDROIT's work through seminars and events, such as Essay Competitions for young professionals. The Foundation is also in charge of the [UNIDROIT Alumni Association](#), founded in 2020 as a platform for the distinguished guests which spent time at UNIDROIT as intern or scholar since 1993.²

1.3. Structure

The Foundation is headed by a President, Professor Jeffrey Wool, and has one decision-making body: the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors consists of twelve members from different jurisdictions, including a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. In line with its Statute, the Board includes the Secretary-General of UNIDROIT, one member appointed by the UNIDROIT Governing Council, and one Dutch citizen. More information on the current Governors can be found on the [Foundation website](#).

The Board of Governors is assisted by Managers (UNIDROIT staff) in the conduct of its daily work. Furthermore, Advisors may guide the Board on matters related to fundraising.

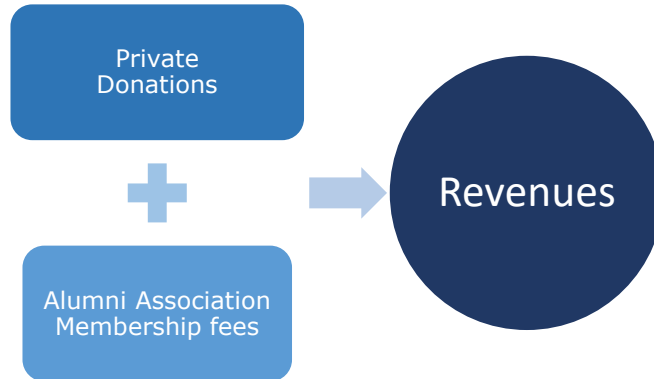
¹ UNIDROIT itself is funded by membership fees of its 64 member States.

² As of December 2023, the UNIDROIT Alumni Association had 80 members, who –for a small membership fee (€25/€50 per year) – receive regular updates about UNIDROIT's activities, as well as invitations to attend UNIDROIT events.

1.4. Sources of income

To achieve its objectives, the UNIDROIT Foundation raises funds from individual donors and private sector organisations. The capital of the Foundation consists of donations, grants and gifts and property obtained through testamentary dispositions and legacies, which, after covering its operational expenses, are exclusively used to support the activities of UNIDROIT.³ In the last twenty years of its existence, the Foundation has donated over € 500,000 to UNIDROIT.

In addition, the Foundation collects annual fees from members of the UNIDROIT Alumni Association. These membership fees are used to support the UNIDROIT Scholarship and Internship Programme, with a view to allow young professionals and students – especially from developing countries – to undertake a period of legal research at UNIDROIT.



1.5. Asset management

The revenues of the UNIDROIT Foundation are used to finance projects, events and/or other activities which are connected with, or may be conducive to, the attainment of the Foundation's objectives.

This includes the funding of the complementary projects conducted by the Cape Town Convention Academic Project and supported by the UNIDROIT Foundation, the funding of internships, scholarships and the like, funding of the UNIDROIT Library as well as for the organisation of essay competitions, seminars and other promotional events.

The revenues of the UNIDROIT Foundation are held in a bank account in the Netherlands and are not invested in any other way. As a general principle, 10% of donations are reserved for the general functions of the Foundation, to allow it to cover overhead costs.

1.6. Remuneration

The members of the Board of Governors, the Managers and any Advisors fulfil their tasks on a *pro bono* basis.

1.7. Tax status and registration number

The UNIDROIT Foundation is recognised by the Dutch tax authorities as a Public Benefit Organisation (*Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling* or ANBI). All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the applicable laws.

The UNIDROIT Foundation is registered at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce under number 41159935.

³ Historically, the royalties from the sales of the Cape Town Convention Protocol Official Commentaries were the largest source of income for the Foundation. However, from 2020 onwards these royalties were transferred directly to UNIDROIT to support the Sir Roy Goode Scholarship Fund.

2. Objectives and Priorities for 2025

2.1. Introduction

This part of the Policy Plan sets out the main objectives and priorities for the UNIDROIT Foundation in 2025, and the strategy to reach those objectives. It may be continued after 2025 but it will ideally need to be updated at the beginning of 2026 in order to take into account relevant developments.

2.2. Objectives

Main objectives of the Foundation for the year 2025 are to:

- Continue the work on: (i) supporting UNIDROIT projects/instruments; (ii) complementary (substantive) projects and (iii) education and research.
- Expand its network of donors, with a focus on the private sector, and increase the amount of revenues through donations.
- Increase its visibility.

2.3. Priorities

This section describes a broad selection of projects and activities on which the Foundation intends to focus in the next years. It is not expected that the Foundation will have the capacity to conduct work (substantive or by way of fundraising) on all of these projects and activities in 2025.

The Board of Governors may decide to allocate a specific priority to these activities (high-medium-low).

UNIDROIT instruments and projects

- Technical cooperation in the field of Agriculture
- Cultural Property: Existing UNIDROIT instruments and project on Private Art Collections
- Other UNIDROIT projects and instruments

Complementary projects

- Best Practices in Electronic Registry Design and Operations
- Economic Assessment of International Commercial Law Reform
- Implementation of, and Compliance with, International Commercial Law Instruments

Education and research

- Further strengthening the UNIDROIT Library
- Scholarship and Internship Programme
- Supporting the UNIDROIT Asian Transnational Law Centre
- Essay Competitions
- Other/general functions of the UNIDROIT Foundation

2.3.1. UNIDROIT instruments and projects

Raising awareness, disseminating knowledge, and promoting the application of instruments developed by UNIDROIT are among the primary goals of the UNIDROIT Foundation. During 2025, the Foundation intends to focus on the projects summarised below.

Agriculture

Objective: Financing a multiannual technical cooperation campaign, aiming at providing legal support to States in Africa, Asia and Latin America to implement:

- The UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD [Legal Guide on Contract Farming](#) (2015).
- The UNIDROIT/IFAD [Legal Guide on Agricultural Land Investment Contracts](#) (2021).

Cultural Property

Objective: Promoting the [1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects](#) and the [Model Provisions on State Ownership of Undiscovered Cultural Objects](#) and enabling UNIDROIT to expand its work in this area, through:

- A PhD scholarship, research Chair or similar.
- The promotion of UNIDROIT's instruments in the field of Cultural Property.
- The development of a documentary on the creation, purpose and key aspects of the 1995 Convention.

Supporting UNIDROIT's work on [Private Art Collections and Orphan Objects](#), for instance by providing funding for workshops with experts and/or for a PhD scholarship, research Chair or similar.

Other UNIDROIT projects and instruments

Objectives:

- Fundraising to support any of UNIDROIT's ongoing projects on:

[Best Practices for Effective Enforcement](#); [Collaborative Legal Structures for Agricultural Enterprises](#); [Bank Insolvency](#); [International Investment Contracts](#); [Voluntary Carbon Credits](#); [Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence in Global Value Chains](#); [Agricultural Financing](#)

Funding could be provided, e.g., to establish a research Chair programme in any of the above areas.

- Fundraising to promote any of UNIDROIT's existing instruments, with a focus on:

The [Aircraft](#), [Rail](#), [Space](#) and [MAC](#) Protocols to the [Cape Town Convention](#); [Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law \(2023\)](#); [Model Law on Factoring \(2023\)](#); [Model Law on Warehouse Receipts \(2024\)](#)

Funding could be provided, e.g., to organise international congresses, lectures, seminars or symposia on any of these UNIDROIT instruments.

2.3.2. Complementary projects

The Foundation intends to focus on the following substantive projects in 2025, which are complementary to the work of UNIDROIT.

Best Practices in Electronic Registry Design and Operations

Objectives:

- Promoting the [Guide on Best Practices for Electronic Collateral Registries \(2021\)](#).
- Developing a Guide on Best Practices for Electronic Business Registries.

Economic Assessment of International Commercial Law Reform

Objective: Developing a comprehensive methodology and guidance to use the framework developed by this project to evaluate the economic impact of commercial law reforms.

Implementation of and Compliance with International Commercial Law Treaties

Objectives:

- Identifying and helping address the complexities and challenges associated with implementation of and compliance with international commercial law treaties.
- Developing guidance that would help UNIDROIT and other organisations enhance the implementation of and compliance with their commercial law treaties, drawing on the experience with the Cape Town Convention and other international treaties.

2.3.3. Education and research

The UNIDROIT Foundation intends to continue its important role in facilitating and providing support for research activities at UNIDROIT, with a primary focus on the strengthening of the Library and providing students and researchers with the opportunity to conduct research at the Institute.

Further strengthening the UNIDROIT Library

Objective: Fundraising for the acquisition of up-to-date legal literature (including e-books and subscription to legal databases).

Scholarship and Internship Programme

Objective: Fundraising for paid internships (3 months) and scholarships (2, 3 or 9 months).

Supporting the UNIDROIT Asian Transnational Law Centre

Objective: Supporting the activities of the ALC, established in 2024 thanks to the support of Yingke Law Firm with the aim of (i) promoting the work of UNIDROIT, UNIDROIT international instruments and UNIDROIT projects in the Asia-Pacific region, and (ii) strengthen connections between Asia and UNIDROIT.

Essay Competition

Objective: Simulating research on UNIDROIT instruments and projects by young professionals.

Other contributions

Examples: Supporting the organisation of the yearly [UNIDROIT International Programme for Law and Development](#); supporting the establishment of new research Chair programmes; organising fundraisers to attract donors and raise money.

2.4. Sources for donations

In order to meet the aforementioned objectives and goals, the Foundation aims at contacting potentially interested individuals, institutions and organisations . These may include:

- Private companies and individuals.
- Law firms.
- International Organisations.
- Academia.
- Other not-for-profit entities.
- Public entities.

2.5. Approaching potential donors

A 'Partnership Opportunity' document has been prepared by the Managers supporting the UNIDROIT Foundation, with explanations on the various activities and projects. This document may be tailored to the interests of the potential donors (e.g., by adding, removing or emphasising specific projects/activities). It is envisaged that an additional set of documents will be drawn up to facilitate the Foundation's fundraising efforts (e.g., a list of potential donors and two-page summaries of UNIDROIT and UNIDROIT Foundation projects).

The Board of Governors may decide to assign the primary responsibility for specific areas and/or specific projects/activities to individual members of the Board.

2.6. Incentives

To incentivise organisations to make donations, the Foundation will emphasise the value of the project/activity and the opportunities it will generate for the donor.

Benefits to organisations willing to make donations include the following:

- Named internships/scholarships.
- Name and logo to be displayed on the UNIDROIT Foundation and/or UNIDROIT website.
- Name and logo to be included on promotional materials.
- Access to new UNIDROIT publications.
- Periodic updates of the activities of UNIDROIT and the Foundation.
- Invitations to relevant UNIDROIT and Foundation events.
- Access to UNIDROIT digital library collection.
- Involvement in research/projects conducted by the Foundation.

3. Marketing and Promotion

The marketing and promotional work of the Foundation aims at:

- Increasing awareness of Foundation activities and building a strong brand name and image for the Foundation.
- Encouraging comments and engagement. An engaged community results in more interest being generated in the work of the Foundation.
- Identifying potential donors through website and social media subscriptions.
- Retaining donors. Persons presently involved with the Foundation are encouraged by seeing the Foundation publish relevant content on its social media channels.

The marketing and promotion strategy is centred upon a modern, professional and attractive website for the Foundation with up-to-date information. In addition, the Foundation will continue to market itself through social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube), as well as print media in the form of publishing articles and documents on its website and material produced in relation to its projects.

A separate and more detailed social media strategy may be considered if the Foundation would bring on interns to actively create content for its social media channels.

4. Budget

The financial resources required to execute this Policy Plan will be allocated in the Foundation's budget for 2025.