



# CRCICA Response to COVID-19

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# CRCICA's Response to COVID-19

## Objectives and Considerations

- The COVID-19 crisis brought about a wave of new issues that affect the administration of arbitral proceedings. While it is true that Egypt never instituted a full lockdown, CRCICA tailored its response to balance the following:

Safety  
Concerns

Avoid  
disruption  
of  
proceedin  
gs

Due  
Process



# CRCICA Response to COVID-19

## **CRCICA Measures**

- In its response to COVID-19, CRCICA has encouraged its users (arbitrators, parties and counsels alike) to privilege electronic means, both for hearings and submissions. Where hard copies are necessary, CRCICA was open first once a week and, since late April, twice a week. CRCICA has also allowed physical hearings to take place at its premises, with a requirement that parties send no more than 2 representatives, in order to maintain a safe distance between attendees and the possibility of holding virtual hearings.
- Since June, the Centre is open to the public 3 days a week, while maintaining its original requirement that in-person appearances at the Centre be limited to those strictly necessary, and that hearings should remain remote wherever possible.
- Further internal safety measures included dividing CRCICA's 35 personnel members into two groups, neither group coming into contact with the other so as to ensure the continued running of the Centre's services in the event of a COVID positive case in either group.

# CRCICA Response to COVID-19

## Hearings

- To ensure maximum use of virtual and remote hearings, the Centre offers the possibility of using one of two video-conferencing platforms or a teleconferencing platform, for those cases where internet connectivity may be an issue and more generally for optimum sound quality.
- From a technical point of view, the Centre provides users with the video-conferencing link, which is set up according to the specific needs of each hearing. The video-conference link is tested 24 hours prior to work out any issues and to ensure that all participants are able to get on the call. IT personnel is also logged into to hearings to troubleshoot any issues in real time during the hearing itself.

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## Hearings

- In some cases, parties have preferred partial remote attendance or have attended in greater numbers than the per-room limit set by the Centre:
  - Partial Remote Attendance: hearings have gone smoothly and have allowed the efficient examination of witnesses and experts;
  - Greater Number of Attendees: excess attendees were seated in a separate hearing room that was connected to the main hearing room via video-conference, allowing the Centre to maintain social distancing guidelines while ensuring due process.





THE CAIRO REGIONAL  
CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION  
مركز القاهرة الإقليمي  
للتحكيم التجاري الدولي

40 YEARS  
1979-2019  
ANNIVERSARY

[crica.org/40th](http://crica.org/40th)





**CRCICA**

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