

7-8 MARCH 2023 — EGMONT PALACE IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



7TH INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF UNCITRAL WORKING GROUP III ON ISDS REFORM

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1. ABOUT

The past few years there has been a growing global debate surrounding Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms. Historically, ISDS mechanisms have granted foreign investors the right to initiate arbitration against host states for alleged breaches of international investment treaties through ad hoc arbitral tribunals. However, this system has faced criticism for lacking transparency, perceived conflicts of interest, and inconsistent decision-making, which has raised concerns about its legitimacy and effectiveness.

In response to these concerns, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), an intergovernmental body dedicated to the harmonization and modernization of international trade law, has been actively engaged in addressing the perceived shortcomings. In 2017, UNCITRAL Working Group III was given the mandate to undertake a comprehensive review of ISDS and to propose necessary procedural reforms that would address these concerns and enhance the overall legitimacy and efficiency of the dispute resolution process.

Since its inception, Working Group III has been conducting regular sessions and intersessional meetings, during which different stakeholders engage in extensive discussions on different reform options such as codes of conduct for arbitrators and judges, mediation guidelines and model clauses, an advisory

centre, a standing mechanism, an appellate mechanism, etc. Belgium has been at the forefront of advocating for a comprehensive structural ISDS reform and is a staunch supporter of the procedural reform efforts within UNCITRAL WGIII.

In this context, Belgium is pleased to host the **7th intersessional meeting of UNCITRAL Working Group III** at the **Egmont Palace in Brussels**, on **7 and 8 March 2024**. This event is jointly organized by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2024, the UNCITRAL Secretariat and supported by the European Commission.

The first day is a session open to the wider public and will consist of 4 panel debates. It will focus on the ISDS-reform options being discussed in the working group this year, namely a standing multilateral tribunal, an advisory centre and certain procedural rules and cross-cutting issues, and how they can contribute to a **better access to justice for all**. The second day will be a working session for UNCITRAL WGIII delegates and observers only.

The event is organized in **hybrid format** with **interpretation between French and English** to encourage the widest possible participation.

We are pleased to welcome you.

MEETING FORMAT

The intersessional meeting will be held at the Arenberg Conference Room at the Egmont Palace, Kleine Zavel/ Petit Sablon 8(bis) 1000 Brussels, Belgium. Remote participation through Teams is possible.

GETTING TO THE EGMONT PALACE

From Brussels Airport there is a fast, direct connection to the main Brussels railway stations (Brussels North, Brussels Central and Brussels South). There is a direct train every 15 minutes in both directions. You arrive in the centre of Brussels in just 17 minutes. The standard ticket price for travel between the airport and the Brussels Zone is €10,80 per trip (return trip €21,60).

From elsewhere in Belgium, you can download the following applications to check schedules and book tickets:

Train: www.belgiantrain.be/en

Bus: [MIVB Airport Line](#) | [Brussels Airport](#)

DRESS CODE

The dress code for this event is business attire (tie optional).

All UNCITRAL Working Group III working papers, initial drafts and background materials are available on the UNCITRAL webpage: [Working Group III: Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform | United Nations Commission On International Trade Law](#)

As this is not a formal Working Group III meeting, discussions and views expressed by UNCITRAL members and observers during the sessions and roundtable will be informal. During the sessions, kindly allow the moderators flexibility to decide on the speaking order. Preference will generally be given to UNCITRAL members and observers. The intersessional meeting will be recorded and made available subsequently to all UNCITRAL members and observers. Simultaneous interpretation between English and French will be provided.

2. PROGRAMME OUTLINE

2.1. Day 1 Programme | Thursday, 7 MARCH 2024

08:30 – 09:15 Registration, badge pick-up and welcome coffee

09:15 – 09:20 Word of welcome

09:20 – 09:40 Opening remarks/key note speeches

- [Hadja Lahbib](#) (*video message*), Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural Institutions, Belgium
- [Bernard Quintin](#), Director General a.i. for European Affairs and Coordination, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Belgium
- [Valdis Dombrovskis](#) (*video message*), Executive Vice-President and Trade Commissioner for the EU, European Commission
- [Maria Martin-Prat](#), Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission

09:40 – 10:00 Introduction to the work of UNCITRAL WGIII

- [Anna Joubin-Bret](#), Secretary, UNCITRAL
- [Shane Spelliscy](#), Chair, UNCITRAL Working Group III, and Director-General, Trade Law Bureau, Canada and Deputy Legal Adviser, Global Affairs Canada

10:00 – 11:15 Panel I: Access to Justice in the context of ISDS

This panel will define access-to-justice in the context of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). The panel will focus on the perspectives of developing countries and least developed countries (LDC's), perspectives of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME's), perspectives of individuals and impacted communities, and will make the link with the reform options discussed in Working Group III.

- [Nicolas Angelet](#) (*moderator*), Professor of International Law, Université Libre de Bruxelles and Ghent University
- [Vincent Beyer](#) (*online*), Associate Expert in Legal Affairs International Investments, Agreements Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD
- [Catharine Titi](#), Tenured Research Associate Professor at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the CERSA, University Paris-Panthéon-Assas
- [Amandine Van den Berghe](#), Senior Lawyer - Value Chains, Trade and Investment, ClientEarth
- [Natalie Morris-Sharma](#) (*online*), Director, Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers/ Rapporteur UNCITRAL Working Group III

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Panel II – Standing Mechanism

In this panel, delegates of UNCITRAL WGIII will reflect on how the proposed standing mechanism could contribute to better access to justice for all.

- [Isabelle Van Damme](#) (*moderator*), Partner at Van Bael & Bellis and Visiting Professor at the College of Europe
- [Michael Imran Kanu](#) (*online*), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations
- [Alejandro Buvinic](#), Head of Division, Services, Investments & Digital Economy, Chile
- [Alexis Choquet](#), Deputy Head of International Trade and Investment Unit, France
- [Kexian Ng](#), State Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

All timings are reflected in Central European Time (CET). The programme is accurate as of 6 March 2024.

13:00 – 14:30 Networking lunch

Networking lunch in the Mirror Room provided by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2024

14:30 - 14:45 Family picture

Marble staircase on the way out of the lunch hall

14:45 – 16:15 Panel III – Establishment of an Advisory Centre

In this panel, delegates of UNCITRAL WGIII will reflect on how the proposed advisory centre could contribute to better access to justice for all.

- [Joost Pauwelyn](#) (*moderator*), Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute
- [Deborah Aba Aikins](#), First Secretary and Legal Advisor, Permanent Mission to the United Nations and other International Organizations, Ghana
- [Kraijakr Thiratayakinant](#), Counsellor, Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
- [Margie-Lys Jaime](#), Legal Adviser, Office of Investment Arbitration, Republic of Panama
- [Nora Bellec](#), Legal Officer, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission
- [Karin Kizer](#), Attorney Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State, United States

16:15 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 Panel IV – Procedural rules reform

In this panel, delegates of UNCITRAL WGIII will reflect on how procedural rules and crosscutting issues could contribute to better access to justice for all.

- [Eric De Brabandere](#) (*moderator*), Professor of international dispute settlement (Leiden University) and Attorney at the Brussels Bar (Partner DMDB Law)
- [Aime Kasenga Tshibungu](#), Deputy National Coordinator of the CTR, Ministry of Finance, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- [Reuben East](#), Deputy Director Investment Trade Policy Division, Global Affairs, Canada
- [Soyoung Park](#), Deputy Director, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea
- [Laura Janssen](#), Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- [Aurélia Antonietti](#), Senior Legal Adviser, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

18:00 – 18:15 Closing remarks

- [Bernard Quintin](#), Director General a.i. for European Affairs and Coordination, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

18:30 – 20:00 EU reception

Reception provided by the European Union held at the atrium of the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (Karmelietenstraat/Rue des Petits Carmes 15, 1000 Brussels). All registered participants are invited. Canapés and drinks will be served.

2.2. Day 2 Programme | Friday, 8 MARCH 2024

Access to the Arenberg Conference Room is only possible by bringing your Delegate/Observer badge that you received on Day 1.

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome coffee

09:30 – 09:35 Opening remarks

- [Christophe Payot](#), Director EU Trade Policy Unit & WTO, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

09:35 – 11:00 Possible models of a multilateral instrument on ISDS reform

This side event organised by the UNCITRAL secretariat will address the possible models for drafting the multilateral instrument on ISDS reform (MIIR), including the Mauritius Convention on Transparency, Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS MLI) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- [Jae Sung Lee](#) (*moderator*), Secretary of Working Group III, Senior Legal Officer, UNCITRAL Secretariat
- [Judith Knieper](#), Secretary of Working Group II, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL Secretariat
- [Jessica Di Maria](#) (*online*), Advisor, Tax Treaty Unit, OECD
- [Tomoko Ishikawa](#), Professor, Nagoya University, Graduate School of International Development (Japan)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Roundtable discussion (part 1)

Roundtable discussions will be moderated by Shane Spellicy (Chairperson of UNCITRAL Working Group III) and Natalie Morris-Sharma (Rapporteur of UNCITRAL Working Group III). Part 1 will address the topic of the advisory centre based on the advance copy of [A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.238](#). Part 2 will address the draft guidelines on prevention and mitigation of international investment disputes based on a [revised draft](#) and the draft provisions on procedural and cross-cutting issues based on [A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.231](#). The agenda is subject to change depending on the discussions during the previous panels.

- [Shane Spellicy](#) (*moderator*), Chair, UNCITRAL Working Group III and Director-General, Trade Law Bureau, Canada and Deputy Legal Adviser, Global Affairs Canada
- [Natalie Morris-Sharma](#) (*moderator, online*), Director, Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers/Rapporteur UNCITRAL Working Group III

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

A light sandwich lunch will be served in the Tapestry Room, on a first come first served basis, and is provided by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2024. You may wish to refer to section 3.1. for other lunch options nearby.

14:30 – 16:00 Roundtable discussion (part 2)

16:00 – 16:20 Closing remarks

- [Anna Joubin-Bret](#), Secretary, UNCITRAL
- [Christophe Payot](#), Director EU Trade Policy Unit & WTO, Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

3. ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

3.1. For in-person participants

Venue

Egmont Palace, Kleine Zavel/Petit Sablon 8 (bis) 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Date/Time

Day 1: Thursday, 7 March 2024

- All meeting sessions (from 09:15 to 18:15) will take place in the Arenberg Conference Room
- The networking lunch (from 13:00 to 14:30) will take place in the Mirror Room
- Attention! The reception organised by the European Union will take place at the Atrium of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Karmelietenstraat/Rue des Petits Carmes – 15, 1000 Brussels

Day 2: Friday, 8 March 2024

- All meeting sessions (from 09:30 to 16:20) will take place in the Arenberg Conference Room
- The light sandwich lunch (from 13:00 to 14:30) will take place in the Tapestry Room

Registration on event day

Please bring a piece of identification for swift identity verification when picking up your badge on at the registration counter in the atrium (Egmont Palace, Kleine Zavel/Petit Sablon 8 bis, 1000 Brussels, Belgium). Remember to hold on to your badge after the 1st day, as you will need it to re-enter the premises on the 2nd day. The participants should wear their badges at all times.

Interventions

How to use the microphone

UNCITRAL members and observers will have access to microphones. UNCITRAL members and observers with a tabletop microphone in front of them can activate the microphone by pressing the button at the centre of the tabletop display. A red light will appear around the central button. Only one microphone at the time can be switched on. To turn off your microphone, press the button at the centre again. Participants without access to a tabletop microphone, can request a handheld microphone.

How to select an interpretation channel

All participants will have access to interpretation.

UNCITRAL members and observers with a tabletop screen in front of them, can choose an interpretation channel, by double tapping the tabletop screen, then selecting FLOOR and choosing their preferred language.

Participants without a tabletop screen, can select their preferred language channel by using the buttons incorporated into the armrests of their chair.

Simultaneous interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation between English and French will be provided.

Notes for overseas participants joining in-person

Travelling to and from Brussels

Brussels Zaventem Airport (BRU) is the main international airport serving Brussels. Participants can fly directly into BRU from various destinations worldwide.

Brussels is also well-connected by train, with frequent services to neighbouring countries.

Getting around in Brussels

Brussels has an extensive public transportation network including metro, trams, and buses operated by STIB/MIVB. Participants can purchase tickets at train/metro stations or use contactless payment methods.

Taxis and ride-sharing services like Uber and Bolt are also available for convenient travel within the city.

Exploring Brussels

Must-visit attractions in Brussels include the Grand Place, Atomium and Manneken Pis.

Participants can explore the city's rich cultural heritage by visiting museums like the Magritte Museum and the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium.

Weather

Brussels has a temperate maritime climate with mild summers and cool winters. Participants should be prepared for occasional rainfall throughout the year.

Currency

The currency used in Belgium is the Euro (EUR). Participants can exchange currency at banks, exchange offices, or use ATMs available throughout the city.

Language

The official languages of Belgium are Dutch, French, and German. While French is predominantly spoken in Brussels, English is widely understood, especially in tourist areas and among professionals.

Time zone

Belgium operates on Central European Time (CET), which is UTC+1.

Plugs

Belgium uses Type C and Type E power plugs with a standard voltage of 230V and a frequency of 50Hz. Participants from other regions may need plug adapters and voltage converters.

Useful numbers

Emergency services: 112 (for police, fire, and medical emergencies)

Tourist helpline: +32 2 513 89 40

STIB/MIVB (public transportation): +32 70 23 20 00

Taxi services: +32 2 349 49 49 (Taxi Brussels), +32 2 777 77 77 (Collecto)

Lunch options near Egmont Palace

Cowfish (Fusion, 4min walk)
UMA Restaurant (Western, 4min walk)
La Bombetta (Italian, 5min walk)
Les Petits Oignons (Western, 5min walk)
Au Vieux Saint Martin (Western, 5min walk)
Pop Up Sablon (Western, 5min walk)
Iris (The Hotel) (Fusion, 6min walk)
Genco (Italian, 7min walk)
Albert (Western, 8min walk)
Les Brigittines (Western, 11min walk)

Light lunch options

La Pizza e Bella (Italian, 6min walk)
Chateau Moderne (Western, 8min walk)
Plein Publiek (Western, 9min walk)
Vinomania (Tapas, 16min walk)
Wolf (Food sharing, 19min walk or 13 by bus)
Frites Atelier (Belgian, 21min walk or 17 by bus)
Brasserie Surrealiste (Western, 24min walk or 15 by bus)
Cheval Marin (Western, 28min walk or 17 by bus)

Coffee bars near Egmont Palace

JAT (1min walk)
Tich (1min walk)
Golden Bean (1min walk)
Bouche (2min walk)
Café du Sablon (2min walk)

Rooftops in Brussels

Warwick (12min walk)
The Eight Rooftop (13min walk)
Beursschouwburg (19min walk)
Rooftop 58 (21min walk)

3.2. For virtual participants

Livestream

All meeting sessions (Day 1: from 09:15 to 18:15 and Day 2: from 09:30 to 16:20) will be livestreamed via Microsoft Teams.

Links to the livestream

Confirmed virtual participants will receive the relevant Teams links in a separate email.

Naming convention

For purposes of verification, please display your name in the following format:

Name (Country or organization you are from)

For example: David SMITH (Belgium)

Interventions

Except for the speakers who will join virtually, online interventions are reserved for the Q&A (15 min) at the end of each of the panels.

To intervene during the Microsoft Teams session, participants can follow these simple instructions:

1) Raise your hand: If you wish to speak or intervene during the session, the first step is to raise your hand virtually. Locate the "Raise Hand" button typically found in the toolbar at the bottom of the screen. Click on it to indicate that you have something to contribute or a question to ask.

2) Wait for recognition: After raising your hand, wait for the session moderator to acknowledge you. They may do this verbally or through the platform's acknowledgment feature, which could include unmuting your microphone or giving you permission to speak.

3) Be prepared to speak and engage responsibly: Once recognized, be ready to speak or present your point. Ensure your microphone is unmuted and your camera is on if necessary. Keep your intervention concise and relevant to the ongoing discussion. Remember to engage in the discussion respectfully and adhere to any guidelines or rules set by the session moderator.

4) Lower your hand: After you have spoken or your intervention is complete, remember to lower your hand using the same button you used to raise it. This informs the moderator that you no longer wish to speak or intervene.

Simultaneous interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French. We do not foresee interpretation for any bilateral meetings.

Additional notes

We suggest using a wired internet connection for optimal live virtual participation. You may check your internet speed by conducting an internet speed test online via <https://www.speedtest.net/>. Ensure that your upload speed exceeds 8Mbps to prevent any potential issues with slow connection speeds.

4. SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

SPEAKERS



Hadja Lahbib

Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural Institutions, Belgium

Minister Hadja Lahbib is the current Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural Institutions of

Belgium since July 2022. She is also the president of the Benelux and Nordic countries and the EU's rotating presidency in 2024.



Bernard Quintin

Director General a.i. for European Affairs and Coordination, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Belgium

Bernard Quintin is a Belgian diplomat and the current Director general a.i. for European Affairs and Coordination at the FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation since December 2023. He has a distinguished

career in diplomacy and international relations. He was previously Director, Deputy Managing Director for Africa at the European External Action Service. He holds a Degree in History and a master's degree in international politics.



Valdis Dombrovskis

Executive Vice-President and Trade Commissioner for the EU, European Commission

Valdis Dombrovskis is Executive Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for an Economy that Works for People, also in charge of Trade. Before this, he was Vice-President responsible for the euro, social dialogue, financial services and Capital Markets Union. He was Latvia's longest-serving head of gov-

ernment with three terms as prime minister. He has been Finance Minister, Member of the Latvian Parliament and European Parliament. Before politics, he was chief economist at the Bank of Latvia; research assistant at Mainz University, the Institute of Solid-State Physics in Latvia and University of Maryland.



Maria Martin-Prat

Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission

Maria Martin-Prat is Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General responsible for Trade Policy in the European Commission. She is currently responsible for Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Caribbean. She is also responsible for Sustainable Development and Green Deal Trade related issues, Services and Digital Trade, Investment and Intellectual Property. Before her current post, Maria Martin-Prat was Director in DG Trade. Prior to that, she was consecutively Head

of Unit responsible for Free Movement of Services and Freedom of Establishment, and Head of the Copyright Unit in the European Commission. She was a Member of Commissioner Joaquin Almunia's Cabinet. Ms Martin-Prat also worked as a lawyer in the private sector and in the European Parliament. Ms Martin-Prat is admitted as a solicitor in Spain and has two postgraduate degrees in European Law.



Anna Joubin-Bret

Secretary, UNCITRAL

Anna Joubin-Bret is the Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the Director of the International Trade Law Division in the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations. Prior to her appointment, Anna practiced law in Paris, specializing in International

Investment Law and Arbitration, as counsel and arbitrator. Prior to 2011, she was a Senior Legal Adviser with UNCTAD. She holds a DEA in Private International Law and a Masters Degree in International Economic Law from Paris I and a Bachelor Degree in Political Science.



Shane Spelliscy

Chair, UNCITRAL Working Group III, and Director-General, Trade Law Bureau, Canada and Deputy Legal Adviser, Global Affairs Canada

Shane Spelliscy is currently the Director General of the Trade Law Bureau of Canada and the Deputy Legal Adviser at Global Affairs Canada. As the Director General, he is the Government's most senior international trade lawyer, responsible for all international trade related legal advice. He joined the Trade Law Bureau in 2008. He has provided advice on Canada's obligations under its trade and investment treaties and served as counsel in trade and investment treaty negotiations

and disputes. He has acted as Canada's delegate at UNCITRAL since 2008, including with respect to the revision of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, the development of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency, and the negotiation of the Mauritius Convention on Transparency in Treaty-Based ISDS. In November 2017, he was elected by the Member States of UNCITRAL as the Chair of Working Group III, which has been tasked with considering possible reforms in the field of ISDS.



Nicolas Angelet

Professor of International Law, Université Libre de Bruxelles and Ghent University

Nicolas Angelet is a professor of international law at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and Ghent University, Belgium. He is a member of the ICSID panel of conciliators (designated by Belgium) and of the ICSID panel of arbi-

trators (designated by Burundi). He is also an attorney at the Brussels Bar and an Associate Tenant of Doughty Street Chambers, practicing public international law, including investment law.



Vincent Beyer

Associate Expert in Legal Affairs International Investments, Agreements Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD

Vincent Beyer first joined UNCTAD's IIA Section in early 2020 as a consultant. In his current capacity as Associate Expert he advises governments on investment treaty-related matters. He also contributes to UNCTAD's research and policy advice in publications such as the annual World Investment Report, IIA issues notes, and other high-profile outputs. Vincent holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in international law from the Netherlands and Switzerland as well as a PhD

in public international law from the Geneva Graduate Institute. Prior to joining UNCTAD, he worked in private practice, representing States in WTO disputes, and for the Journal of International Economic Law. Vincent has previously taught international investment law at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. His research on tax, trade and investment has been published in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes.



Catharine Titi

Tenured Research Associate Professor at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the CERSA, University Paris-Panthéon-Assas

Catharine Titi, Driur., FCIArb, is a tenured Research Associate Professor at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)-CERSA, University Paris-Panthéon-Assas. She is Deputy Chair of the Academic Forum on ISDS and she serves on the Board of the European Society of International Law (ESIL), the Academic Council of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA), and the Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Chair on Threats to Cultural Heritage. She is

a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, she sits on the panel of arbitrators of the Court of Arbitration for Art (CAfA), and she is appointed to the roster of USMCA Annex 31-B panellists. She holds a PhD from the University of Siegen (Summa cum laude, Rolf Brunswig Prize). In 2016, Catharine was awarded the prestigious Smit-Lowenfeld Prize of the International Arbitration Club of New York. Her working languages are English, French, Greek, and Spanish.



Amandine Van den Berghe

Senior Lawyer - Value Chains, Trade and Investment, ClientEarth

Amandine Van den Berghe joined ClientEarth in September 2018 to work on the intersection between trade and environment. Amandine's role is focused on exploring how international trade and investment rules and emerging due diligence laws can be used to address the negative environmental and social impacts of European consumption, trade flows and investment structures.

Amandine leads ClientEarth advocacy on the proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. Through her work at ClientEarth, Amandine has also published on and actively participated in a number of trade negotiations and investment law reform processes, including CETA, the EU-Mercosur trade agreement, UNCITRAL and the Energy Charter Treaty.



Natalie Morris-Sharma

Director, Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers/Rapporteur UNCITRAL Working Group III

Ms Natalie Morris-Sharma advises and represents the Government on international law issues, including on international economic law, health law, the law of international organisations, and the law of the sea. Her previous capacities include as Director of the International Legal Division of Singapore's Ministry of Law, and Legal Advisor to Singapore's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Ms Morris-Sharma has participated in and led several bilateral and multilateral negotiations, including for bilateral and regional trade

and investment agreements, as well as for the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency. She served as Chairperson of UNCITRAL Working Group II (Dispute Settlement) for its work on mediation, including the Singapore Convention on Mediation; and chaired the UNCITRAL Commission meeting that adopted the mandate for ISDS Reform. She has served as head of delegation to meetings of the Hague Conference and ASEAN. Ms Morris-Sharma is currently Rapporteur to UNCITRAL Working Group III on ISDS Reform.



Isabelle Van Damme

Partner at Van Bael & Bellis and Visiting Professor at the College of Europe

Dr Isabelle Van Damme is a Partner at Van Bael & Bellis, with a practice covering WTO/FTA law, EU law and public international law. Isabelle regularly advises governments and industry and represents States and individuals before international and regional courts and tribunals, including FTA panels, WTO panels, the Appellate Body and the Court of Justice of the European Union. Isabelle also advises governments and corporations on all aspects of the negotiation and implementation of preferential trade agreements and investment agreements. Isabelle serves as the Executive Vice-President of the Society of International Economic Law and teaches

EU trade law and policy at the College of Europe in Bruges. She previously worked as a référendaire in the chambers of Advocate General Sharpston at the Court of Justice of the European Union. Her main publications include a monograph on Treaty Interpretation by the WTO Appellate Body (OUP) and A Commentary on the WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement (CUP). She is also a co-editor of the first and second editions of The Oxford Handbook of International Trade Law (OUP). On 23 June 2022, the European Commission published its appointment of Isabelle to the "List of Candidates for Appointment as Arbitrators and TSD Experts".



Michael Imran Kanu

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations

Dr. Michael Imran Kanu is Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations in New York. He previously served as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations in New York.

He presently coordinates/leads several processes at the UN, including the African Group legal experts on Investor-States Dispute Settlement (ISDS) reform negotiations ongoing in Working Group III of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.



Alejandro Buvinic

Head of Division, Services, Investments & Digital Economy, Chile

Mr. Alejandro Buvinic currently serves as the Head of the Investment, Services, and Digital Economy Department within the Undersecretariat of International Economic Affairs of Chile. Prior to undertaking this role, he held key positions, including Head of the Pacific Alliance

Division, General Director of Trade Promotion of Chile (ProChile), and Head of the Regulatory Department, among others, throughout his three decades of professional experience in trade and investment-related matters.



Alexis Choquet

Deputy Head of International Trade and Investment Unit

Part of the French Delegation in UNCITRAL Working Group III since the 46th session, Alexis has been involved for a short time in the discussions on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform. However, as a former International Investment Law and Investment Arbitration student, She has been touching upon the subject for several years. Besides, Alexis worked at the Investment Division of the OECD on Investment treaties analysis.

She joined the French Treasury in 2023, in her current capacity, she is also following the discussions on the Future of Investment treaties at the OECD Investment Committee and participating in the EU investment-oriented negotiations as the French delegate in the Council discussions at the technical level (TPCSI: Trade Policy Committee – Services and Investment).



Kexian Ng

State Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

Kexian is State Counsel at the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers of the Republic of Singapore. She advises the Singapore Government on all matters on public international law, including trade and investment, the environment, human rights, and international organisations. On Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) reform, she is a member of the Singapore delegation to UNCITRAL Working Group III, and participated in updating the ICSID Rules and Regulations 2022. She has served as legal counsel to the Singapore Government for negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement,

the ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement, and the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement upgrade. Kexian holds an LLM from Columbia Law School where she graduated as a James Kent Scholar for outstanding academic achievement, and an LLB (Hons) from the University of Bristol. Prior to her current role, Kexian was a Senior Associate at Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP, where she practised international arbitration and commercial litigation. She has also worked in legal roles in Myanmar and Cambodia, and is familiar with the legal landscape in these countries. She is admitted to the bars in Singapore, England and Wales, and New York.



Joost Pauwelyn

Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute

Joost Pauwelyn is Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, where he is also the Director of the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI). He is the Founding President of TradeLab and Founding Co-Director of the Geneva Trade Platform. He is a member of the ICSID Panel of Conciliators (appointed by Belgium). In 2020, he was appointed to the WTO's pool of MPIA appeal

arbitrators (proposed by the EU).

Joost was previously the Murase Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown University (2014-2021), a tenured professor at Duke Law School, served as Senior Advisor with King & Spalding and as legal officer at the WTO. From 2015 to 2020, he was Co-Editor in Chief of the Journal of International Economic Law. Joost received degrees from the Universities of Namur, Leuven, Oxford and Neuchâtel.



Deborah Aba Aikins

First Secretary and Legal Advisor, Permanent Mission to the United Nations and other International Organizations, Ghana

Ms. Deborah Aba Aikins is a Diplomat, solicitor and barrister of the Supreme Court of Ghana and a member of the Ghana Bar Association. She is currently the First Secretary and Legal Advisor of Ghana's Permanent Mission to The United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna. As part of her current work, she negotiates on behalf of the Republic of Ghana on various UN Bodies including United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), United Nations Industrial Development Organization

(UNIDO). She is also the Government official responsible for Ghana-Austria bilateral relations, trade, investment and Economic cooperation. She offers advice and makes recommendations on policy areas and international law issues for the consideration of Government. She worked as an assistant Director at the legal, treaties and consular Bureaus prior to taking up her duty tour in Vienna. Ms. Aikins serves as a Vice-Chair of UNCITRAL Commission.



Kraijakr Thiratayakinant

Counsellor, Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Dr. Kraijakr Thiratayakinant works at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand since 2011. He has been part of Thailand's negotiation team for several free trade agreements and international investment agreements, and most recently the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework in 2023. He also regularly gives lectures on WTO law, international investment law and ASEAN economic law at Fac-

ulties of law, Chulalongkorn University and Thammasat University, and publishes a legal text book on international trade law on services as well as a number journal articles. Dr. Kraijakr Thiratayakinant graduated B.A. and L.L.M. from Cambridge University and Ph.D. from the London School of Economic and Political Science (LSE).



Margie-Lys Jaime

Legal Adviser, Office of Investment Arbitration, Republic of Panama

Dr. Jaime is a legal adviser at the Minister of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Panama, Office of Investment Arbitration. In this capacity, she participates at UNCITRAL Working Group III on ISDS reform. She is a Professor of Law at the University of Panama, and a qualified arbitrator, mediator, and conciliator. Dr. Jaime has been appointed to the list of Conciliators and Arbitrators of ICSID by the Republic of Panama (2022-2028).

Dr. Jaime received her PhD in Law and LLM in International Economic Affairs Law from the University of Paris II (Pantheon-Assas), an LLM in Arbitration and International Business Law from the University of Versailles (France), and an LLM in International Business and Economic Law with a Certificate in WTO Studies from Georgetown University Law Center, Washington D.C.



Nora Bellec

Legal Officer, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission

Nora Bellec is a legal officer at the European Commission in DG Trade Unit F.3 which deals with legal aspects of trade and sustainable development and investment. In particular, Ms. Bellec follows Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) files, from the negotiation of ISDS provisions in Investment Protection Agreements between the European Union and trade partners, to the participation

in UNCITRAL Working Group III to develop ISDS reform. Previous positions of Ms. Bellec included working as a policy advisor at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in the Directorate of Economic diplomacy, and being a lawyer in international arbitration at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP in Paris.



Karin Kizer

Attorney Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State, United States

Karin L. Kizer is an Attorney Adviser in the Office of the Legal Adviser's Office of Private International Law at the U.S. Department of State, where she represents the United States on a variety of international commercial, arbitration, and investment legal matters at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the International Institute on the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and the Hague Conference on Private International Law. For over a decade during her tenure in the Office of the Legal Adviser's Office of Economics and Business, she advised senior officials on

the negotiation of U.S. bilateral investment treaties and investment chapters of U.S. free trade agreements and on U.S. government positions in arbitrations under these agreements. She also advised Department policy officials on inward and outward investment matters, including the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). She served in the State Department's Office of International Claims and Investment Disputes. She previously practiced law in Washington, DC, specializing in international arbitration and trade law.



Eric De Brabandere

Professor of international dispute settlement (Leiden University) and Attorney at the Brussels Bar (Partner DMDB Law)

Eric De Brabandere is an international lawyer, with special expertise in international investment law and arbitration, and international dispute settlement. He holds the chair of international dispute settlement at Leiden University, where he also serves as Director of the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies. He is founding partner of DMDB Law in Brussels. His practice focuses on serving as arbitrator, and

expert work. He has been appointed as presiding arbitrator, sole arbitrator, and co-arbitrator in international commercial arbitrations, acts as expert in international proceedings, and advises on international commercial arbitration, investment law and arbitration, and public international law. He is Visiting Professor at the University of Makeni in Sierra Leone, and at Bocconi University in Milan.



Aime Kasenga Tshibungu

Deputy National Coordinator of the CTR, Ministry of Finance, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Aimé Kasenga Tshibungu is currently the Deputy National Coordinator of the CTR within the Ministry of Finance of the Democratic

Republic of the Congo. Holding expertise in economic and environmental matters.



Reuben East

Deputy Director Investment Trade Policy Division, Global Affairs, Canada

Reuben East is Deputy-Director (Investment Trade Policy) at Global Affairs Canada. Prior to his current role, he was Counsellor (Trade & Economic Policy) at Canada's Mission to the European Union in Brussels. Reuben has over fifteen years of experience as a senior international trade negotiator and as senior counsel for the Government of Canada, including as deputy-lead negotiator (Trade Remedies) for Canada-United States-Mexico

Agreement (CUSMA), as senior counsel for the CPTPP and as lead negotiator for Investor-State Dispute Settlement for CETA. Reuben has also played a leading role in some of the highest profile NAFTA Chapter Eleven arbitration cases. Reuben holds a M.A. International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, a LL.B from the University of Ottawa and a B.A from the University of King's College.

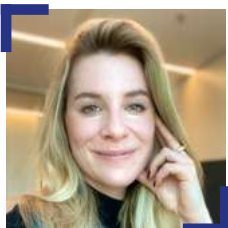


Soyoung Park

Deputy Director, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea

As Deputy Director in the International Dispute Settlement Division of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea, Soyoung manages ISDS cases and contribute to UNCI-

TRAL WG3 discussions as part of the ROK delegation. Before joining the Ministry of Justice, Soyoung served as an in-house lawyer, gaining valuable experience in corporate law.



Laura Janssen

Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands

After a career in the field of international tax law, Laura joined the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as senior policy advisor. Responsible for the Dutch policy regarding investment protection, she represents the Netherlands at the EU council working group Trade Policy Committee, Services and Investments, and in multilateral fora such as

UNCITRAL WG III. Laura is also part of the Dutch negotiation team for bilateral Investment Protection Agreements. Her mission is to contribute to a more transparent, justifiable and balanced investment protection regime and to enhance the modernization of the existing Dutch investment protection treaties.



Aurélia Antonietti

Senior Legal Adviser, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

Ms. Aurélia Antonietti serves as Senior Legal Adviser at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and is the Team Leader for the francophone team. She has served as Secretary of the Tribunal in various arbitral proceedings in the field of investment arbitration. She has previously worked in the field of commercial and investment arbitration as an associate with the law firm of

Gide Loyrette Nouel in Paris, France, Schellenberg-Wittmer and Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler in Geneva, Switzerland. She holds degrees from Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas (DEA), University College London (LL.M.) and The George Washington University Law School (LL.M.). She is admitted to the Paris Bar and to practice law in the State of New York and as solicitor in England and Wales.



Christophe Payot

Director EU Trade Policy Unit & WTO, Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Christophe Payot is the Director of the EU Trade Policy and World Trade Organisation department at the Belgian Foreign Ministry. In this role, he actively coordinates Belgium's stance in trade policy discussions. During the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, he chairs the EU Trade Policy Committee, which advises and assists the European Commission in negotiating agreements on behalf of the EU with third countries or within international organisations. With a rich background in diplomacy, Mr. Payot has undertaken various significant roles, including serving as Ambassador of Belgium to Qatar, Deputy

Chief of Mission in Washington and Advisor to the Foreign Minister with a focus on EU Foreign policy, multilateral affairs, and the Middle East. He also held roles as Deputy Head of Mission in Pakistan and oversaw Belgium's Diplomatic Representation in Afghanistan. He was also posted to the Belgian Mission to the United Nations in New York during Belgium's 5th mandate in the Security Council. Mr. Payot is an alumnus of the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), where he obtained his degree in Political Sciences, and the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), where he pursued a Master in Financial Economics.



Laurence Bielen

Policy Advisor, EU & Multilateral Investment Files, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Belgium

For the past six years, Ms. Laurence Bielen has served as a policy advisor in the unit for EU Trade Policy & WTO at the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. Ms. Laurence Bielen is responsible for EU and multilateral investment files, ranging from investment protection, investment facilitation and screening of investments, as well as trade relations with Australia and New Zea-

land. She is currently Chair of the Trade Policy Committee Services & Investment during the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and is the national delegate at UNCITRAL Working Group III. Ms. Laurence Bielen holds degrees in Political Science and International Relations from the Catholic University of Leuven, Ghent University and SciencePo Aix.

SIDE EVENT SPEAKERS



Tomoko Ishikawa

Professor, Nagoya University, Graduate School of International Development (Japan)

Tomoko Ishikawa is Professor at Nagoya University in Japan. She has served as an ICSID (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes) Conciliator, appointed by the Chairman of the Administrative Council (2017–2023), a member of the Legal Advisory Committee of the Energy Charter Treaty, an arbitrator at Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration, and a mediator at the Kyoto International Mediation Centre. Her professional experiences include serving as an Associate Judge at Tokyo District Court and holding the position of Deputy Director at the International Legal Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, where she worked on bilateral/trilateral investment treaties, Free Trade Agreements, and WTO

dispute settlement. She holds an LLM from the University of Cambridge (Trinity Hall) and a PhD in Public International Law from University College London. Her research focuses on legal issues that concern international investment and trade, corporate environmental and human rights responsibility as well as climate change governance. Her most recent publication includes Tomoko Ishikawa, *Corporate Environmental Responsibility in Investor-State Dispute Settlement: The Unexhausted Potential of Current Mechanisms* (Cambridge University Press, 2022) and Tomoko Ishikawa and Yarik Kryvoi (eds.), *Public and Private Governance of Cybersecurity: Challenges and Potential* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).



Jessica Di Maria

Advisor, Tax Treaty Unit, OECD

Jessica has joined the OECD's Treaty Unit in 2015 to work on the development of the BEPS Multilateral Instrument (MLI). She has since been an advisor in the Unit and led the Unit's work on the BEPS MLI and the Action 6 peer review on treaty abuse. More recently, she led the negotiation of the new multilat-

eral instrument that will facilitate the implementation of the Pillar Two subject to tax rule. A Canadian and Italian national, Jessica is a member of the Quebec Bar, and holds a law degree from the University of Montreal and master's degrees in taxation from HEC Montréal and the Wirtschaftsuniversität.



Jae Sung Lee

Secretary of Working Group III, Senior Legal Officer, UNCITRAL Secretariat

Jae Sung Lee is a senior legal officer at the International Trade Law Division of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, which functions as the substantive secretariat for UNCITRAL. He currently functions as the secretary of Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform and has served as secretary of working groups on dispute set-

tlement, secured transactions and electronic commerce. A Korean national, Jae Sung is a graduate of Seoul National University College of Law, holds LL.M. degrees from Seoul National University Graduate School of International Studies and NYU School of Law as well as a Ph.D. in Law from Seoul National University.



Judith Knieper

Secretary of Working Group II, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL Secretariat

Judith Knieper is a legal officer at the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in Vienna. She is the Secretary of Working Group II on

Dispute Settlement, also services Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform and is responsible for Mediation.



Hana Doumal

Associate Legal Officer, UNCITRAL Secretariat

Hana is a member of the UNCITRAL Secretariat. Prior to joining the Working Group III team, she served in the arbitration sector at leading international firms and arbitral institutions in the British Virgin Islands, Hong

Kong, Washington, D.C. and Paris. Hana has experience in commercial arbitration and investor-State arbitration, working in English, French and Spanish.

