

## Comments of the Government of Armenia

regarding the Summary of the first meeting on the operationalization of the Advisory Centre on International Investment Dispute Resolution submitted by the Government of Thailand

February 2025

Armenia is grateful to the Government of Thailand for preparing the summary of the first operationalization meeting of the Advisory Centre. Below are Armenia's comments on the summary.

With respect to **paragraph 15**, which states: *"It was mentioned that the willingness of the host State or Government to contribute financially to the setting up of the Advisory Centre and its sustainable operation (including by providing the premises and other infrastructure) would be important factors to consider"*, Armenia wishes to clarify that in addition to financial contributions, the Armenian delegation also highlighted **expertise and specialized support**. With reference to paragraph 23 of the [background paper](#) on *"Criteria to determine the location of the headquarters and regional offices"*, which notes that *"the presence of expertise in investment dispute resolution, including technical and financial expertise, would be advantageous"*, Armenia stated that *"selecting a host country with expertise in ISDS within its government, ICSID membership, and experience in handling ISDS cases will contribute significantly to the Centre's success. Such a host state would not only understand the Centre's operations better but also provide tailored and informed support"*.

With respect to **paragraph 16**, which states: *"It was highlighted that the Advisory Centre should be easily accessible to Members, particularly its main beneficiaries, both in the geographical and economic sense"*, the Armenian delegation proposed that **affordability should be a distinct criterion**: *"We believe it is essential to distinguish between the geographical accessibility of the host state and affordability, as both are critical criteria for determining the Centre's location. Moreover, accessibility is already a broad criterion with several sub-elements (proximity to developing and least developed states, dispute resolution venues, etc.) and including affordability—an important distinct criterion—under accessibility would make it excessively broad"*.

With respect to **paragraph 17**, which states: *"It was said that the success of the Advisory Centre would depend on the quality of its legal services and its location should be able to attract talented personnel to deliver satisfactory services to its clients"*, Armenia did not object to including the ability to attract talented personnel as a factor in selecting the headquarters. However, Armenia suggested assigning it less weight, as numerous other factors may influence an individual's decision to work in a particular city.

With respect to **paragraph 18**, the summary states: *"It was generally felt that the number of ISDS claims against respondent States in a specific region was not critical in determining the location, as such figures would likely change over time"*. However, Armenia suggested that **proximity to states and regions with a higher number of ISDS claims be considered under the accessibility criterion**.

With respect to **paragraph 22**, which states:

*“Similarly, calls were made for Governments that have expressed such interest to provide additional information on the support they could provide in hosting the Advisory Centre, including financial and in-kind support (for example, premises, information and communications technology equipment, furniture, and office supplies). In that context, the Governments of Thailand and the Democratic Republic of the Congo announced their willingness to provide voluntary contributions for hosting the Advisory Centre in their respective States.”*

Armenia wishes to clarify that, with reference to paragraph 25 of the [background paper](#) on the *budget and financing of the Advisory Centre*, the Armenian delegation has **expressed its willingness to cover the installation costs** for establishing the Advisory Centre and to provide **its premises free of charge**. Considering that, pursuant to paragraph 7, installation costs include *“information and communications technology equipment, furniture, and office supplies,”* Armenia has therefore committed to covering these expenses, too.