

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/CN.9/162

3 May 1979

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

28603

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW
Twelfth session
Vienna, 18-29 June 1979

MEMORANDUM ON THE SECOND CO-ORDINATION MEETING, HELD
AT ROME ON 9 AND 10 APRIL 1979, AS AGREED UPON BY THE
PARTICIPANTS

1. 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) held a second meeting on co-ordination in Rome on 9 and 10 April 1979. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views on the future work programmes of their organizations and of reviewing 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.
2. The representatives of the three organizations briefly outlined the subjects on the work programmes that were of common interest. While it appeared that, for the time being at least, the work programme of the Hague Conference did not give rise to the risk of duplication, there were certain points of contact between those of UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT. These points are in the areas of topics relating to international trade contracts, transportation and, possibly, subject-matters concerning the new international economic order.
3. The Secretary of UNCITRAL and the Secretary-General of UNIDROIT considered to what extent the work of their organizations in the field of international trade law could be better co-ordinated. In this connexion, the Secretary-General of UNIDROIT indicated that he would be prepared to consider the extent to which, and upon what conditions, UNIDROIT might possibly assume responsibility for the preparatory work and the preparation of draft legal texts in respect of topics included, or to be included, in the work programme of UNCITRAL. Such a form of co-operation would, of course, have to be submitted to the Governing Council of UNIDROIT within the context of the elaboration of the Institute's work programme, as also would its budgetary implications.

4. A brief exchange of views also took place on the most appropriate methods of unifying or harmonizing private law. It was recognized that the use of international conventions as a method of unification had not always produced the results which might have been hoped for in connexion with international trade and that in appropriate cases more importance should be attached to the preparation of model rules or recommendations which would not have the same binding effect as traditional international conventions.

5. The Secretary of UNCITRAL enquired whether, and if so to what extent, the library resources of UNIDROIT could be placed at the disposal of the UNCITRAL secretariat following its transfer to Vienna. He noted that the library holdings of the UNCITRAL secretariat in Vienna were in the nature of reference material and would not always suffice for legal research.

6. The Secretary-General of UNIDROIT stated that his organization was favourably disposed to providing library assistance to UNCITRAL, in particular: by providing UNCITRAL with a list of periodical and serial publications currently received by the UNIDROIT library; by keeping UNCITRAL informed of all new acquisitions; by sending copies of new catalogue cards and by placing at the disposal of the secretariat of UNCITRAL facilities at UNIDROIT headquarters.

7. Any financial implications of such assistance would be subject to the approval of the competent organs of UNIDROIT.
