



Union Internationale des Avocats
International Association of Lawyers
Unión Internacional de Abogados

28 OCTOBER
1 NOVEMBER

2026

PRELIMINARY
PROGRAMME

MAR
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ECH

70th UIA
CONGRESS



#UIAMARRAKECH



Dear friends,
It is a honor to invite you to the
70th UIA Congress in Morocco, in the
unforgettable "Red City" of Marrakech.

A place full of history and culture, which today opens its doors
to us so that we may gather together with a common purpose:
to elevate the legal profession, strengthen the rule of law, and
project our practice into the future.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Organizing
Committee, the National Committee, the Marrakech Bar
Association, and the local authorities. Thanks to their
dedication, we will meet there, ready to live an unforgettable
experience.

During this Congress, we will address two current issues:
"Sport at the Crossroads of Economy, Human Rights and
Sustainable Development" and "What is the Role of Law in
International Trade?".

We will meet in the Palais des Congrès de Marrakech. There,
we will share ideas and experiences with colleagues from
more than 90 countries, always with the goal of bringing
lawyers together, strengthening the rule of law, and fostering
business opportunities for all participants, under the principles
of collegiality and friendship that define us.

I invite you to make the most of every moment: exchange
knowledge with highly regarded colleagues, keep your
practice up to date through more than 45 specialized sessions
in various areas of law. The UIA Congress is also the occasion
to build friendships and new professional relationships that
may lead to new projects, cases, and business opportunities
for the growth of your practice and your firms.

I am convinced that this Congress will not only be an academic
gathering, but also a space for inspiration and action.
I look forward to seeing you in Marrakech to greet you
personally and celebrate a magnificent Congress!

Fernando Hernández Gómez
Président de l'UIA



As President of the 70th UIA
Congress, I have the immense
honour and great pleasure of inviting
you to participate in this exceptional event,
which will be held in Marrakech from 30 October to 1
November 2026.

This return to Morocco has a strong symbolic dimension:
the Kingdom is preparing to welcome our international
legal community once again, thus confirming its vocation
as a leading destination for intellectuals and professionals,
both regionally and globally. Nicknamed "the pearl of the
South", Marrakech is one of Morocco's most emblematic
cities. It charms visitors with its exceptional heritage, its
medina listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, its
colourful souks and its legendary hospitality. A city steeped
in history but also modernity, now Marrakech is ranked
among the top five global destinations for the organisation
of events. This prestigious context offers a unique backdrop
for our congress, combining authenticity, dynamism and
international influence.

The two main themes of the Congress, "Sport at the
Crossroads of the Economy, Human Rights and Sustainable
Development" and "What is the Role of Law in International
Trade?", reflect key current challenges and will enable us
to engage in rich discussions and reflections on the role of
law and our profession in the face of global economic and
societal changes. Beyond the scientific sessions, this congress
will be a unique opportunity to discover the cultural richness
of Marrakech and the warm welcome of the Moroccan
people, to share moments of conviviality and fraternity, and
to enjoy an experience that will remain etched in your minds.

We therefore invite you to already save these dates and join
us in Marrakech to celebrate together the 70th UIA Congress
in a setting that combines tradition, modernity and openness
to the world.

Driss Chater
President of the 70th UIA Congress

Sport at the Crossroads of Economy, Human Rights and Sustainable Development

Today, sport is much more than a physical activity or entertainment: it is truly a social, economic and political phenomenon. As a generator of wealth, a factor in international influence and a powerful vehicle for integration, it attracts significant investments and involves major financial challenges. However, this growing economic dimension is accompanied by major challenges relating, in particular, to the regulation of competitions, the governance of sports bodies, the promotion of women's sport, fairness in financing, the fight against corruption, etc. Furthermore, sport also raises questions about respect for fundamental rights and its contribution to sustainable development. Whether it is the legal protection of athletes, the fight against discrimination, the promotion of gender equality or the environmental impact of major sporting events such as the Football World Cup or the Olympic Games, sport reveals many tensions and contradictions.

The main theme of the Marrakech Congress will invite participants to rethink the role of sport in the contemporary society, through the triple lens of the economy, human rights and sustainable development.

What is the Role of Law in International Trade?

Thirty years after the entry into force of the Marrakech Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO) and instituting global rules of trade with the main goal to improve the welfare of people around the world by ensuring that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible, we stand at a critical moment to reflect on and harness the threats caused by trade wars and geopolitical power shifts as well as new challenges such as digital trade, climate change and inclusiveness.

This Main Theme will explore whether and how the law can still assume its role of backbone of global commerce to prevent chaos, uncertainty and inefficiency.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER

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Opening Ceremony

THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER

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Main theme 1:
Sport at the Crossroads of Economy,
Human Rights
and Sustainable Development

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International Bar Leaders' Senate
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Informal Evening

FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER

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Main theme 2:
What is the Role of Law in International Trade?
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Gala Dinner

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER

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Closing Ceremony

SUNDAY, 1st NOVEMBER

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General Excursion

*The Congress will be held
at the Congress Center
of the hotel Mövenpick Marrakech.*

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