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Point No. 5 de l'ordre du jour: Garanties internationales portant sur des matériels d'équipement mobiles

b) Préparation éventuelle d'autres Protocoles à la Convention du Cap, en particulier portant sur des matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction

(document préparé par le Secrétariat)

<i>Sommaire</i>	<i>Mise à jour des activités entreprises par le Secrétariat</i>
<i>Action demandée</i>	<i>Examiner les activités à mener pour élaborer un autre Protocole à la Convention du Cap portant sur les questions spécifiques aux matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction</i>
<i>Mandat</i>	<i>Programme de travail 2014-2016</i>
<i>Degré de priorité</i>	<i>Moyen (matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction) Bas (navires et matériels de transport maritime) Bas (matériels de production d'énergie éolienne en mer et matériels d'équipement similaires)</i>
<i>Documents connexes</i>	<i>C.D. (85) 7(c); C.D. (86) 8(d); C.D. (88) 3(c); C.D. (89) 4(c); C.D. (90) 4(c); C.D. (91) 4(c); C.D. (92) 5(b); NLCIFT Report on Secured Financing for Mobile Equipment</i>

INTRODUCTION

1. La *Convention relative aux garanties internationales portant sur des matériels d'équipement mobiles* a été ouverte à la signature le 16 novembre 2001. L'article 2(3) de la Convention prévoit que les trois premiers Protocoles porteraient sur les biens aéronautiques, le matériel roulant ferroviaire et les biens spatiaux. Ces Protocoles ont été respectivement adoptés en 2001, 2007 et 2012. La possibilité d'adopter d'autres protocoles reste ouverte (voir l'article 51 de la Convention).

2. Lors de sa 92^{ème} session en 2013, le Conseil de Direction a examiné les avantages potentiels d'autres protocoles dans trois domaines: les navires et matériels de transport maritime, les matériels de production d'énergie éolienne en mer et matériels d'équipement similaires, et les matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction. En ce qui concerne les navires et

matériels de transport maritime (voir document C.D. (92) 5(c)), le Conseil a pris note du rapport du Secrétariat mais il s'est montré incertain quant à l'existence de conditions satisfaisantes pour l'avancement des travaux dans ce domaine, vu, en particulier, l'opposition potentielle de l'industrie exprimée par certains membres du Conseil et le recours, bien que limité, à la *Convention internationale sur les privilèges et hypothèques maritimes (1993)*.

3. Quant aux matériels de production d'énergie éolienne en mer et aux matériels d'équipement similaires, le Conseil de Direction a pris note du rapport du Secrétariat sur les questions juridiques potentielles nécessitant unification (C.D. (92) 5(d)). Malgré l'accord sur la nécessité d'aborder des questions juridiques importantes et sur le besoin croissant de financement de ces matériels, les opinions divergeaient quant à savoir si les matériels de production d'énergie éolienne étaient des biens meubles et le cas échéant, si le système du Cap pouvait être adapté en vue de solutions adéquates. Le Conseil de Direction a donc mandaté le Secrétariat de maintenir le projet d'un éventuel protocole sur les matériels de production d'énergie éolienne en mer et des matériels d'équipement similaires dans son Programme de travail mais en lui accordant une priorité basse.

4. Quant aux matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction (C.D. (92) 5(b)), une proposition en vue d'élaborer un quatrième protocole sur les matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction (ci-après dénommé Protocole "MAC") a été faite au Conseil de Direction en 2005; cette proposition a été discutée les années suivantes (voir les documents connexes cités ci-dessus).

5. Lors de sa 91^{ème} session (Rome, 7 – 9 mai 2012), le Conseil de Direction avait discuté d'éventuels travaux sur le projet de Protocole MAC qui avait fait l'objet de discussion lors du forum organisé par le Secrétariat le 10 novembre 2011 intitulé "Avantages éventuels d'étendre le système du Cap aux matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction". Lors de cette même session, le Secrétariat avait informé le Conseil que, après le forum, il avait reçu une offre de la part du *Center for the Economic Analysis of Law (CEAL)* (Washington D.C.) pour procéder à l'évaluation économique de l'éventuel protocole. Un accord avait été conclu pour ce travail sur une base *pro bono*. Le texte final de l'étude, préparé par M. Heywood Fleisig, Directeur de recherche au CEAL, avait été présenté au Conseil en 2013.

6. L'étude du CEAL a consisté à examiner l'éventuel impact économique du projet de protocole sur le commerce de matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction. Selon l'étude, la Convention du Cap avait un impact économique positif sur le financement des matériels d'équipement parce que le risque associé aux prêts se trouvait réduit. Elle permettait aux matériels d'équipement mobiles de servir de garantie dans des pays où les lois nationales ne le permettaient pas. L'étude concluait que dans les pays qui exportaient ou importaient les matériels d'équipement en question, dans les pays qui n'avaient pas encore modernisé leurs lois sur les opérations garanties, ou ne l'avaient fait que partiellement, il y aurait une augmentation de l'utilisation de matériels d'équipement MAC en vue d'accroître la production dans les secteurs miniers, agricoles et de construction. Les pays qui produisaient et exportaient des matériels d'équipement MAC seraient donc amenés à connaître une augmentation de la demande de machines qu'ils produisaient, ce qui aurait un effet d'entraînement sur l'économie. Les pays dans lesquels le quatrième protocole atténuerait les contraintes de financement achèteraient davantage de matériels d'équipement MAC et bénéficieraient d'une hausse de leur PIB grâce à l'augmentation de la production dans les secteurs miniers, agricoles et de construction. Quelques pays qui produisaient, utilisaient et exportaient du matériel d'équipement MAC bénéficieraient des deux effets.

7. L'étude s'est également penchée sur les préoccupations exprimées par le Conseil, à savoir dans quelle mesure le financement des matériels d'équipement MAC était fourni par des institutions financières nationales ou internationales et le besoin d'informations sur la mobilité des matériels d'équipement MAC dans la pratique (c'est-à-dire comment ils se déplacent au-delà des frontières et

avec quelle fréquence). Il s'agissait également de savoir si ce type de matériels d'équipement était "susceptible d'individualisation", en tenant compte du nombre de catégories/modèles potentiels de biens d'équipement qui relèveraient de ce protocole et de l'absence de système(s) (uniforme(s)) d'identification ainsi que de régime d'inscription.

8. Lors de sa 92^{ème} session, le Conseil de Direction a pris note du rapport du Secrétariat et a rappelé les avantages potentiels d'une extension du système du Cap aux matériels d'équipement MAC. Le Conseil a également rappelé les préoccupations exprimées lors de sa 91^{ème} session, à savoir que le financement des matériels d'équipement MAC était fourni en général dans le cadre national et que, en conséquence, un protocole toucherait un domaine qui serait peut-être mieux traité par une réforme du droit national. Il a toutefois convenu que les informations demandées – à savoir si un protocole MAC aurait un impact économique positif et si le soutien du milieu industriel pouvait permettre son développement – ne pouvaient être plus positives. Le Conseil de Direction a donc convenu de procéder à des travaux préliminaires sur un éventuel quatrième Protocole portant sur des matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction et a assigné au projet une priorité moyenne à ces travaux. Il a gardé la possibilité d'accroître cette priorité si des ressources additionnelles étaient disponibles et a invité les Etats membres à aider le Secrétariat à obtenir un financement externe pour ces travaux.

L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

9. L'Assemblée Générale a approuvé la recommandation faite par le Conseil lors de sa 92^{ème} session en décembre 2013, à condition que la priorité accordée au projet soit moyenne. Un des représentants a soutenu que les matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction ne seraient pas un type approprié de garantie pour un protocole basé sur le système du Cap car il y avait peu de preuve de sa mobilité transfrontalière et qu'il serait mieux couvert par un instrument contenant des règles générales sur les opérations garanties.

ECHANGES SUR DIVERSES QUESTIONS (WASHINGTON D.C.)

10. Dans le cadre des travaux préliminaires pour évaluer le champ d'application d'un éventuel quatrième protocole, le Secrétariat d'UNIDROIT a participé à deux réunions organisées par le Département d'Etat américain et l'Institut de droit international (ILI). Ces réunions se sont tenues respectivement le 19 novembre 2013 et le 22 janvier 2014 au siège de l'ILI à Washington, D.C. Des experts et des parties prenantes y ont fourni un aperçu de la structure et du fonctionnement du système de la Convention du Cap dont ils ont étudié l'adaptabilité aux matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction.

11. L'objectif de la première réunion a consisté à cerner les questions économiques, juridiques et procédurales nécessaires pour déterminer la faisabilité du Protocole MAC (voir le Rapport de la réunion en Annexe I du présent document – en anglais seulement). Quant à son impact potentiel, les participants à la première réunion ont souligné que les avantages économiques avaient été reconnus mais ont convenu qu'il serait utile de disposer d'une analyse économique spécifique pour chacune des trois catégories de biens d'équipement, ainsi que d'informations économiques par région géographique.

12. En règle générale, concernant le champ d'application, les participants ont rappelé que l'article 51 de la Convention indiquait que les matériels d'équipement devaient être de grande valeur, qu'ils devaient, dans le cadre de leur fonctionnement habituel, traverser les frontières nationales et être chacun susceptible d'individualisation. Pour déterminer le champ d'application, trois méthodes initiales avaient été identifiées: 1) une approche portant sur valeur et mobilité; 2)

une approche basée sur une analyse économique/juridique; et 3) un examen point par point du système harmonisé de tarification.

13. La première méthode consistait à comparer la valeur économique, d'une part, avec la mobilité, d'autre part, pour les trois types de matériels d'équipement. Bien que l'on ait convenu que cette méthode pouvait fournir des orientations pour définir le champ d'application, les participants ont exprimé leur perplexité car elle requerrait de fixer des seuils arbitraires pour la valeur comme pour la mobilité. On a, en outre, souligné que réduire l'analyse à déterminer la valeur et la mobilité revenait à ignorer des questions juridiques importantes dont il fallait tenir compte, comme de savoir si les matériels d'équipement étaient susceptibles d'individualisation et/ou susceptibles d'inscription sur le plan international.

14. La deuxième méthode associait l'analyse de critères économiques (valeur), d'une part, et de critères juridiques (mobilité, individualisation, etc.), d'autre part. Cette méthode permettrait un examen plus approfondi des catégories et/ou des biens d'équipement et pourrait aider à quantifier l'interdépendance des critères individuels à différents niveaux de la détermination du champ d'application. Telle que présentée, cette méthode déterminerait d'abord si une catégorie (ou un bien) devait être considérée comme "internationalement mobile". Dans ce cas, la méthode examinerait si la catégorie (ou le bien) était supérieure à une valeur économique minimum convenue lors de la détermination du champ d'application. Dans un tel cas, suivre cette méthode permettrait d'analyser si le matériel d'équipement était susceptible d'individualisation (par marque, modèle et numéro de série ou autre critère convenu). Les catégories et les biens ne répondant pas à ces critères, ou qui ne pourraient pas être susceptibles d'inscription au niveau international, seraient exclus du champ d'application. Les autres seraient inclus.

15. La troisième méthode recourrait au *Système harmonisé de désignation et de codification des marchandises* de l'Organisation mondiale des douanes en tant que standard reconnu internationalement selon lequel des catégories de matériels (et dans certains cas des biens spécifiques) pouvaient être identifiées. On a souligné que cette méthode permettrait une sélection de matériels en conformité avec le système harmonisé en utilisant les critères sur la mobilité, la valeur, l'individualisation et l'inscription. Les participants ont également souligné que le système de numérotation des codes harmonisés pourraient également être utilisés pour normaliser les premiers chiffres d'une description de numéro de série à des fins d'inscription au nouveau registre de garanties.

16. Si les participants ont convenu que chaque méthode d'évaluation du champ d'application avait des avantages et des inconvénients, on a toutefois convenu d'utiliser le Système harmonisé des droits de douane parce qu'il fournissait la base la plus complète sur laquelle entreprendre initialement l'étude de la détermination du champ d'application.

17. Enfin, après avoir discuté la question de savoir si les trois types de matériels d'équipement (agricoles, miniers et de construction) devaient être divisés en protocoles potentiellement distincts, les participants ont convenu que les regrouper dans un même instrument représenterait l'avantage économique majeur. Ils ont ajouté qu'il conviendrait de faire un examen plus approfondi des combinaisons de sûretés – celles où les matériels soumis au droit national (donc à inscription nationale) étaient inclus à côté des matériels d'équipement soumis au protocole proposé (donc à inscription internationale).

18. La deuxième réunion s'est tenue le 22 janvier 2014. On y a poursuivi l'étude de l'impact économique d'un quatrième protocole ainsi que l'analyse des méthodes de détermination du champ d'application et étudié les Protocoles actuels à la Convention du Cap pour évaluer s'ils fournissaient des modèles viables à suivre pour un protocole MAC (voir le Rapport de la deuxième réunion en Annexe II du présent document – en anglais seulement).

19. A propos de l'impact économique, pour donner suite aux augmentations potentielles des ventes financées de matériels d'équipement MAC, par type et par région, discutées lors de la première réunion, *M. Fleisig* a complété les chiffres précédents sur l'utilisation prévue du Protocole et la répartition éventuelle par type de garanties. Quant aux Etats qui en tireraient profit, il a mentionné que les plus grands bénéficiaires seraient les marchés émergents, mais aussi plusieurs économies avancées ayant besoin de réformer leur législation sur les opérations garanties (parmi lesquelles il a mentionné l'Espagne, l'Italie, la Grèce et le Portugal). Il a souligné que les chiffres étaient incomplets mais que le CEAL prévoyait une augmentation de la demande en matériels d'équipement MAC dans le monde allant jusqu'à 60 milliards de dollars américains.

20. Quant à la méthode de détermination du champ d'application, les participants ont poursuivi l'étude sur la mobilité transfrontalière des garanties conformément à l'article 51 de la Convention en recourant à plusieurs exemples d'internationalité. Toutefois, les participants ont souligné qu'un Comité d'étude devrait être attentif aux circonstances dans lesquelles un matériel d'équipement initialement mobile pouvait par la suite se trouver fixé au sol ou bien perdre sa mobilité transfrontalière.

21. Les participants ont aussi discuté de l'importance de coordonner les travaux sur un projet de protocole avec le droit national pour s'assurer qu'un protocole n'imposerait pas d'inscription supplémentaire ou d'autres conditions au-delà de celles d'un financement garanti par un actif en général. Ils étaient d'accord avec la conclusion de la première réunion selon laquelle le *Système harmonisé de désignation et de codification des marchandises* de l'Organisation mondiale des douanes présentait le meilleur potentiel pour déterminer le champ d'application du quatrième protocole. Sur ce point, *M. Paderic Sweeney* du Département du commerce américain a présenté une étude de cas spécifique, celui des moissonneuses-batteuses, comme exemple de la façon dont le système harmonisé pouvait aider à déterminer le champ d'application. Il a décrit comment le système harmonisé fixait des valeurs représentatives internationalement valables pour six catégories de produits se rapportant au protocole. *M. Sweeney* a également présenté un bref document sur la façon dont le système harmonisé pouvait être utilisé pour déterminer le champ d'application du Protocole MAC (voir le Rapport de la deuxième réunion en Annexe III au présent document – en anglais seulement).

22. Ces réunions ont été la première opportunité offerte pour approfondir plusieurs points relatifs à un éventuel Protocole MAC, dans le seul contexte général des participants du marché nord-américain. Ces réunions ont aussi permis de réaliser des progrès importants dont le Conseil de Direction pourrait tenir compte lors des prochaines étapes du projet. En ce qui concerne les éventuels avantages économiques du Protocole, les participants ont convenu que des augmentations significatives du financement de matériel d'équipement auront lieu en vertu d'un nouveau protocole. En ce qui concerne les approches permettant de déterminer le champ d'application, les participants ont convenu que l'utilisation du système harmonisé de droits de douane avec la matrice valeur/mobilité et/ou l'approche de l'analyse économique/juridique constituerait pour le Comité d'étude la meilleure méthodologie pour déterminer les types de matériels d'équipement à inclure dans un protocole MAC. En ce qui concerne la question de la divisibilité, les participants ont conclu que les trois types de matériels d'équipement devraient figurer dans un seul instrument. Et, enfin, en ce qui concerne les modèles à suivre pour la rédaction proprement dite, les participants ont conclu que le Protocole de Luxembourg était le texte existant le plus proche, et devrait être utilisé comme document de travail initial en vue d'un protocole MAC. Les participants ont également conclu qu'il y avait besoin de davantage de consultations avec les fabricants de ce type de matériel d'équipement (à la réunion WFO/OMA à Buenos Aires et autres réunions) sur les avantages économiques spécifiques ainsi que sur la structure la mieux adaptée.

TRAVAUX DE RECHERCHE

23. Au cours de l'année 2013, le Secrétariat a poursuivi ses travaux de recherche; il a examiné avec un regard neuf les résultats de l'enquête menée en 2007 sous forme de Questionnaire (voir C.D. (86) 8(d)) et mis à jour le tableau en annexe dudit document qui compare les dispositions des trois Protocoles existants, identifie les dispositions qui resteraient les mêmes dans le cadre d'un quatrième protocole et compare les textes adoptés par les Conférences diplomatiques au lieu des projets. Ce tableau a également été présenté lors de la deuxième réunion à Washington D.C.

24. En outre, une recherche a été entreprise pour trouver des entreprises multinationales qui traitaient les types de matériels d'équipement concernés, d'abord au niveau mondial, puis en Amérique latine en vue de leur envoyer des invitations pour la réunion de l'Organisation mondiale des agriculteurs (WFO/OMA) à Buenos Aires en mars 2014.

25. Dr Marek Dubovec de *National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade* (NLCIFT) a présenté l'éventualité d'un protocole à la Commission de la WFO/OMA au cours de la réunion de Buenos Aires, ainsi qu'à plusieurs groupes de membres WFO/OMA de différentes régions, pour les informer des discussions en cours et pour obtenir d'autres points de vue sur le projet. Le NLCIFT a également préparé un rapport sur les éventuels avantages et les défis du projet de Protocole MAC (voir le rapport NLCIFT cité dans les documents connexes, dont un extrait est reproduit en Annexe IV au présent document – en anglais seulement).

ACTION DEMANDEE

26. *Sur la base des données recueillies lors des réunions et des nouveaux travaux de recherche, le Conseil est invité à examiner les travaux à entreprendre en vue de l'élaboration d'un quatrième Protocole à la Convention du Cap portant sur des matériels d'équipement agricoles, miniers et de construction, avec la convocation éventuelle d'un Comité d'études chargé de préparer un premier projet de Protocole MAC avant la 95^{ème} session du Conseil.*

**International Interests in Mobile Equipment
Preparation of a Protocol on Agricultural, Mining and Construction Equipment**

ISSUES DIALOGUE

**International Law Institute
(Washington, D.C. 19 November 2013)**

Report

I. Procedural Background

1. At its 92nd session (Rome, 8-10 May 2013), the Governing Council of UNIDROIT agreed to proceed with preliminary work on a potential Fourth Protocol to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests on Mobile Equipment. This protocol would potentially cover agricultural, mining and construction equipment. The Council assigned medium priority to high priority to this work, depending on funds available.

2. As an initial step in the possible preparation of the protocol, the State Department, in cooperation with UNIDROIT, organized a meeting hosted by the International Law Institute in Washington D.C with stakeholders and experts to provide an overview of the structure and functioning of the Cape Town Convention system and to examine its potential adaptability to agricultural, mining and construction ("MAC") equipment.

3. The principal objective of the meeting was to identify the legal, economic and procedural issues and questions which must be addressed to determine the feasibility, structure and content of the MAC protocol. Four principal needs were identified and presented in the meeting for further study: 1) to evaluate the specific economic impact a protocol may have, by region and by category of equipment (i.e. mining, agricultural or construction). To the extent possible, this analysis could also examine the economic impact by items of equipment (i.e. tractors, harvesters, irrigation, etc.); 2) to examine different approaches to determine the categories and/or items of equipment to be included within the scope of the protocol; 3) to identify the legal issues which must be addressed in tailoring the Convention for use with MAC equipment; and 4) to provide initial recommendations for continued consultations, to be conducted at further meetings in January and March 2014.

II. Opening

4. The meeting was opened by Prof. Don Wallace, President of the International Law Institute, who highlighted the success of the Cape Town Convention and emphasized the benefits that can accrue from adapting this instrument to new types of equipment. Prof. Wallace welcomed the participants and thanked the Secretariat for continued collaboration with the International Law Institute (for a full list of participants, please see Annex 1).

5. John Wilson of the UNIDROIT Secretariat then walked the participants through the order of business and the objectives of the meeting (see Annex 2). He reiterated that this initial dialogue would not seek to make a proposal for the scope of the protocol or attempt to provide answers or legal analysis. He explained it would merely identify questions that need to be asked and addressed and to begin thinking of the process by which those questions will be answered.

III. Economic Issues

6. Mr Fleisig, of the Center for the Economic Analysis of Law provided a summary of the study prepared by CEAL regarding the potential economic impact of a MAC protocol. Participants thanked Mr Fleisig and agreed that the general economic benefits have been well recognized in the document, but mentioned that it may be helpful to conduct separate economic analysis for each of the three categories of equipment. It was also mentioned that studies of the various items (or types) of equipment could also provide greater understanding of the specific and sectoral impact of a MAC protocol.

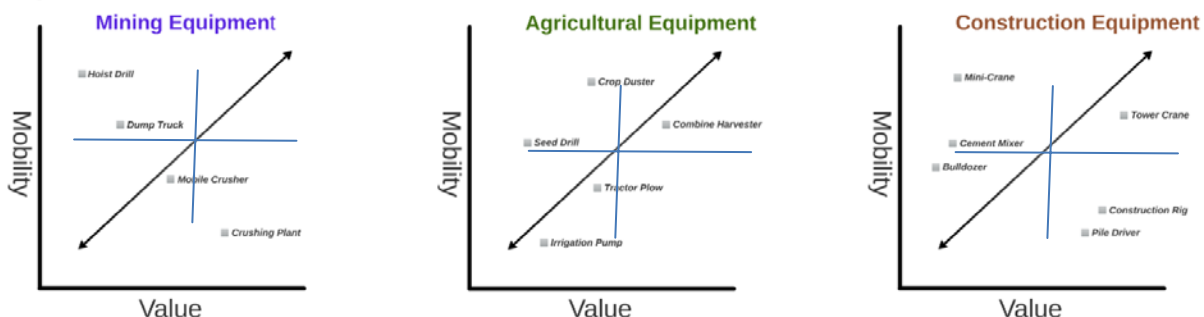
7. Participants from industry associations and manufacturers agreed to assist in determining the economic benefits by category, class and item of equipment. Although it was mentioned that it may be difficult in the abstract to measure the impact of reducing or eliminating obstacles to the importation, sale and financing of equipment under a revised legal framework, participants mentioned that individual sales figures for the various regions in which manufacturers and distributors operate should be available, which would complement the CEAL study with additional sectoral and regional information. Together with the CEAL study, this information could help determine the sectoral and regional impact of the proposed instrument in greater detail.

IV. Scope

8. Participants then turned their attention to the scope of the protocol; more specifically, to determine the possible approaches by which to establish the categories (and/or items) of equipment that could be included in the protocol. Three initial approaches were identified: 1) a value mobility approach; 2) a linear economic/legal analysis approach; and 3) an item-by-item examination of the harmonized system of tariffs.

9. *Value/mobility axis graph:* The first approach discussed during the meeting compared two criterion: economic value (X axis) with mobility (Y axis) of mining, agricultural and construction equipment, to be potentially included in the scope of the proposed protocol (as represented in the figure 1 below):

Figure 1:



10. Participants agreed that this approach could provide guidance in determining the scope of the protocol, if the graphs were separated by category of equipment and provided agreed-upon cut-off thresholds with regard to both value and mobility (represented by the center cross-lines in the figure above). Items of equipment above these thresholds would be considered for inclusion in the proposed protocol. Those below would be excluded.

11. Some limitations to this approach were pointed out by participants, namely that reducing the analysis to a simple value and mobility determination would ignore important legal issues that must be

accounted for as well, such as whether the equipment is specifically identifiable and/or internationally registrable. Participants also noted that putting an explicit value threshold in the protocol would likely be unworkable, as it would require valuation of individual pieces of equipment.

12. *Economic/legal line graph:* A second approach discussed during the meeting recommended separate analysis of economic criteria (i.e. value) and legal criteria (i.e. mobility, identifiability, etc). Such method, it was mentioned, would allow for a more thorough review of the category and/or items of equipment to be included in the scope of the protocol:

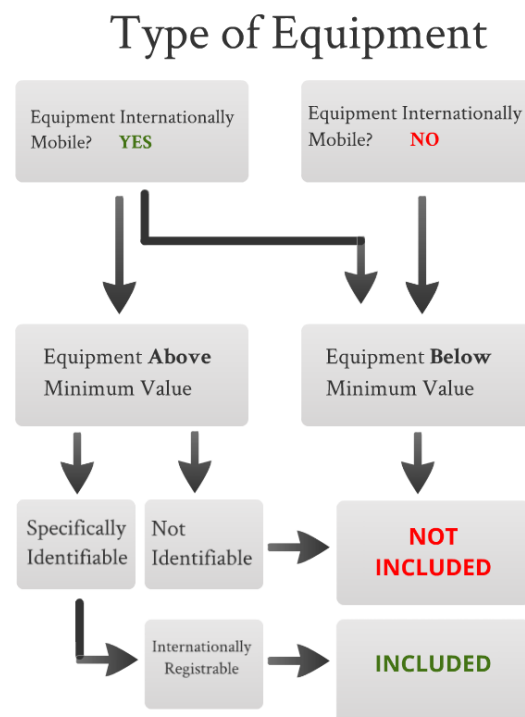
Figure 2:



13. In addition, participants mentioned that this type of review could also serve to measure the interdependency of individual criteria at the various levels of the scoping exercise, commenting that moving forward from examination of one criterion to the next criterion, could fulfill the required minimums mentioned in the previous approach. Together in succession, the criteria would allow participants to determine whether a category or item of collateral should be included (or not included) in the scope. This analysis may be represented in different ways, with figure 3 (below) presented at the meeting as one possible example.

14. Using this approach, the scoping exercise would initially determine whether the category (or item) of equipment would be considered "mobile," under the Convention's definition of "international interest." If yes, then the analysis for inclusion of that category or item of equipment, would move to the next level of analysis. If not, that category or item would be excluded. The second level of analysis would then examine whether the category (or item) of equipment is above a minimum cut-off value, agreed to during this mapping process. If yes, the analysis would move on to the next level of analysis. If not, that category (or item) of equipment would be excluded from the scope. The third level of analysis would examine whether the category (or item) of equipment is specifically identifiable, by make, model and serial number or other agreed upon criteria. Categories and items that cannot be identified in that manner would be excluded; those that can be described in such fashion, and which are also subject to a registration at the international level under the Convention, would be included within the scope of proposed protocol.

Figure 3:



15. *Harmonized System of Tariffs:* A third approach discussed during the meeting was to examine the possible use of the World Customs Organization's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. Based on a Convention with 148 contracting States, the Harmonized System provides an international nomenclature and number for the classification of products (see, <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/nomenclature/instrument-and-tools.aspx>).

16. Although the objective of the Harmonized System is to classify goods for customs purposes, participants at the meeting mentioned it could help provide an existing and internationally recognized

standard by which categories of equipment could be identified. It was also mentioned that, in some cases, the Harmonized System provides specific description of individual items of equipment.

17. Once all applicable categories or goods from the Harmonized System are identified, they could be examined under the criteria of mobility, value, identifiability, and registrability to provide a detailed picture of what should be included within the scope of a MAC protocol. An added advantage, it was observed, would be that the agreed to nomenclature and numbering could also provide an initial description criterion for international registration purposes.

18. It was agreed that each of the three approaches has advantages and disadvantages. Participants agreed to continue examining the issue to provide a more detailed preference and rationale for the method by which to undertake the scoping exercise during the meeting scheduled for January 2014.

V. Legal Issues

19. A number of participants mentioned that further consideration must be given to the severability of the three types of equipment (mining, agricultural and construction), possibly into three potentially separate protocols. Other participants mentioned that it may be advisable to begin with only one category of equipment. Taken as a whole, however, it was mentioned that the broader the scope of protocol, the greater the economic benefit would be. In this respect, there was significant discussion of the manner in which to establish as broad a scope as possible within the operation of the Convention. This could be done, it was mentioned, if the requirement of specific identification of the collateral was eliminated. Participants observed that this step would increase the potential economic impact of the protocol, but would require the establishment of a debtor-based (rather than asset-based) registration system. It was also observed that such a move would pose additional challenges to the adaptability of the Cape Town Convention system.

20. In this context, there was also some discussion as to the manner in which a proposed protocol would coordinate with national law and national registration systems. It was mentioned that this was principally a question of priority -- with national registries typically creating interests (in general items of collateral), which are subordinate to international registries (for specialized items of collateral). Three questions were raised on this issue. The first was regarding priorities, and whether the traditional notion of special priority for specialized collateral would be preserved if international registries were to cover both general and specialized items of collateral. The second question concerned the manner in which to cross-reference between a debtor-based and an asset-based registry. The third was whether searching parties would be required to consult both asset-based and debtor-based registry systems, in both the national and international framework.

21. In this respect, several participants mentioned that the limited application of Article 51 of the Convention should be preserved and used to determine whether an additional protocol could or should be prepared, in particular, on agricultural equipment. It was stated that, under Article 51, equipment should be high-value equipment, cross national borders in its normal operation and be specifically identifiable. It was also observed that, if equipment was of low value, did not cross national borders or could not be specifically identified, it should not be taken out of national secured transactions law and the existing general security rights registry, or the secured transactions and registry systems currently being developed and/or implemented by States on the basis of the recommendations based on the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions and draft Model Law on secured transactions, as well as the OAS Model Inter-American Law on Secured Transactions and Model Registry Regulation.

22. With respect to the identification of equipment, representatives from industry mentioned that many types of machinery have unique serial numbers (in some cases, 17 digits). In some cases, it was mentioned, manufacturers use a consistent numbering scheme for the first three or four digits to indicate the category of equipment. It was also agreed that the National Association of Manufacturers in the United States could circulate a list of questions to its members to gain greater understanding with regard to the manner in which equipment can be described for registration purposes. Participants underscored the need to make use of existing industry practices, in terms of identifying equipment.

23. Several participants also mentioned that a significant benefit the Cape Town Convention system provides to contracting States, is access to an international registration system – a system which, was said, could easily replace a local registry. On this matter, it was also stated that many national registration systems are plagued with inefficiencies and often serve as revenue collection points for State governments – problems which some participants mentioned could be avoided by creating international registries.

24. It was mentioned that, if the traditional registry under the Convention were expanded under the protocol to include a debtor-name option, a State could choose to use the international registry as its national registry. This would have the added benefit, it was said, that local governments would not have to build a registry from scratch. It was also stated that using an international registry for general items of collateral could enhance the volume of registrations, thus increasing the economic viability of the international registry. Everyone was reminded, however, of the need to make legal requirements clear at the local and international level, and answer additional questions, including whether a creditor must register twice and, in particular, whether a searching or third party would be subject to priorities set by national and international registrations systems.

25. There was also brief mention of the matter of mixed collateral: pools of assets that could include equipment subject to national law (thus national registration), and assets subject to the Convention (thus international registration). It was agreed that discussion of this issue would continue at the following meeting, along with other issues for follow-up discussion.

26. Other participants mentioned the need to explore whether service exceptions for the enforcement of security interests would be needed in certain farming situations and whether such exceptions would make a protocol unworkable; the need to include provisions in the protocol for the separate financing and taking of security in engines attached to MAC equipment; and the need to examine the extent to which registrars in various countries may resist the creation of a protocol that covers MAC equipment.

VI. Issues for discussion at follow-up meeting(s)

27. The following issues were identified for continued discussion at the meeting on 22 January 2014:

- consideration of possible analysis to determine economic benefits of the protocol, by category (and possibly by item) of equipment, as well as by geographic region;
- consideration of the possible approaches by which to determine the scope of the protocol;
- need for industry participants to provide guidance on the categories (and/or items) of equipment to which they would like the protocol to cover;
- consideration of the separation of the categories of equipment into more than one protocol;
- consideration of the description for categories and items of mining, agricultural and mining equipment;
- consideration of the specific legal adaptability of the Convention to mining, agricultural and construction equipment;
- need to analyze the manner in which different jurisdictions currently handle creation, notice, priority and enforcement of security interests in MAC equipment and how these laws and practices must be accounted for in a protocol.

28. An additional meeting is currently in the initial planning stages to coincide with the World Farmers Organization General Assembly, to take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina (25-29 March 2014). Such meeting would provide opportunity to take advantage of the gathering of important regional and international stakeholders on MAC equipment. Ideally, participants in the present meeting can help identify their affiliates, counterparties and competitors in the region to invite them to provide additional reflections the potential scope of MAC protocol and on the legal and economic impact it may have on the financing of equipment in the region.

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ANNEX 2**International Interests in Mobile Equipment:**

Possible preparation of other Protocols to the Cape Town Convention
Agricultural, Mining and Construction Equipment

- Issues Dialogue -

**International Law Institute
Washington, D.C.**

9:30am-12:30pm
19 November 2013

At its 92nd session (Rome, 8-10 May 2013), the Governing Council of UNIDROIT agreed to proceed with preliminary work on a potential Fourth Protocol on agricultural, mining and construction equipment, to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests on Mobile Equipment. The Council assigned medium priority to high priority, depending on funds available.

Hosted by the International Law Institute in Washington D.C., the State Department in cooperation with the UNIDROIT Secretariat is organizing an initial meeting with experts and stakeholders to provide an overview of the structure and functioning of the Cape Town Convention system and to examine its adaptability to agricultural, mining and construction ("MAC") equipment.

After a brief introduction to the Cape Town Convention system, the meeting will discuss the potential economic impact of a MAC protocol, propose guidelines for setting the initial scope of this work, propose a methodology for determining the type (or types) of MAC equipment to be covered by the protocol, and identify the legal issues and challenges to be addressed in the drafting of the instrument. The meeting will conclude with initial recommendations for continued consultations, to be conducted at further meetings in January and March of 2014.

International Interests in Mobile Equipment:

Possible preparation of other Protocols to the Cape Town Convention
Agricultural, Mining and Construction Equipment

*International Law Institute
Washington, D.C.*

9:30am–12:30pm – 19 November 2013

-- Order of business --

I. Opening of meeting and introductory remarks

II. Overview of the Cape Town Convention system

III. Economic Analysis

- Economic benefits of a MAC protocol: impact on industry sectors and local economies

IV. Potential Scope of the Protocol

- Types of equipment best suited to the Convention's characteristics
- Severability of MAC equipment into different protocols

V. Legal Analysis

- Cape Town Convention format and operation
- Identification of equipment: asset-based vs. debtor-based registration
- National Law: Coordination between liens under national law with security interests under the Convention
- Registration: coordination between national registration system and offices with international Convention-based registry
- Merged collateral: coordination between pools of collateral which include assets subject to national law and assets subject to the Convention

VI. Initial comments and recommendations on scope and adaptation for the MAC protocol

VII. Issues for discussion at follow-up meeting(s): January 2014

VIII. Closing of meeting

**International Interests in Mobile Equipment
Preparation of a Protocol on Agricultural, Mining and Construction Equipment**

Issues Dialogue, Second Meeting

**International Law Institute
(Washington, D.C., 22 January 2014)**

REPORT

Background

1. The Governing Council of UNIDROIT, at its 92nd session held 8-10 May 2013, requested the Secretariat to proceed with an initial analysis for potential work on a Fourth Protocol to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests on Mobile Equipment on agricultural, mining and construction equipment. To assist in bringing the discussion forward, the State Department of the United States of American, with the assistance of UNIDROIT, organized two meetings (issues-dialogues) hosted by the International Law Institute in Washington D.C., the objective of which was to receive feedback and recommendations from experts, stakeholders and international organizations regarding the adaptability of the Cape Town Convention system to agricultural, mining and construction ("MAC") equipment.

2. The first meeting was held on 19 November 2013 to identify the legal, economic and procedural issues and questions which must be addressed to determine the feasibility of the MAC protocol (see the Report on the meeting). The second meeting was held on 22 January 2014 to continue examination of the potential economic benefits of an additional protocol, the possible approaches for determining the scope of the protocol, and to consider whether the current protocols to the Cape Town Convention provide viable models to follow for a MAC Protocol.

Opening of meeting and introductory remarks

3. The second meeting was opened by the President of the International Law Institute, *Mr Don Wallace*, and the Secretary-General of UNIDROIT, *Mr Angelo Estrella-Faria*. After welcoming remarks, Mr Faria mentioned that the main purpose of the meeting was to continue with the scope analysis started in the first meeting and to decide whether additional research is required to determine the most suitable methodology for setting the scope of a potential protocol.

4. The Secretary-General also provided background on the origin and evolution of the project for a potential fourth protocol, including mandates stemming from the 92nd session of the Governing Council. It was mentioned that presenting a feasible and realistic scope, agreed to during the two issues-dialogue meetings, could assist the Council to determine the need and timing for a study group to prepare a first draft of the Protocol, possibly at its upcoming 93rd session in May 2014. Given the level of expertise and recent experience with drafting Protocols to the Cape Town Convention, as well as the lack of industry opposition to the Protocol, it was

mentioned the Council could remit a Study Group's first draft to a Committee of Governmental Experts sometime after its 94th session in 2015.

Economic Analysis

5. As agreed to during the first meeting, a follow-up discussion continued regarding the potential economic benefits of a MAC protocol by category (and item) of equipment, as well as the benefits it can provide by geographic region. Participants in the first meeting also committed to provide statistical figures of potential increases in financed sales using MAC equipment as collateral. *Mr Heywood Fleisig*, President of the Center for the Economic Analysis of Law, supplemented figures presented during the initial meeting on the expected utilization of the Protocol and the possible distribution of the benefits by type of equipment. As regards States that would benefit, he mentioned that the greatest beneficiaries would be emerging markets, but would also include several advanced economies in need of reforming their secured transactions laws (of which he mentioned Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, among others). Although he mentioned that figures are incomplete at this early stage — for which additional clarification and information is required by equipment manufacturers — the Center for Economic Analysis of Law expects up to a US\$60 billion increase in demand for MAC equipment worldwide. Of the current US\$100 billion in MAC equipment exports, Mr Fleisig mentioned, approximately 30 percent is mining and 20 percent is tractors. He requested the assistance of participating manufacturers to help determine the additional types of equipment exports, as well as refinements in the potential increases under a MAC Protocol.

6. A question was raised with regard to the application of the OECD discount for financing of MAC equipment and the role it could potentially play in increasing access and demand for exports. Mr Fleisig explained that, although the OECD discount is important to aircraft financing, MAC equipment is more market driven. He explained that dealers in developing countries are more concerned with whether their financing agencies can offer credit terms to local buyers, than whether they qualify for export credits. Consequently, he mentioned that the OECD discount would play a smaller role with the proposed protocol. Additional factors likely to play a role in improving equipment financing sales and exports, with participants highlighting the importance of an effective repossession system, included the need for self-help or extrajudicial repossession.

Potential Scope of the Protocol

7. The meeting continued with a discussion of the possible methods for determining the scope of the Protocol. The methods considered during the first meeting included: a high-value cut-off approach; a value/mobility matrix approach; and an economic/legal analysis approach.

8. A cross-cutting issue related to scope, discussed by participants, was the need to examine the internationality (or cross-border mobility) of collateral. That is, to determine whether equipment is purely local or international in nature when determining whether such equipment should be included in the Protocol. Several examples of internationality were given, including security interests in cranes used for construction in one country, later transported for construction projects in another country. Another was agricultural equipment used in Mexico part of the year and transported to the United States later in the year, to take advantage of different harvest seasons.

9. Participants agreed that using the World Customs Organization's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System presents the greatest potential for delineating the scope of the fourth Protocol. Based on a Convention with almost universal accession, the Harmonized System provides a number for the classification of all equipment, including the equipment that could

eventually be selected for coverage under the Protocol. On the issue, Mr Paderic Sweeney of the U.S. Department of Commerce made a detailed presentation on how the harmonized system can be used as the foundation for identifying products suitable for inclusion. Mr Sweeney also presented a paper (attached hereto as Annex 3) which describes the harmonized system and demonstrates how it can be used to establish representative internationally-valid values for six product categories relevant to the proposed Protocol. In his presentation, Mr Sweeney also provided a specific case study, using combine harvesters, on the manner in which the harmonized system can be used as the basis for the Protocol. This case study is further detailed in the attached paper, which describes combine harvesters and compares manufacturers' suggested list prices currently available in the United States with five leading global manufacturers.

10. Participants also discussed the importance of a number of countries ratifying the Protocol and, as an example of the need to coordinate the instrument with national law, examined the manner in which the Protocol would work under Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code. In general, participants agreed that the Protocol should not impose additional registration or other requirements beyond those of asset-based financing in general. It was also mentioned that special attention would have to be given to mixed pools of assets — i.e., pools of assets containing both security interests requiring registration under national law and those requiring registration under the international Protocol.

11. Regarding the issue of severability — whether mining equipment, agricultural equipment, and construction equipment should be separated into different protocols — participants agreed with the inclination expressed in the first meeting to keep all three together. However, it was mentioned that mining equipment is typically subject to more licensing and concession arrangements than agricultural or construction equipment, which could require further analysis by a Study Group, especially with regard to public service exceptions and other issues in enforcement. Participants also mentioned that mining equipment is typically less movable than others, with some types of equipment being incorporated into the mine itself. With regard to agricultural equipment, other participants mentioned the example of irrigation equipment, which would bring up the same issues. Participants agreed that the Protocol would have to address circumstances in which equipment that is mobile originally, is later affixed to land, but did not feel the issue would require separating the types of equipment into different protocols.

Drafting Models

12. Participants then turned their attention to the table provided by the Secretariat comparing the substantive provisions of the three current Protocols to the Cape Town Convention. The purpose of the table was to identify the provisions which remain constant in all three Protocols, as well as the provisions which would require specific tailoring for MAC equipment.

13. The Secretary-General mentioned that it would be difficult to have this discussion in the abstract (i.e. without a draft protocol to examine), but invited participants to consider the text of the Luxembourg Protocol on matters specific to railway rolling stock, which he explained is the most similar type of equipment to that considered for the MAC Protocol. He did mention, however, that there will be issues with regard to MAC equipment that are new, and would require new rules added to the Protocol. One new issue mentioned by some participants was security interests in land. A real estate mortgage in some countries, it was mentioned, can attach by operation of law to movable property located on the land, independently of whether or not the goods are affixed to the land. This was not an issue covered the previous Protocols to the Convention. Other participants mentioned that the Protocol would have to address the issue of buyers in the ordinary course and other good faith purchasers, and the issue of assets held in inventory.

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**International Interests in Mobile Equipment
Preparation of a Protocol on Agricultural, Mining and Construction Equipment**

ISSUES DIALOGUE, SECOND MEETING

**International Law Institute
(Washington, D.C. 22 January 2014)**

Order of Business

At its 92nd session (Rome, 8-10 May 2013), the Governing Council of UNIDROIT agreed to proceed with preliminary work on a potential Fourth Protocol on agricultural, mining and construction equipment, to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment.

In collaboration with the UNIDROIT Secretariat, the International Law Institute in Washington D.C. is hosting two meetings with experts and stakeholders to provide an overview of the structure and functioning of the Cape Town Convention system and to examine its adaptability to agricultural, mining and construction ("MAC") equipment.

The first meeting, held on 19 November 2013, provided a brief introduction to the Cape Town Convention system, discussed the economic impact of a MAC protocol, discussed methods for establishing the initial scope of this work, and identified preliminary legal issues and challenges to be addressed in the drafting of the instrument (see the Report on the meeting).

The second meeting, to be held on 22 January 2014, will continue to examine the potential economic benefits of a MAC protocol, to examine the possible approaches for determining the scope of the protocol, and to begin examining the current protocols to the Cape Town Convention, as models for drafting a MAC Protocol. The meeting set issues for follow-up discussion with agricultural stakeholders at possible meeting in March 2014

International Interests in Mobile Equipment:
Possible preparation of other Protocols to the Cape Town Convention
Agricultural, Mining and Construction Equipment

International Law Institute
Washington, D.C.
9:30am – 4:00pm
22 January 2014

-- Order of business --

MORNING SESSION (9:30am-12:00pm)

- I. Opening of meeting and introductory remarks
- II. Economic Analysis
 - Economic benefits of MAC protocol by category (and item) of equipment
 - Economic benefits of MAC protocol by geographic region
- III. Potential Scope of the Protocol
 - Possible approaches to determine the scope:
 - High-value cut-off approach
 - Value/mobility matrix approach
 - Economic/legal analysis approach
 - Harmonized system of tariffs approach
 - Initial issues for an industry questionnaire to determine the categories (and/or items) of equipment to be included in a MAC protocol
 - Severability of MAC equipment into different protocols

AFTERNOON SESSION (1:00-4:00pm)

- IV. Drafting of the Protocol
 - Initial examination of the Cape Town Convention's current protocols as models for drafting a MAC Protocol
 - Identification of the provisions which remain constant in a MAC protocol
 - Identification of the provisions which would require specific tailoring for MAC equipment
 - Methods for the identification of MAC collateral
 - Mixed collateral: coordination between pools of collateral which include assets subject to national law and assets subject to the Convention
- V. Issues for follow-up with agricultural stakeholders at possible meeting in March 2014
- VI. Closing of meeting



BACKGROUND PAPER:

USING THE INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZED SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY AGRICULTURAL, CONSTRUCTION, AND MINING MACHINERY

INTRODUCTION

This paper has been prepared to demonstrate how the international Harmonized System (HS) for classifying internationally traded commodities can be used to provide an empirical foundation for identifying products suitable for inclusion in the proposed 4th Protocol to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. The paper consists of two sections. The first describes in accessible terms the Harmonized System and demonstrates how it can be used to establish representative internationally-valid values for six product categories relevant to the proposed 4th Protocol. While the question of unit pricing is addressed in this section from the U.S. exporter perspective, its methodology could easily be applied to trade statistics for other countries or products.

The second section examines one product category—combine harvesters—in greater depth. It describes combine harvesters, including their character as highly-mobile, internationally-traded equipment. This section then compares manufacturers' suggested list prices for a specific class of combine harvesters currently available in the United States from five leading global manufacturers.

1. USING EXPORT DATA TO ESTIMATE PRODUCT PRICES

Background on the International Harmonized System and U.S. Goods Export Statistics:

The Harmonized System (HS) is a global system developed by the World Customs Organization to achieve uniform classification of commodities or merchandise in international trade. Covering approximately 5,000 commodity groups, this classification system is standardized between countries at a basic six-digit level of detail. Each country may designate additional subdivisions, which result in codes of up to ten (10) digits. Amended every five or six years, the Harmonized System is the standard classification used in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide for trade negotiations, rules of origin, customs tariffs, and the collection of international trade statistics. It is considered a universal language or code for goods.

In the United States, official trade statistics are estimated and released by the U.S. Department of Commerce utilizing information collected by Customs and Border Patrol. These statistics, which are categorized according to the Harmonized System, reflect both government and non-government shipments of merchandise between foreign countries and the U.S. Customs Territory, U.S. Foreign Trade Zones, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Using exporters' Electronic Export Information (EEI) as submitted to the U.S. Automated Export System (AES), the Census Bureau tabulates merchandise or goods export statistics.

Methodology and Results:

The tables on the following page calculate unit prices for specific types of machinery, as classified by U.S. 10-digit HS codes. Using this classification allows for a high level of detail as well as consistency. Census Bureau data provide the overall valueⁱ of U.S. exportsⁱⁱ to other nations as well as the number of units exported. Dividing the overall export value by the quantity, the result is a unit value per product code. (*Table 1. World Export Values and Unit Values*)

The values shown in *Table 1* are largely consistent with private industry estimates. It must be noted, however, that despite the high level of detail, use of a standard classification will still result in products of varying models and quality being grouped together. In order to test whether these prices are consistent and robust across countries, unit values by country were calculated using the same formula with summary statistics from these findings presented in *Table 2. Country-Specific Unit Value Summary*.

While there is some variation among country-level unit values, the top-level unit values presented in *Table 1* are mostly similar to the median of country-level unit values. Statistically, median calculations are more stable and less likely to be affected by extreme values or outliers in the data, so a comparison to this particular calculation is useful in determining that the overall unit price calculated using world export values and quantities are largely robust. The final column in *Table 2* lists the standard deviation for each type of machinery, which estimates the general variation from the average or mean exists in the country-level data.

Overall, using trade statistics and international classification standards result in a useful and consistent baseline for estimating product prices. While this analysis looks at the issue from the U.S. exporter perspective, it could easily be replicated using trade statistics for other countries or products.

Table 1. World Exports and Unit Valuesⁱⁱⁱ

HS Code and Description	U.S. Exports to the World		
	2012 Export Value	2012 Export Quantity	2012 Unit Values
8429200000—Graders and Levelers, Self-Propelled	\$964,652,617	6,782	\$142,237
8429300040—Scrapers, Self-Propelled, Exceeding 13.7 M3, New	\$56,986,761	103	\$553,270
8429511055—Integral Tractor Shovel Loaders, Rear Engine Mounted, 4 Wheel Drive with a Bucket Capacity of 11.4 M3 and Over	\$589,673,471	765	\$770,815
8429591030—Backhoes, New, Except 360 Degree Revolving Superstructure	\$342,072,296	6,275	\$54,514
8433510010—Combine Harvester-threshers, Self-Propelled	\$1,684,735,559	9,410	\$179,037
8701901065—Tractors for Agricultural Use, New, Power Take-Off (PTO) Type, with a PTO of 134.3 Kw or More	\$1,732,581,567	12,685	\$136,585

Table 2. Country-Specific Unit Value Summary

HS Code and Description	Minimum Unit Value	Maximum Unit Value	Median Unit Value	Standard Deviation
8429200000—Graders and Levelers, Self-Propelled	\$21,125	\$350,500	\$106,927	\$62,376
8429300040—Scrapers, Self-Propelled, Exceeding 13.7 M3, New	\$76,500	\$647,413	\$542,772	\$172,653
8429511055—Integral Tractor Shovel Loaders, Rear Engine Mounted, 4 Wheel Drive with a Bucket Capacity of 11.4 M3 and Over	\$48,500	\$11,102,922	\$1,394,137	\$1,916,817
8429591030—Backhoes, New, Except 360 Degree Revolving Superstructure	\$23,000	\$82,500	\$54,048	\$12,401
8433510010—Combine Harvester-threshers, Self-Propelled	\$7,100	\$304,791	\$156,000	\$86,149
8701901065—Tractors for Agricultural Use, New, Power Take-Off (PTO) Type, with a PTO of 134.3 Kw or More	\$74,133	\$228,404	\$134,324	\$24,738

2. EXAMPLE: COMBINE HARVESTERS

What is a Combine Harvester?

A combine harvester is a widely-used type of agricultural equipment employed in the final stages of producing small grains (for example, wheat or rice), coarse grains (corn, soy beans, sorghum), and other crops (rapeseed/canola, flax/linseed, sunflower). The modern combine harvester, as the name suggests, combines three related functions into one machine:

- *Reaping* – Cutting and gathering into the harvester the kernel- or seed-bearing portion of the crop being harvested.
- *Threshing* – Releasing the kernel or seed from the surrounding plant material or chaff.
- *Winnowing* – Separating the kernel or seed from the chaff and retaining the former for transfer to storage or processing.

The chaff is discharged back onto the field during harvesting operations.

These functions are performed while the harvester is underway in the field, powered by the same engine that propels the machine. When the on-board grain-storage bin (or “clean grain tank”) is full, modern combine harvesters can transfer harvested grain to a separate wagon while underway in the field. Harvesting, threshing, and winnowing can continue during this transfer.

Modern combine harvesters are operated by a single driver seated in an enclosed cab, although many models also include an observer seat next to the operator position. Combine harvesters used in capital-intensive, high-technology commercial agriculture are commonly equipped with an array of satellite-navigation, remote-sensing, wireless-telecommunications, and other technologies to optimize the machines’ performance and relate yield at the harvest to the various inputs (seed, water, agricultural chemicals) and techniques used throughout the growing season.

Many other types of harvesting equipment—for forage crops, cotton, sugar cane, coffee, fruits and vegetables, grapes, olives, tree nuts, etc.—are manufactured by many companies around the world. Although they are also relevant to the proposed 4th Protocol to the Cape Town Convention, these products are not to be confused with combine harvesters. Major manufacturers such as John Deere, CNH Industrial, the AGCO Corporation, the Claas Group, and Rostselmash also manufacture forage harvesters; some of these companies also produce cotton, sugar cane, and coffee harvesters. Numerous smaller companies supply farmers in many countries with highly specialized equipment for fruits, vegetables, grapes, olives, tree nuts, and other crops.

Origins

Combine harvesters were first developed in the nineteenth century in the United States and Australia. Early versions were drawn by teams of mules or horses. Although they were far more efficient than traditional harvesting methods, these early machines were still quite labor intensive compared to modern equipment. Steam-powered harvesters soon followed. As agricultural tractors became widely available in the twentieth century, towed or “pull-type” harvesters were developed for use with them.

In the twenty-first century, virtually all new combine harvesters are self-propelled.

Today

A number of companies manufacture combine harvesters in 2014. The leading producers are based in the United States, Italy, Germany, and Russia, although most of them have manufacturing operations in other countries. Competition among these manufacturers is intense.

The leading global manufacturers of combine harvesters produce numerous models under a variety of brands (see “Top Global Manufacturers,” below). Harvesting capacity, engine power, and special features vary widely. The size of the fields being harvested, the road network in rural areas, and the level of agricultural mechanization, all influence the selection of models on sale in a specific market.

There is an extensive international trade in combine harvesters. Combine harvesters are also highly mobile. All are capable of traveling over the road for short distances and can be—and are—transported long distances by truck or rail.

Headers

The header is an essential component of any combine harvester. The harvesting function is performed by the header. There are various types of headers; some major types include headers for small grains, corn, swaths or windrows, and headers for use on uneven terrain. Sizes also vary; for example, corn headers used in North America are commonly designed to harvest 12 to 18 rows of corn at a time. In China, three-to-six-row corn headers are far more common. Headers are detachable and more than one type can be used on the same combine, with appropriate adjustments to the harvester’s grain-processing systems. The harvesting capacity of a header must be matched to the threshing and winnowing capacity of the harvester to which it is attached.

Headers may be sold with the combine or separately. Most major combine manufacturers also produce headers. A number of smaller, independent firms also produce headers, often for specialized applications or conditions.

Top Global Manufacturers

- AGCO Corporation (United States)
- CNH Industrial (Italy)
- Claas Group (Germany)
- Deere & Company (United States)
- Rostselmash (Russia)

North American Pricing

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) maintains a classification system for combine harvesters. This system is based on engine power and expressed in either horse power or kilowatts. The chart below identifies the leading global manufacturers’ 2014 North American prices for either new harvesters (the manufacturer’s suggested list price) or late-model used harvesters. When available, the list price is derived from the manufacturer’s U.S. or North America website. When a list price is not available, a range of prices for comparable models of used machinery is provided based on listing from specialized used equipment websites.

Combine harvesters rated as Class VIII are those in the highest AEM classification in which all the major global manufacturers are represented in North America. The engine power range for Class VIII is 375hp/280kW to 410hp/300kW.

Manufacturer/Brand*	Model	Engine – hp/kW**	Grain Tank Capacity -- Bushels	Class	List Price
AGCO/Challenger	540C (2014 Model Year)	460/343	350	VIII+	\$393,591.00
AGCO/Massey-Ferguson	9560 (2014 Model Year).	460/343	350	VIII+	\$412,644.00
CNH-Industrial/Case IH	AF 8230	450/336	350		\$430,335.00
CNH-Industrial/ New Holland	CR 8090 (2013 Model Year-Used)	449/330	350	VIII	\$261,000.00 – \$305,000.00 (range)
Claas/Lexion	750 (2012 Model Year-Used).	425	360	VIII	\$260,000.00 – \$330,000.00 (range)
John Deere/John Deere	S680 (2014 Model Year).	473/353	480	VIII	\$436,319.00
Rostselmash/Versatile	RT490			VIII	N/A

*Sources: AGCO/Challenger and AGCO/Massey-Ferguson corporate North America websites; CNH-Industrial Case IH corporate U.S. website; “TractorHouse.com,” “USAFarmer,” and “Harvesting World” used equipment websites; Deere & Company corporate U.S. website.

** : SAE rated horse-power.

This paper was prepared by Natalie Soroka and Padraic Sweeney of the International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce for the purpose of advancing the work of the UNIDROIT Secretariat, member states, and other parties with an interest in creation of a 4th Protocol to the Cape Town Convention. For more information, please contact Natalie Soroka (202-482--5839; Natalie.soroka@trade.gov) or Padraic Sweeney (202-482-5024; padraic.sweeney@trade.gov).

ⁱ Export values are calculated using the Free Alongside Ship (FAS) value. The FAS value is the transaction price of the merchandise including inland freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in placing the merchandise alongside the carrier at the U.S. port of exportation. This value excludes any loading, transportation, or insurance costs beyond the port of exportation.

ⁱⁱ This data uses the total exports measure, which includes both domestic exports and foreign exports (or “re-exports”). Domestic exports includes commodities manufactured in the United States, including those that have been imported from foreign countries and significantly changed or enhanced in value in the United States or a Foreign Trade Zone. Foreign exports (“re-exports”) include commodities of foreign origin that have entered the United States but are “re-exported” in substantially the same condition as when imported.

ⁱⁱⁱ Export value and unit values are presented in current U.S. dollars.

SECURED FINANCING FOR MOBILE EQUIPMENT

The Proposed Protocol on Mining, Agricultural and Construction Equipment

March 5, 2014

(EXTRACT)

Prepared by



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SECURED FINANCING FOR MOBILE EQUIPMENT: THE PROPOSED PROTOCOL ON MINING, AGRICULTURAL AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

[...]

IV. THE PROTOCOL ON MINING, AGRICULTURAL AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

[...]

B. PROJECTED ECONOMIC BENEFITS

[...] when the cost of credit for agricultural machinery is reduced, farmers may be able to acquire new and more items, allowing them to increase the food production, leading to lower prices and positively impacting the hunger problem. However, many developing countries lack adequate infrastructure that prevents, for instance, producers, growers and manufacturers to market their products better and more effectively, as a result of which they are unable to increase production and/or sell for an adequate price.

[...]

2. Impact on manufacturers, dealers and end-users

[...]

Increased investment in MAC equipment is needed in all developing countries. Most economies that rely on agricultural production as the main contributor to growth are plagued by low rates of mechanization that reduces efficiency and output. For instance, in 2010 the International Food and Policy Research Institute published its "Policy Note No. 22," which found that in the late 1990s, only 8% of farmland in West Africa was cultivated with a tractor, a level significantly lower than in other regions.¹¹⁸ The report, specifically focusing on Nigeria, concluded that the low level of agricultural mechanization is caused primarily by a lack of i) access of credit, ii) manufacturing and repair services, iii) necessary infrastructure, and iv) legal and regulatory capacity to protect the rights of the owners of the machinery.¹¹⁹ The Report found that Nigerian farmers had limited access

¹¹⁸ Hiroyuki Takeshima and Sheu Salau, Policy Note No. 22: Agricultural Mechanization and the Smallholder Farmers in Nigeria, INT'L FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE NIGERIA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM 1 (2010), available at http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nsspnn22_0.pdf (last accessed Feb. 25, 2014).

¹¹⁹ Id., at 4.

to mechanized agricultural tools such as tractors.¹²⁰

Mechanization of agricultural production has also been a growing trend elsewhere. For instance, in India, the number of tractors grew from 9,500 in 1970 to 2.6 million in 2000, [...] One of the primary reasons for this increase in mechanization was the creation of credit facilities to allow farmers to purchase equipment.¹²²

[...]

V. SCOPE OF THE MAC PROTOCOL

[...]

A. HIGH VALUE

[...]

Undoubtedly, the value of some MAC equipment, primarily those involved in agricultural production will be significantly lower than the value of aircraft and space objects. However, this can be also said of some railway assets. [...]

It is important to solicit input from the end-users of MAC equipment as to what items are economically significant to them and with respect to which items they have been experiencing difficulties in gaining access to financing. [...]

The main argument supporting a value criterion is to exclude low-cost farming and construction equipment. The argument against the extension of the MAC Protocol to those kinds of items of equipment is that it might unduly interfere with the operations of the local secured transactions law or even create an obstacle to the reform and modernization of that law. This concern may be ameliorated by a careful selection of the categories of equipment to be covered by the MAC Protocol. [...]

B. MOBILITY

The assets covered by the previous three Protocols are highly mobile in that they may and do in fact cross borders on a daily basis. A concern has been raised with respect to the mobility of MAC equipment.

¹²⁰ Id. at 1. The report explains:

For smallholder farmers, modern tools – even if rented or shared among users – are too costly. Many farmers prepare their farms at the same time of the year, thereby raising rental fees for tools such as tractors. Sharing tools with other farmers often brings in risks of mismanagement and breakdown. Smallholder farmers are particularly averse to these types of risks...Consequently, very few Nigerian farmers own, share, or rent modern agricultural machinery.

¹²² Id. at 106. [Gajendra Sing, *Agricultural Mechanization in India*, in 20 MECHANIZATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, A REVIEW OF PATTERNS AND PROGRESS FROM AROUND THE WORLD 107 (Josef Kienzle et. al. ed., 2013), available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3259e/i3259e.pdf> (last accessed Feb. 26, 2014).]

[...]

MAC equipment does move across the borders although not with such high velocity as, for instance, aircrafts. The frequency of movement also varies depending on the type of MAC equipment and the business activity in which it is utilized.

[...]

1. Mobility under Sales

The CEAL study found that MAC equipment moves across the borders in a number of contexts, but primarily when i) it is sold and exported by the manufacturer to a foreign buyer or dealer and ii) when it is sold to a foreign buyer in a foreclosure sale.¹³⁴

[...]

2. Mobility in Use

[...]

Several decades ago, the service of custom harvesting developed in the agricultural sector of the United States. Custom harvesting involves the hire of a combine or similar equipment to harvest the farmer's crop at a fee. This service allows the farmer to reduce its business costs by not having to purchase a combine, and it is utilized particularly by smaller-size farmers.¹³⁸ Custom harvesters that own such equipment at times provide their services internationally.

For instance, in one such documented instance of cross-border custom harvesting the crop of some ranchers in the U.S. state of Montana was harvested by a Canadian forage harvester. Canadian custom harvesters frequently took a three-day trip to travel to farms in Nebraska. An Alberta (Canada) based custom harvester began his season in June and July in Montana where he chopped alfalfa and barley. In August, he brought his equipment to Alberta to harvest cereal crops and in September took it back to Montana to chop corn.¹³⁹

[...]

Construction equipment also moves internationally other than when it is sold. For instance, Martifer Group is a multinational company based in Portugal that completes large scale projects in the metallic construction and renewable energy sectors.

¹³⁴ CEAL, at 21-23.

¹³⁸ See Joel Parcell, *Owning a Combine versus Custom Harvesting*, available at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mgt/mgtnews/00-12/combine.pdf> (last accessed Feb. 10, 2014).

¹³⁹ John Dietz, *Border Crossing*, HAY & FORAGE GROWER (May 1, 2003).

[...]

One of the types of construction equipment the company owns is a large crane that it has utilized for a number of projects.¹⁴² The crane weights over 500 tones and originally cost over 20 million Euros. There are only about 15 cranes of this kind in all of Europe. The crane was initially purchased in Portugal and used by the company to lift wind turbines on a two-year project. Currently, the crane is being used on a number of projects in Brazil, moving between various construction sites. Depending on the size of the project, the crane may be used on a site for a couple of weeks or as many as three years before being moved elsewhere.

In addition to the crane, the company frequently moves support towers transnationally. Martifer Group used support towers to construct a soccer stadium in Gdansk for the European Championship in 2012. After the stadium was built, the towers were then relocated to Saudi Arabia to construct a different soccer stadium.

[...] Felbermayer leases cranes, working platforms and lift trucks throughout Europe. [...]

3. Economic and Legal Significance

[...]

The MAC Protocol would significantly reduce the cost of credit by streamlining many of the requirements imposed by domestic secured transactions laws. However, it should be highlighted that it will do so only with respect to the categories of assets falling under its scope, and its ratification should in no way be understood as a sufficient cure for a deficient domestic secured transactions regime whose scope extends beyond the defined categories of assets.

4. Identification of Assets to be Covered by the MAC Protocol

[...]

The current draft of the MAC Protocol takes a different approach, and in the definition of "equipment" it defers to Annexes. Defining the scope by a reference to annexes seems to be an appropriate approach, particularly in light of the proposal that qualified equipment be identified by an HTS code. [...]

Thus far the most economic approach, discussed by the experts, to identifying assets that might be covered by the MAC Protocol is through the use of HTS codes. Currently experts have identified a preliminary list of codes relating to MAC equipment that will be discussed by larger groups of stakeholders for consideration. [...]

¹⁴² Id. [Email between NLCIFT staff and Slovakian proxy holder for Martimer (on file with NLCIFT).]

Once finalized, the list of HTS codes attached as an Annex to the MAC Protocol should be regularly updated so as to keep it current.

[...] The nomenclature for the existing HTS codes has been developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO).¹⁴⁴ The nomenclature includes approximately 5,000 commodity groups and each of these groups are identified by a six digit code. The system is currently used as a basis for custom tariffs and the collection of international trade statistics by more than 200 countries and is governed by the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.¹⁴⁵

[...]

As such, the HTS codes should not be used as the main indexing criterion to identify assets in the International Registry. In other words, registration forms should not be organized in the registry record and made available to searchers by the HTS codes because searches would most likely retrieve multiple results. Another indexing/searching criterion such as the serial number of the asset should be selected to assure retrieval of only those registrations that relate to that particular asset.

VI. ISSUES SPECIFIC TO MAC EQUIPMENT

[...]

A. ACCESSIONS

[...] MAC equipment also comes with engines that may have to be replaced, although it is unlikely that the practice of sharing engines that has developed in the airline industry also exist or will ever develop in the MAC industry. Accordingly, there does not appear to be a practical need for allowing the financing of engines separately from the MAC equipment.

[...]

B. FIXTURES

[...] the nature of some MAC equipment may require its physical affixation to real property. [...] Some issues may arise when MAC equipment gets affixed to real property subject to a mortgage, whether pre-existing or created and recorded while the equipment remains a fixture.

¹⁴⁴ World Custom's Organization, What is the Harmonized System (HS)?, available at <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/nomenclature/overview/what-is-the-harmonized-system.aspx> (last accessed Feb. 3, 2014).

¹⁴⁵ Id.

[...] The Cape Town regime does not address any issues that arise in connection with fixtures, thus the domestic law would seem to be applicable. [...] Extension of the MAC Protocol to assets that may become fixtures could potentially derail the project due to the complexity of the rules that will need to be drafted as well as the acceptability of the rules by contracting states in light of the potential need to modify their real property laws.

[...]

C. INVENTORY

[...] Assets that potentially fall under the scope of the MAC Protocol are typically sold by dealers and leased by other intermediaries. [...]

[...] intermediaries hold a stock of equipment that they rent to users. These leasing companies may also need financing to purchase new equipment. [...]

D. POOLS OF ASSETS AS COLLATERAL

[...] the financing package may include new MAC equipment and some other assets of the debtor that may or may not be MAC equipment.

[...]

E. IDENTIFICATION OF MAC EQUIPMENT IN A REGISTRATION

For an international interest to become effective between the parties as well as against third parties, both the agreement creating an interest and a registration form must sufficiently describe the asset taken as collateral. [...]

Generic descriptions would not allow such asset -based indexing and searching, and would necessitate establishment of a debtor -based registry. The idea of a debtor-based registry under the MAC Protocol has been considered but for a variety of reasons did not find sufficient support. [...]

The Rail Working Group (RWG) has prepared a number of documents assessing the merits of various approaches to unique identification of rail equipment in a registration.¹⁷⁰ RWG has devised the Unique Rail Vehicle Identification System (URVIS) that identifies railway assets uniquely and permanently, irrespective of the number of sales, location and modifications made to the asset.¹⁷¹ URVIS identifiers differ from the running and operating numbers

170 RWG, Allocation and Marking of Permanent Numbers of Rolling Stock, Working Paper 240210, available at http://www.railworkinggroup.org/r0184_240210%20RWG.pdf (last accessed Feb. 7, 2014).

171 Id. at 5.

that may also identify railway assets.¹⁷² Such specific identification was necessary because items of rolling stock, and particularly wagons were not uniquely identifiable.¹⁷³

[...]

Even though it seems that a significant majority of MAC equipment is already uniquely identifiable, consideration might be given to developing an URVIS-like system for MAC equipment. As a starting point for discussion, the HTS codes could become a part of the unique number supplemented with a unique designator for individual assets.

F. OTHER ISSUES NEEDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION

One of the issues that interested stakeholders should consider is the public service exception. Many assets covered by the Cape Town regime serve not only important economic functions but are also part of the social fabric.¹⁷⁷ For this reason, the enforcement of creditors' remedies may have to be temporarily suspended until completion of a public project or similarly important service. While the creditor may temporarily lose access to the collateral, it may want to be compensated by the government.

[...]

Issues such as the one under the Railway Assets Protocol that seeks to protect the uninterrupted provision of passenger service are unlikely to arise under the MAC Protocol.¹⁸¹

[...]

Another issue that deserves attention is access to the international registry.¹⁸⁵ [...] For most MAC equipment types, there are no domestic registries that could be designated as the sole entry points to the international registry. For access to the MAC international registry, Article XIX(2) of the Aircraft Protocol and Section 12.2 of the Regulations may be a model to follow. [...] An access system with multiple or open entry points to the MAC international registry may be considered as an alternative to the controlled exclusive-type of access.

[...]

172 The URVIS designation will not be applicable to "...rolling stock used or to be used solely for personal purposes, used on heritage railways or used on railways with a gauge of less than 500mm...but may comply with it on a voluntary basis." Id.

173 Rosen, at 33.

177 Benjamin B. von Bodungen & Konrad Schott, *The Public Service Exemption under the Luxembourg Rail Protocol: a German Perspective*, UNIF. L. REV. 573, 574 (2007).

181 The public sector exception may also have some relevance in the freight sector with respect to trains that may carry hazardous, nuclear and similarly dangerous materials. Bodungen & Schott, at 579.

185 Cuming, *International Registry*, at 34.

VII. INTERACTION OF THE MAC PROTOCOL WITH SECURED TRANSACTIONS REGIMES

The assets covered by the three other Protocols are typically excluded from general domestic secured transactions regimes because countries have adopted special laws governing various issues related to sales of such assets and their use in secured transactions. The exclusions fall into two categories: i) assets are excluded for all purposes and ii) they are excluded only from the perfection requirements.

A. TYPES OF EXCLUSIONS AND SPECIAL LAWS

The laws that belong to the first category model their exclusion on the basis of Recommendation 4 of the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions, which provides that "the law should not apply to: (a) aircraft, railway rolling stock, space objects and ships, as well as other categories of mobile equipment in so far as such asset is covered by a national law or an international agreement..." [...]

An example of the second category of laws is the U.S. Uniform Commercial Code (U.C.C.) Article 9. Section 9-311(a)(1) provides that "...the filing of a financing statement is not necessary or effective to perfect a security interest in property subject to: (1) a statute, regulation, or treaty..." [...]

The MAC Protocol is expected to operate similarly and complement domestic secured transactions laws. It will clearly define the types of equipment that it covers, thus excluding the other types that will remain covered by domestic laws.

[...]

Exclusions from the general secured transactions laws may [...] have the unfortunate effect that the law does not have a specific financing device for an asset.²⁰⁰ Alternatively, the only available financing tool may be the traditional concept of pledge, which requires dispossession of the debtor. As a result, the market players may be forced to resort to alternative financing devices, such as trusts, which the law might not recognize or its enforcement might be complicated.²⁰¹ In these countries, the MAC Protocol would be filling a significant gap in fostering predictability and certainty to creditors.

B. INTERACTIONS IN TERMS OF PRIORITY OF COMPETING INTERESTS

The second level of interaction between the Cape Town regime and domestic secured transactions laws relates to priorities. [...]

²⁰⁰ This was the case in Belgium with respect to aircraft objects. Vincent Sagaert, *The UNIDROIT Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment: a Belgian Perspective*, 1 EUR. REV. OF PRIVATE L. 75, 76-77 (2004).

²⁰¹ Id. at 77.

Domestic secured transactions regimes should interact similarly with the MAC Protocol and result in registration in both the applicable national registry as well as in the international registry. [...]

C. EXCLUSION OF INTERNAL TRANSACTIONS

[...] even if an interest satisfies the requirements of an internal transaction, and the creditor has perfected its domestic interest under the local law, another creditor may still obtain priority by registering a notice of its interest in the International Registry. Contracting States thus may not rely on this Article to protect the priority of interests created in internal transactions.

B. INTERACTIONS WITH THE RECEIVABLES CONVENTION

The Cape Town Convention as a whole has a limited impact on the operation of the United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade (Receivables Convention).²⁰⁶ [...] This possible interaction remains hypothetical since the Receivables Convention has not yet entered into force.

D. ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS

Some experts have suggested that UNIDROIT should contemplate the establishment of a debtor-based registry that would index all registration forms according to the name or other identifier of the debtor. This would be a departure from the other three Protocols and would raise a number of issues such as: i) how to define the unique identifier for debtors, ii) the authorization to describe the assets generically in a registration, iii) the difficulty for third parties to protect themselves if they were buying assets from someone who had bought it from the original debtor but subject to a security interest, etc. [...]

The second alternative proposal would establish an international registry that would not be limited to the MAC Protocol equipment, but instead made available to contracting states to use as the registry for their own domestic secured transactions laws. [...] this proposal would require significant modifications to the registration regime under the Cape Town Convention, including the authorization of the debtor to sue an international registrar in a local court to compel a discharge of a registration that the debtor is entitled to. [...]

²⁰⁶ The text of the Receivables Convention is available at: UNCITRAL, United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade (2001), available at http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/uncitral_texts/security/2001Convention_receivables.html (last accessed Feb. 28, 2014).

FINAL REMARKS

[...]

The proposed MAC Protocol has been on the UNIDROIT agenda for a number of years, and is finally getting some traction. The progress has been slow due a number of factors, such as the yet undefined scope of the Protocol, the types of assets it should apply to, the questions about their mobility, value and identification, etc. A concern has also been raised about the interaction of the future MAC Protocol with domestic secured transactions regimes. [...]

A number of issues still need to be resolved; some of which are substantive while others are rather technical. [...]

The technical issues relate primarily to the operations of the international registry. Should it allow access similar to the International Registry under the Aircraft Protocol, which is rather controlled and conditional on consent of the interested parties, or should it be more open (e.g., providing direct access without having to obtain an authorization to register from a domestically-appointed entity) and not require the debtor's consent other than its authorization to register? Several proposals are on the table that would modify the functions of this registry from those envisaged in the Cape Town Convention. These and a number of other issues flagged in the Report should and will be given due consideration.