

**SIDE EVENTS TO THE WG III SESSION (27–31 March 2023, New York)**

**Post-session events**

<p><b>3 April Monday</b></p>	<p><b>After the Treaty is Signed: How (and Do) States Take Investment Treaty Commitments into Account in Government Decision Making? (12:10 – 13:10 EDT)</b></p>
	<p><b>Organized by the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) and the Columbia International Arbitration Association (CIAA)</b></p> <p><i>Investment treaties are said to improve the rule of law in the states which enter into them. By making host states liable for decisions that fail to meet the treaties' standards, the theory goes, states will take steps to avoid disputes by internalizing their treaty obligations and taking those obligations into account in government decision making. Ultimately, the theory continues, this 'disciplining' effect will lead to improvements in the rule of law and good governance.</i></p> <p><i>Reality is much more complicated, and this seminar tests theory against evidence from case studies examining the experiences and challenges of eight Asian states. In so doing, it provides insights into the factors that influence whether states do or do not internalize international obligations in their decision making and whether they are able to take steps to avoid and prevent investor-state disputes as a result. The findings are based upon the new book by N. Jansen Calamita and Ayelet Berman (ed), <i>Investment Treaties and the Rule of Law Promise: The Internationalization of International Obligations in Asia</i> (Cambridge University Press 2022).</i></p> <p><i>Speakers: Professor N. Jansen Calamita (Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore); Dr. Kabir Duggal (Columbia University Law School).</i></p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Columbia University Law School, 435 West 116<sup>th</sup> St, Jerome Greene Hall, Rm 102B</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><u>Registration</u></a></p>
<p><b>13 April Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>Establishing an Advisory Centre on International Investment Law (12:10 – 13:10 EDT)</b></p>
	<p><b>Organized by the Center for International Commercial and Investment Arbitration and the Columbia Arbitration Day Committee</b></p> <p><i>Over 130 countries have so far faced treaty-based international investment disputes (74 new disputes in 2021 alone), for a total of over 1, 200 such disputes at the end of 2021. (The number is higher if disputes are added that are based on contracts and national laws.) The potential for considerably more disputes is substantial. They typically involve difficult matters of international investment law, are often expensive to handle and can lead to high monetary awards against host countries. Not surprisingly, many developing countries—and especially the least developed among them—typically do not have the human resources to represent themselves as respondents in such disputes, nor do they often have the financial resources to hire international counsel.</i></p> <p><i>In light of this situation, it has been proposed to establish an Advisory Centre on International Investment Law (ACIIL), to assist developing countries—and especially the least developed among them—in dealing with such disputes. It would be an effort to provide (international) legal support, akin to the aid that the Advisory Centre on WTO Law provides to developing countries.</i></p> <p><i>As part of ongoing negotiations on a possible reform of the investor-State dispute settlement regime, numerous members of UNCITRAL Working Group III have identified establishing an Advisory Centre as a desirable reform element. A first round of deliberations regarding the scope, services and financing has already taken place. To further support the discussions in Working Group III, this hybrid event addresses a number of issues that are central to this objective.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><u>Registration</u></a></p>