



# ITALY

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Agenda item n. 170

Observer Status for the International Institute  
for the Unification of Private Law in the General Assembly  
(UNIDROIT)

STATEMENT BY

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Check against delivery

Mr Chairman

Since this is the first time the delegation of Italy takes the floor in this Committee at this session, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Kohona and all the other members of the Bureau on the assumption of their functions.

It gives me great pleasure to submit to you today draft resolution A/C.6/68/L.5 on observer status for the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in the General Assembly, also and probably better known as UNIDROIT. I would like to announce that since the publication of the draft resolution as an L-document, Israel and Turkey have joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

I would like to draw the attention of delegations to the Explanatory Memorandum contained in Annex I to document A/68/141, which makes specific reference to the relevant constitutional document of the Organization and elaborates on the requisite criteria for granting the status of Observer in the General Assembly to UNIDROIT.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to briefly recall some main aspects. Firstly, UNIDROIT is an independent intergovernmental organization (with its seat in Rome); it was created on the basis a multilateral treaty, the UNIDROIT Statute, and comprises over sixty Member States. Membership in the Institute is restricted to States acceding to the Statute. The Institute is financed by annual contributions from its member States and its General Assembly is the ultimate decision-making organ of the Institute: it votes on the Institute's budget each year; it approves the programme of work every three years; and it elects the Governing Council every five years. It is composed of one representative from each member State.

Secondly, the activities of UNIDROIT are in areas of interest for the work of the UN General Assembly. The purpose of the Institute is to study needs and methods for modernizing, harmonizing and coordinating private and, in particular, commercial law between States and groups of States and to formulate uniform law instruments, principles and rules to achieve those objectives. In order to accomplish those goals, the Institute undertakes a variety of activities ranging from the development and adoption of international conventions, to the preparation of model laws, the elaboration of legal and contractual guides, principles or other instruments in the field of private and international commercial law, as well as the maintenance of a library, and scholarship and internship programmes and legal cooperation activities, promoting the Rule of Law.

The activities of the Institute advance in a practical manner many of the objectives and purposes of the United Nations, particularly as regards progressive codification and harmonization of law. The strong links that exist between the United Nations and the Institute date back to the origins of the United Nations, which for many years entrusted the Institute with the preparation of studies in various areas of private law, ranging from international transport to alimony obligations or the protection of cultural property. Subsequently, since the establishment of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), this cooperation has taken place mainly within the framework of the activities of the Commission. However, the mandate of the Institute also encompasses topics that fall outside the core mandate of the Commission and, thus, appears to justify an even broader relationship with the General Assembly.

Mr Chairman

Granting observer status to UNIDROIT would help develop further the natural links between the Institute and the United Nations for greater mutual benefits, and it would lay the foundations for positive interactions between the two institutions.

Thank you.