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CO-ORDINATION OF WORK BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, at its tenth session, heard a statement by the Secretary-General of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), in which he recalled successive resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 31/99 of 15 December 1976, stressing the need for continued collaboration between the Commission and other organizations which were active in the field of the Commission's interest.
2. In his statement, the Secretary-General of UNIDROIT proposed the setting up of a consultative group composed of the representatives of the secretariats of the Commission, UNIDROIT and the Hague Conference on Private International Law, whose function should be to promote and co-ordinate collaboration between these bodies.
3. The Commission, on that occasion, welcomed UNIDROIT's proposal for more effective collaboration between the Commission's secretariat and those of UNIDROIT and other appropriate organizations and authorized the Secretariat to enter into consultations with these bodies (see report of the Commission on the work of its tenth session, A/32/17, paras. 53-56).
4. The Secretary of the Commission met with the representatives of UNIDROIT and the Hague Conference at the headquarters of UNIDROIT on 27 and 28 February 1978. A memorandum on that meeting is annexed to this note.

Annex

MEMORANDUM ON THE CO-ORDINATION MEETING HELD IN ROME ON  
27 AND 28 FEBRUARY 1978, AS AGREED BY THE PARTICIPANTS

The Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Secretaries-General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (the Hague Conference) and of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) met in Rome on 27 and 28 February 1978 for the purpose of exchanging views on the future work programmes of their organizations and of identifying the means at their disposal that would ensure to the greatest extent possible a more efficient co-ordination of the activities of the three organizations represented.

In connexion with those items on the work programmes of UNIDROIT and the Hague Conference which relate to international trade law, it was recognized that the problems in question were of world-wide interest and dimensions. It was therefore noted that the work of these two organizations would be more easily acceptable to the international community if they were to be able to offer to States which had not acceded to their statutes the possibility of being associated with their work, inter alia, through the submission of written comments on preliminary documents, and of such States being represented at diplomatic conferences convened to adopt final texts. The Secretaries-General stated that they were ready to consider the possibilities offered by the statutes of their organizations for the full participation of non-member States at conferences convened under the auspices of these organizations.

On the other hand, the cause of the unification of private law in general would not be served if the co-ordination of work in this field, one of the principal tasks mentioned in the United Nations General Assembly resolution establishing UNCITRAL, failed to take account of the activities of the Hague Conference and of UNIDROIT.

In this connexion, the Secretaries-General noted with interest the proposal made by certain States members of UNCITRAL for the establishment of a co-ordinating committee, one of the principal functions of which would be to enter into contact with the interested organizations with a view to ensuring co-ordination of the respective activities.

The Secretary of UNCITRAL stated that he was prepared to communicate to the Member States of the United Nations the preliminary drafts and reports drawn up by the two organizations in matters indicated by UNCITRAL. These organizations would give consideration to the observations which they received in the same manner as to those of their member States.

The hope was expressed that UNCITRAL would take full advantage of the specialized expertise available in these organizations, always recalling the dimensions of the task still to be accomplished in the field of the unification of international trade law.

The participants in the meeting agreed to submit these conclusions for consideration to their respective governing bodies and suggested that meetings should be called at regular intervals for the purpose of taking stock of progress made in connexion with co-ordination.