Rethinking International Investment Contracts

Reciprocity, Precision, and a New Contractual Paradigm

WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2026 | ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA DI PARIGI | 50, RUE DE VARENNE, PARIS

The Roma Tre – UNIDROIT Centre for Transnational Commercial Law and International Arbitration is delighted to announce its Third Annual Conference, organised jointly with the ICC Institute of World Business Law. Each year, the Centre identifies a timely issue in transnational law and brings together leading academics and practitioners for an in-depth exchange of views at its Annual Conference. The first edition focussed on climate change through the lenses of dispute settlement. The second edition explored the role of law in the governance of risk.

This year's conference will be held in Paris, at the Italian Cultural Institute, and will focus on the Draft UNIDROIT/ICC Principles and Model Clauses for International Investment Contracts and on the contractual paradigm they advance, offering a timely opportunity to explore a proposed new architecture for international investment relationships designed to bring greater clarity and balance to the allocation of rights, obligation and risks between States and investors.

The conference will examine two of the Instrument's most significant structural innovations: the reciprocity of obligations between State and investor, and the greater precision of negotiated rights, duties and remedies when compared with the generic and often open-ended standards of treaty-based investment protection.

The purpose of the conference is twofold: (i) to explore how the bilateral structure of the international investment contract can restore mutual commitments and symmetrical remedies, including through investor sustainability obligations, State remedies, and counterclaims; and (ii) to assess how contractual precision may enhance predictability by replacing open-ended protection standards with specific, tailored obligations, negotiated mechanisms for regulatory change, and contractual remedies.

Session 1

From Unilateral Protection to Mutual Commitment: : How the Investment Contract Creates Reciprocal Obligations

Session 2

Beyond Fair and Equitable Treatment: How Contractual Precision Redefines Investment Protection

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