

CLOSING REMARKS OF FIRST SECRETARY DOLPHINE O. NEDDA

VISIT BY STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO UNIDROIT – ROME

"It is an honour and pleasure for me to represent the Embassy of Kenya at this forum which has discussed in great detail important matters regarding UNIDROIT's work and particularly its contribution to International Commercial Law reform and to Sustainable Development Goals.

As you are all aware, the world faces old and new challenges that require really integrated and well thought out approaches to address. International cooperation is more necessary now than ever. As we have heard from the presentations this morning, UNIDROIT works to enhance national responses to critical issues affecting our countries through harmonization of international commercial and private law to facilitate economic cooperation and development.

Kenya has benefitted immensely from the work of this organization. We have been actively involved in the development of the Mining, Agriculture and Construction (MAC) protocol which is expected to be adopted in November 2019 in Pretoria and we anticipate that our government will actively participate in this conference. As you have heard Kenya has acceded to the Cape Town Convention and continues to engage with UNIDROIT and other member states on the same.

In addition, we recognize and appreciate the collaboration with UNIDROIT in the area of academic cooperation within the framework of UNIDROIT's research and scholarship programme. Kenyan scholars have immensely benefitted from this cooperation and we look forward to an upscale of the same. The visit today by students from Strathmore University to UNIDROIT is a testament to this cooperation, which we hold in very high regard.

I therefore take this opportunity to underscore Kenya's support for the important work undertaken by UNIDROIT. We note that there has been discussion at a high level regarding Kenya's formal membership to the organization. In this regard, we welcome further consultations on this subject. We would also appreciate if UNIDROIT could consider holding some of its conferences and meetings in Nairobi. This would provide visibility of UNIDROIT and raise awareness of its very important work to the African region which as we have heard has only four countries that have signed up for membership.

As I conclude, I would like to extend a special thanks to UNIDROIT for a very excellent program and opportunity accorded to our students. I also commend the facilitators of the different sessions and everyone here for very fruitful discussions conducted with much needed depth and substance.

Thank You"