



# General Assembly

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## United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Fifty-ninth session

### Colloquium on harmonizing law in the age of digital trade and finance (New York, 10–13 February 2026)

#### Programme

1. The colloquium is being held from 10 to 13 February at United Nations Headquarters, New York. The venue for the colloquium is Conference Room 2. Meeting hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
2. The purpose of the colloquium is to advance exploratory work by UNCITRAL on two distinct yet related topics, namely (i) secured transactions using new types of assets and (ii) digital platforms and private law. It is organized in two consecutive “streams”; stream 1 (10–11 February 2026) on the first topic, stream 2 (12–13 February 2026) on the second topic. The background and objectives of UNCITRAL’s work on these topics, as well as an overview of the colloquium, is set out in [A/CN.9/1258](#).

#### Day 1 – Tuesday, 10 February 2026

Time	Item
10 a.m.– 10.15 a.m.	Opening remarks <b>Ms. Anna JOUBIN-BRET</b> , Secretary of UNCITRAL
10.15 a.m.– 11.30 a.m.	Panel 1 – <i>Understanding digital assets: Concepts and global perspectives</i>  This panel explores the notion of digital assets and the various forms they may take in practice, including those represented or managed through distributed ledger or other digital technologies. The panel will consider global trends in how digital assets are defined and approached in different legal systems. Speakers will connect these developments and reflect on their implications for secured transactions frameworks.  <i>Moderator</i>  <b>Mr. Jae Sung LEE</b> , Principal Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat  <i>Speakers</i>  - <b>Ms. Louise GULLIFER</b> , Professor, University of Cambridge* - <b>Mr. Manuel ALBA FERNÁNDEZ</b> , Associate Professor, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid



- **Mr. José GARRIDO**, Senior Counsel, International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- **Mr. Conner BROWN**, Head of Strategy, Bitcoin Policy Institute (BPI)

11.45 a.m.–  
1 p.m.

Panel 2 – *Secured transactions reforms: Updates from States and international organizations*

This panel offers an update of initiatives to reform secured transactions frameworks, drawing on insights from both national reform processes and the work of international organizations. Speakers will reflect on the practical issues that arise when modernizing legislation, as well as the improvements these reforms generate in terms of access to finance and legal predictability. The discussion will also consider new developments and forward-looking practices that are shaping how secured transactions laws adapt to evolving commercial realities, in particular digital assets.

*Moderator*

**Ms. Monica CANAFOGLIA**, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat

*Speakers*

- **H.E. Mr. Sarakmony BUON**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia
- **Ms. Elizabeth MELÉNDEZ LEÓN**, Director of the Registry of Security Interests in Movable Property, El Salvador
- **Mr. Marek DUBOVEC**, Director of Law Reform Programs, International Law Institute\*
- **Mr. Tamás PARTI**, Legal expert, CNUE Futurology Forum
- **Ms. Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR**, Deputy Secretary General, Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)
- **Mr. Charles W. MOONEY Jr.**, Professor of Law Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, on behalf of UNIDROIT
- **Ms. Drew PROPSON**, Head, Technology and Innovation in Financial Services, World Economic Forum

*Lunch break*

3 p.m.–  
4.15 p.m.

Panel 3 – *Possible updates to the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions*

This panel looks at potential updates to the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions in light of the emergence of new asset types. The discussion will consider areas in which the Model Law could evolve – such as the treatment of digital assets as collateral, the possible application of existing priority rules, and whether any adjustments to enforcement provisions may be appropriate – while maintaining the Model Law’s scope and underlying approach. The speakers will explore whether targeted revisions or supplements to the Model Law could help ensure that the instrument continues to meet the needs of modern secured transactions frameworks.

*Moderator*

**Mr. Spyridon BAZINAS**, Consultant and Lecturer, Center for International Legal Studies

*Speakers*

- **Mr. Neil B. COHEN**, 1901 Distinguished Research Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School
- **Ms. Teresa RODRÍGUEZ DE LAS HERAS BALLELL**, Full Professor of Commercial Law, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- **Mr. Orkun AKSELI**, Professor of Law, University of Manchester Law School

4.30 p.m.–  
6 p.m.

Panel 4 – *Control as a mechanism for third party effectiveness and priority in digital finance*

This panel explores the notion of “control” as a method for establishing effectiveness (TPE) against third parties and priority, particularly for assets that exist in electronic or digital form. Speakers will analyse how control compares to traditional TPE mechanisms, such as registration or possession, and how different types of systems may shape the practical application of control in secured finance. The panel will also consider the legal and operational challenges associated with defining and evidencing control in various technological environments.

*Moderator*

**Mr. Jae Sung LEE**, Principal Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat

*Speakers*

- **Mr. Alexander KUNZELMANN**, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat
- **Mr. Henry GABRIEL**, Professor, Elon University School of Law
- **Mr. Andrea TOSATO**, Professor, Southern Methodist University
- **Mr. Michel DESCHAMPS**, Lawyer, McCarthy Tétrault, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Montréal
- **Mr. Jean-François RIFFARD**, Professor, Université Clermont Auvergne\*
- **Ms. Megumi HARA**, Professor, Chuo University\*
- **Mr. Zack SHAPIRO**, Head of Policy, Bitcoin Policy Institute (BPI)

6.30 p.m.–  
9.30 p.m.

*Reception hosted by the Secured Finance Network and Goldberg Kohn at the Millenium Hilton One UN Plaza, Landmark Room*

## Day 2 – Wednesday, 11 February 2026

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>
10 a.m.– 11.15 a.m.	<p>Panel 5 – <i>Digital platforms for transactions and assets-based registries</i></p> <p>This panel will examine the role of digital platforms in supporting modern secured transactions. It will explore how such tools can facilitate asset transfers, the creation and publicization of security rights, and the availability of reliable information for market participants. The discussion will also look at emerging approaches to interoperability between general security rights registries and asset specific registries, as well as the opportunities and challenges posed by increasingly complex digital ecosystems. Finally, the panel will consider how these developments may influence future registry design and the broader secured transactions framework.</p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p><b>Mr. Alexander KUNZELMANN</b>, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat</p> <p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Racheal MULDOON</b>, Partner, Ogier and Member, International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC)</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Stéphane GRABER</b>, Director General, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA)</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Bob TROJAN</b>, Senior Advisor, International Law Institute</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Bam AZIZI</b>, Co-Founder, Mesh Connect, Inc.</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Megha Shah</b>, Enterprise Sales Director, USA Trademo</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Lidiya MIKHEEVA</b>, Head, Private Law Research Centre*</li> </ul>
11.30 a.m.– 1 p.m.	<p>Panel 6 – <i>Enforcement of security rights and conflict of law issues in the digital context</i></p> <p>This panel considers how enforcement mechanisms and conflict of laws rules relating to secured transactions may need to adjust to assets that exist in digital form or are held or transferred through digital systems. The discussion will touch on challenges that can arise in this context – such as exercising post default rights, addressing cross border elements of enforcement, and determining the law applicable to issues of creation, third party effectiveness, priority and enforcement when assets or platforms operate across multiple jurisdictions. Speakers will also reflect on emerging approaches and practices that could support effective enforcement and dispute resolution involving digital assets.</p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Teresa RODRÍGUEZ DE LAS HERAS BALLELL</b>, Full Professor of Commercial Law, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid</p> <p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Caroline KLEINER</b>, Professeur de droit privé, Université Paris Cité, Chair of the HCCH Experts’ Group on CBDCs*</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Woo-Jung JON</b>, Assistant Professor, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology - <b>Mr. Neil B. COHEN</b>, 1901 Distinguished Research Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School, on behalf of UNIDROIT</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Shaun LEONG</b>, Partner, Holman Fenwick Willan (HFW) Singapore LLP*</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Catherine WALSH</b>, Professor of Law, McGill University</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Spyridon BAZINAS</b>, Consultant and Lecturer, Center for International Legal Studies</li> </ul>

*Lunch break*

3 p.m.–  
4.30 p.m.

Panel 7 – *Exploring other types of assets and transactions*

This panel broadens the focus to examine other emerging asset classes and innovative transaction structures relevant to secured finance. It will consider how secured transactions regimes can remain flexible and responsive to market developments while ensuring legal certainty and supporting access to credit. The discussion may help to inform future reflections on whether, and in what manner, the MLST could accommodate or interact with these developments.

*Moderator*

**Ms. Monica CANAFOGLIA**, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat

*Speakers*

- **Ms. Clara GUERRA**, Director, Office for Digital Innovation., Liechtenstein
- **Mr. Ivor ISTUK**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice, World Bank Group
- **Ms. Kiriakoula HATZIKIRIAKOS**, Senior Manager-Legal Counsel, National Bank of Canada
- **Mr. Juan Pablo RODRIGUEZ DELGADO**, Associate Professor, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- **Mr. Renato MANGANO**, Professor, Department of Law, University of Palermo
- **Mr. Richard KOHN**, Founder and a Principal, Commercial Finance Group, Goldberg Kohn Ltd

4.45 p.m.–  
6 p.m.

Round-table discussion – *Charting the path forward, possible scope and future work relating to the model law on secured transactions*

*Recap of the discussions*

**Ms. Monica CANAFOGLIA**, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat

*Moderator*

**Mr. Jae Sung LEE**  
Principal Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat

## Day 3 – Thursday, 12 February 2026

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>
10 a.m.–11.15 a.m.	<p>Panel 8 – <i>Digital platforms and international trade law: Scope, typology and mandate</i></p> <p>This panel explores the notion of “digital platform” and by reference to the platform types most relevant to cross-border trade. It will set the scene for UNCITRAL’s exploratory work on digital platforms and private law, laying out expected outcomes and identifying synergies with other international processes.</p> <p>See discussion paper: <a href="https://docs.un.org/A/CN.9/1258">https://docs.un.org/A/CN.9/1258</a> (annex), paras. 8–15; qq. 1–3</p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Ms. Anna JOUBIN-BRET</b>, Secretary of UNCITRAL</p> <p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Teresa RODRÍGUEZ DE LAS HERAS BALLELL</b>, Full Professor of Commercial Law, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Filippo PIEROZZI</b>, Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, United Nations</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR</b>, Deputy Secretary General, Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Hasan AL KILANY</b>, Senior Legal Advisor, UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism*</li> </ul>
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	<p>Panel 9 – <i>Online marketplaces: Digital platforms for the supply of goods and services</i></p> <p>As the first of three panels on specific platform types, this panel will focus on online marketplaces and digital platforms facilitating transactions in goods and services. It will examine the legal structures underpinning the operation of platforms, how platforms are changing the trading activities of users, and how the role of the platform operator as rule maker and enforcer shapes legal relationships with platform users. Speakers will address how the law is keeping pace with change and map the different legal tools that are being deployed in response – from existing contract law solutions to legislative intervention and soft law initiatives.</p> <p>See discussion paper: <a href="https://docs.un.org/A/CN.9/1258">https://docs.un.org/A/CN.9/1258</a> (annex), paras. 16–23; qq. 4–6</p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Mr. Alexander KUNZELMANN</b>, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat</p> <p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Meryl BERNSTEIN</b>, Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Jun XUE</b>, Professor, Peking University</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Nikolay DMITRIK</b>, Expert, International and Comparative Law Research Center</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Amira KARIM</b>, Head of Public Policy, Payments &amp; Financial Services*</li> </ul>
<i>Lunch break</i>	

3 p.m.–  
4.30 p.m.

Panel 10 – *Supply-chain platforms: Solutions for end-to-end trade digitalization*

This panel continues the examination of changing trading activities and relationships in the context of digital platforms connecting supply chain participants. Speakers will focus on the role of platform operators in setting standards and promoting interoperability.

See discussion paper: <https://docs.un.org/A/CN.9/1258> (annex), paras. 16–23; qq. 4–5

*Moderator*

**Mr. Manuel ALBA FERNÁNDEZ**, Associate Professor, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

*Speakers*

- **Mr. Stéphane GRABER**, Director General, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA)
- **Ms. Marina COMNINOS**, Co-Head, ICE Digital Trade
- **Mr. Omer GUY**, General Counsel, Digital Container Shipping Association

4.45 p.m.–  
6 p.m.

Panel 11 – *Assets-based registries and data exchanges*

Building on the discussions in stream 1 (panel 5), this panel will examine the legal structures and relationships engaged in the operation of digital platforms that support transactions in digital assets including data. Speakers will focus on the role played by registry and exchange operators in the transactions that they facilitate.

See discussion paper: <https://docs.un.org/A/CN.9/1258> (annex), paras. 16–23; qq. 4–6

*Moderator*

**Ms. Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR**, Deputy Secretary General, Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)

*Speakers*

- **Mr. Andrea TOSATO**, Professor, Southern Methodist University
- **Ms. Clara GUERRA**, Director, Office for Digital Innovation., Liechtenstein
- **Ms. Qi LYU**, Arbitrator, Beijing Arbitration Commission
- **Mr. Zack SHAPIRO**, Head of Policy, Bitcoin Policy Institute (BPI)

## Day 4 – Friday, 13 February 2026

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>
10 a.m.– 10.15 a.m.	Recap of day 3 discussions <b>Mr. Florent GEELHAND DE MERXEM</b> , Associate Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat
10.15 a.m.– 11.15 a.m.	Panel 12 – <i>Private law tools to support platform operation: Contract architecture, duties, liability and remedies</i>  Building on day 3 discussions, this two-part panel will focus on the legal questions raised by digital platforms and evaluate how they can be addressed within existing private law structures. Speakers will share views on the role of contract law principles – such as transparency, equity (fairness), due diligence and good faith – in the operation of platforms, including the making and enforcing of platform rules. It will also consider the potential for other private law mechanisms to address legal gaps in the platform economy. <i>See discussion paper: <a href="https://docs.un.org/A/CN.9/1258">https://docs.un.org/A/CN.9/1258</a> (annex), paras. 24–33; qq. 7–9</i>  <i>Moderator</i>  <b>Ms. Teresa RODRÍGUEZ DE LAS HERAS BALLELL</b> , Full Professor of Commercial Law, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid  <i>Speakers</i>  - <b>Mr. Ilias IOANNOU</b> , Professor, University of Bristol - <b>Ms. Eliza MIK</b> , Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong - <b>Mr. Christopher ODINET</b> , Professor, Texas A&M University - <b>Ms. Irene SHAN</b> , Expert, China Society of Private International Law
11.30 a.m.– 1 p.m.	Panel 12 ( <i>cont.</i> ) - <b>Ms. Aneta WIEWIÓROWSKA-DOMAGALSKA</b> , Deputy Director, Ministry of Justice, Poland - <b>Mr. Christoph BUSCH</b> , Professor, University of Osnabrück - <b>Mr. Mateusz GROCHOWSKI</b> , Professor, Tulane University - <b>Ms. Florencia MAROTTA-WURGLER</b> , Professor, New York University - <b>Mr. Christian TWIGG-FLESNER</b> , Professor, University of Warwick*
<i>Lunch break</i>	
3 p.m.– 4.30 p.m.	Panel 12 ( <i>cont.</i> )
4.45 p.m.– 6 p.m.	Round-table discussion – <i>Scope and content of possible future work on digital platforms</i>
* <i>pre-recorded video presentation</i>	