

MR. JOSÉ ANGELO ESTRELLA-FARIA

*Senior Legal Officer, UNCITRAL Secretariat, International Trade Law Division
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José Angelo Estrella-Faria is the newly-appointed Secretary-General of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), which has its seat in Rome.

From March 1996 through September 2008, Mr. Estrella-Faria was a Senior Legal Officer with the International Trade Law Division (ITLD), which functions as the permanent secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) within the UN Office of Legal Affairs.

Mr. Estrella-Faria was the secretary of the UNCITRAL Working Group on Electronic Commerce between 2001 and 2005 and was responsible for providing substantive support to the negotiations that led to the adoption by the U.N. General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts, in December 2005. Between 2005 and 2008 Mr. Estrella-Faria also supervised the secretariat support for UNCITRAL Working Group III (Transport Law), which prepared the draft of the UN Convention on the Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea.

At the beginning of his career with the United Nations, from 1992 to 1996, Mr. Estrella-Faria worked at the General Legal Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, in New York, which deals *inter alia*, with commercial contracts, procurement and legal issues related to technical cooperation, development assistance, peace-keeping, humanitarian relief and related operations of the United Nations.

Before joining the United Nations, Mr. Estrella-Faria was an attorney in private practice in Brazil and specialized in commercial and trade law matters (banking and trade contracts and instruments, mergers, insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings).

Mr. Estrella-Faria holds a law degree (1985) from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre, Brazil) and a Masters on European Law (1989) from the *Europa Institut der Universität des Saarlandes* (Saarbrücken, Germany). He has published articles and books on international trade law and economic integration and participated as a speaker at various international conferences on commercial law matters.

Mr. Estrella-Faria was born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 1963.