

I. Examples of provisions on early dismissal and preliminary determination

A. International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) Rules of Procedure for Arbitration Proceedings (Arbitration Rules)

Rule 41 Preliminary Objections

(1) Any objection that the dispute or any ancillary claim is not within the jurisdiction of the Centre or, for other reasons, is not within the competence of the Tribunal shall be made as early as possible. A party shall file the objection with the Secretary-General no later than the expiration of the time limit fixed for the filing of the counter-memorial, or, if the objection relates to an ancillary claim, for the filing of the rejoinder—unless the facts on which the objection is based are unknown to the party at that time.

(2) The Tribunal may on its own initiative consider, at any stage of the proceeding, whether the dispute or any ancillary claim before it is within the jurisdiction of the Centre and within its own competence.

(3) Upon the formal raising of an objection relating to the dispute, the Tribunal may decide to suspend the proceeding on the merits. The President of the Tribunal, after consultation with its other members, shall fix a time limit within which the parties may file observations on the objection.

(4) The Tribunal shall decide whether or not the further procedures relating to the objection made pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be oral. It may deal with the objection as a preliminary question or join it to the merits of the dispute. If the Tribunal overrules the objection or joins it to the merits, it shall once more fix time limits for the further procedures.

(5) Unless the parties have agreed to another expedited procedure for making preliminary objections, a party may, no later than 30 days after the constitution of the Tribunal, and in any event before the first session of the Tribunal, file an objection that a claim is manifestly without legal merit. The party shall specify as precisely as possible the basis for the objection. The Tribunal, after giving the parties the opportunity to present their observations on the objection, shall, at its first session or promptly thereafter, notify the parties of its decision on the objection. The decision of the Tribunal shall be without prejudice to the right of a party to file an objection pursuant to paragraph (1) or to object, in the course of the proceeding, that a claim lacks legal merit.

(6) If the Tribunal decides that the dispute is not within the jurisdiction of the Centre or not within its own competence, or that all claims are manifestly without legal merit, it shall render an award to that effect.

* Proposed rules 41 and 43 (Working Paper #5 - June 2021)

Rule 41 Manifest Lack of Legal Merit

(1) A party may object that a claim is manifestly without legal merit. The objection may relate to the substance of the claim, the jurisdiction of the Centre, or the competence of the Tribunal. (2) The following procedure shall apply:

(a) a party shall file a written submission no later than 45 days after the constitution of the Tribunal;

(b) the written submission shall specify the grounds on which the objection is based and contain a statement of the relevant facts, law and arguments;

(c) the Tribunal shall fix time limits for submissions on the objection;

(d) if a party files the objection before the constitution of the Tribunal, the Secretary-General shall fix time limits for written submissions on the objection, so that the Tribunal may consider the objection promptly upon its constitution; and

(e) the Tribunal shall render its decision or Award on the objection within 60 days after the later of the constitution of the Tribunal or the last submission on the objection.

(3) If the Tribunal decides that all claims are manifestly without legal merit, it shall render an Award to that effect. Otherwise, the Tribunal shall issue a decision on the objection and fix any time limit necessary for the further conduct of the proceeding.

(4) A decision that a claim is not manifestly without legal merit shall be without prejudice to the right of a party to file a preliminary objection pursuant to Rule 43 or to argue subsequently in the proceeding that a claim is without legal merit.

Rule 43 Preliminary Objections

(1) A party may file a preliminary objection that the dispute or any ancillary claim is not within the jurisdiction of the Centre or for other reasons is not within the competence of the Tribunal (“preliminary objection”).

(2) A party shall notify the Tribunal and the other party of its intent to file a preliminary objection as soon as possible.

(3) The Tribunal may at any time on its own initiative consider whether a dispute or an ancillary claim is within the jurisdiction of the Centre or within its own competence.

(4) The Tribunal may address a preliminary objection in a separate phase of the proceeding or join the objection to the merits. It may do so upon request of a party pursuant to Rule 44 or at any time on its own initiative, in accordance with the procedure in Rule 44(2)-(4).

B. Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) Arbitration Rules 2016

Rule 29 Early Dismissal of Claims and Defences

29.1 A party may apply to the Tribunal for the early dismissal of a claim or defence on the basis that:

- a. a claim or defence is manifestly without legal merit; or
- b. a claim or defence is manifestly outside the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.

29.2 An application for the early dismissal of a claim or defence under Rule 29.1 shall state in detail the facts and legal basis supporting the application. The party applying for early dismissal shall, at the same time as it files the application with the Tribunal, send a copy of the application to the other party, and shall notify the Tribunal that it has done so, specifying the mode of service employed and the date of service.

29.3 The Tribunal may, in its discretion, allow the application for the early dismissal of a claim or defence under Rule 29.1 to proceed. If the application is allowed to proceed, the Tribunal shall, after giving the parties the opportunity to be heard, decide whether to grant, in whole or in part, the application for early dismissal under Rule 29.1.

29.4 If the application is allowed to proceed, the Tribunal shall make an order or Award on the application, with reasons, which may be in summary form. The order or Award shall be made within

60 days of the date of filing of the application, unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Registrar extends the time.

C. Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC) Arbitration Rules 2017

Article 39 Summary procedure

(1) A party may request that the Arbitral Tribunal decide one or more issues of fact or law by way of summary procedure, without necessarily undertaking every procedural step that might otherwise be adopted for the arbitration.

(2) A request for summary procedure may concern issues of jurisdiction, admissibility or the merits. It may include, for example, an assertion that:

- (i) an allegation of fact or law material to the outcome of the case is manifestly unsustainable;
- (ii) even if the facts alleged by the other party are assumed to be true, no award could be rendered in favour of that party under the applicable law; or
- (iii) any issue of fact or law material to the outcome of the case is, for any other reason, suitable to determination by way of summary procedure.

(3) The request shall specify the grounds relied on and the form of summary procedure proposed, and demonstrate that such procedure is efficient and appropriate in all the circumstances of the case.

(4) After providing the other party an opportunity to submit comments, the Arbitral Tribunal shall issue an order either dismissing the request or fixing the summary procedure in the form it deems appropriate.

(5) In determining whether to grant a request for summary procedure, the Arbitral Tribunal shall have regard to all relevant circumstances, including the extent to which the summary procedure contributes to a more efficient and expeditious resolution of the dispute.

(6) If the request for summary procedure is granted, the Arbitral Tribunal shall seek to make its order or award on the issues under consideration in an efficient and expeditious manner having regard to the circumstances of the case, while giving each party an equal and reasonable opportunity to present its case pursuant to Article 23 (2).

D. Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) Administered Arbitration Rules 2018

Article 43 – Early Determination Procedure

43.1 The arbitral tribunal shall have the power, at the request of any party and after consulting with all other parties, to decide one or more points of law or fact by way of early determination procedure, on the basis that:

- (a) such points of law or fact are manifestly without merit; or
- (b) such points of law or fact are manifestly outside the arbitral tribunal's jurisdiction; or
- (c) even if such points of law or fact are submitted by another party and are assumed to be correct, no award could be rendered in favour of that party.

43.2 Any party making a request for early determination procedure shall communicate the request to the arbitral tribunal, HKIAC and all other parties.

43.3 Any request for early determination procedure shall be made as promptly as possible after the relevant points of law or fact are submitted, unless the arbitral tribunal directs otherwise.

43.4 The request for early determination procedure shall include the following:

- (a) a request for early determination of one or more points of law or fact and a description of such points;
- (b) a statement of the facts and legal arguments supporting the request;
- (c) a proposal of the form of early determination procedure to be adopted by the arbitral tribunal;
- (d) comments on how the proposed form referred to in Article 43.4(c) would achieve the objectives stated in Articles 13.1 and 13.5; and
- (e) confirmation that copies of the request and any supporting materials included with it have been or are being communicated simultaneously to all other parties by one or more means of service to be identified in such confirmation.

43.5 After providing all other parties with an opportunity to submit comments on the request, the arbitral tribunal shall issue a decision either dismissing the request or allowing the request to proceed by fixing the early determination procedure in the form it considers appropriate. The arbitral tribunal shall make such decision within 30 days from the date of filing the request. This time limit may be extended by agreement of the parties or, in appropriate circumstances, by HKIAC.

43.6 If the request is allowed to proceed, the arbitral tribunal shall make its order or award, which may be in summary form, on the relevant points of law or fact. The arbitral tribunal shall make such order or award within 60 days from the date of its decision to proceed. This time limit may be extended by agreement of the parties or, in appropriate circumstances, by HKIAC.

43.7 Pending the determination of the request, the arbitral tribunal may decide whether and to what extent the arbitration shall proceed.

E. London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Arbitration Rules 2020

Article 22 - Additional Powers

22.1 The Arbitral Tribunal shall have the power, upon the application of any party or (save for subparagraph (x) below) upon its own initiative, but in either case only after giving the parties a reasonable opportunity to state their views and upon such terms (as to costs and otherwise) as the Arbitral Tribunal may decide:

(viii) to determine that any claim, defence, counterclaim, cross-claim, defence to counterclaim or defence to cross-claim is manifestly outside the jurisdiction of the Arbitral Tribunal, or is inadmissible or manifestly without merit; and where appropriate to issue an order or award to that effect (an "Early Determination");

II. Article 22 of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) 2021 Arbitration Rules and excerpts from Note to Parties and Arbitral Tribunals on the Conduct of the Arbitration (1 January 2021)

ICC 2021 Arbitration Rules

Article 22: Conduct of the Arbitration

- 1) The arbitral tribunal and the parties shall make every effort to conduct the arbitration in an expeditious and cost-effective manner, having regard to the complexity and value of the dispute.
- 2) In order to ensure effective case management, after consulting the parties, the arbitral tribunal shall adopt such procedural measures as it considers appropriate, provided that they are not contrary to any agreement of the parties. Such measures may include one or more of the case management techniques described in Appendix IV.
- 3) Upon the request of any party, the arbitral tribunal may make orders concerning the confidentiality of the arbitration proceedings or of any other matters in connection with the arbitration and may take measures for protecting trade secrets and confidential information.
- 4) In all cases, the arbitral tribunal shall act fairly and impartially and ensure that each party has a reasonable opportunity to present its case.
- 5) The parties undertake to comply with any order made by the arbitral tribunal.

D - Expeditious Determination of Manifestly Unmeritorious Claims or Defences

109. This section includes guidance as to how an application for the expeditious determination of manifestly unmeritorious claims or defences may be addressed within the broad scope of Article 22.

110. Any party may apply to the arbitral tribunal for the expeditious determination of one or more claims or defences, on grounds that such claims or defences are manifestly devoid of merit or fall manifestly outside the arbitral tribunal's jurisdiction ("application"). The application must be made as promptly as possible after the filing of the relevant claims or defences.

111. The arbitral tribunal has full discretion to decide whether to allow the application to proceed, taking into consideration any circumstances it considers to be relevant, including the stage of the proceedings and the need to ensure time and cost efficiency.

112. If the arbitral tribunal allows the application to proceed, it shall promptly adopt the procedural measures it considers appropriate, after consulting the parties. The responding party or parties shall be given a fair opportunity to answer the application. Further presentation of evidence will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.

113. The arbitral tribunal shall decide the application as promptly as possible, consistent with the nature of the application, and may state the reasons for its decision in as concise a fashion as possible. The decision may be in the form of an order or award. In either case, the arbitral tribunal may decide on the costs of the application pursuant to Article 38 or reserve this decision to a later stage.

114. The Court will scrutinise any award made on an application for expeditious determination, typically within one week of receipt by the Secretariat.