



Biographical Note

José Angelo Estrella Faria is a Brazilian lawyer and former staff member of the United Nations, lately (until November 2024) as Principal Legal Officer and Head, Legislative Branch, at the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in Vienna. In that capacity, he supervised the entire legislative work of UNCITRAL on micro-small and medium enterprises, digital economy, insolvency law and negotiable cargo documents, and at the same time acted as secretary of UNCITRAL Working Group VI (Judicial Sale of Ships) during the negotiation of the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships.

From 1 October 2008 to 31 July 2017, he was the Secretary-General of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), an independent intergovernmental organization based in Rome (Italy) and devoted to the unification and harmonization of private law worldwide.

Until his appointment to UNIDROIT, Mr. Faria had worked at the UNCITRAL secretariat in Vienna from 1996 to 2008. As secretary to the relevant intergovernmental working groups, he was responsible for UNCITRAL work on various areas, including public-private partnerships, public procurement, electronic commerce, contract law and transport law (Rotterdam Rules).

Before joining the United Nations Office of legal Affairs, in 1992, he had worked as an attorney in Brazil, specialising in commercial and trade law.

He has published articles and books, and taught various courses on legal harmonisation, commercial law, cultural property law and international law at various universities and institutions, including the University of Vienna, the University of Graz, the Sigmund Freud Private University (Vienna), the Hague Academy of International Law (Netherlands) and the Xiamen Academy of International Law (China).