

EVENTS DURING THE WG III SESSION (22-26 September 2025, Vienna)

22 Sep. Monday	<p>Res judicata, lis pendens and parallel proceedings (12:40 – 13:40)</p> <p>Organized by the Academic Forum on ISDS</p> <p><i>In the context of the ongoing negotiations on reform of investor-state dispute settlement, the Academic Forum on ISDS is organising a side event to the Working Group's 52nd session to address three closely interrelated topics: res iudicata, lis pendens and parallel proceedings. The side event will address these legal principles, the different drafting options that exist in their respect, and the challenges they raise both in light of arbitration and in the design of a standing mechanism.</i></p> <p>Speakers: José Manuel Álvarez Zarate (Universidad Externado de Colombia), Marc Bungenberg (Europa-Institut, Saarland University), Ana María Daza Vargas (Edinburgh Law School, moderator), Catharine Titi (French National Centre for Scientific Research), and Michael Waibel (University of Vienna).</p> <p>Venue: Boardroom D</p>
	<p>An Oxford-Style Debate on the Role of Precedent in the Reformed Version of ISDS (18:00 –19:30)</p> <p>Organized by the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (MPIL)</p> <p>Moderator: Julia Hildebrandt</p> <p>Team 'For the Motion': Martin Jarrett (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law) and Annie Pan (Freshfields)</p> <p>Team 'Against the Motion': Gabriel M. Lentner (University of Krems/Stamford Law School) and Enikő Illes (Austria)</p> <p>Commentator: Angela Ha (Volterra Fietta) (TBC)</p> <p><i>A key concern that prompted the reform process for investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) at UNCITRAL Working Group III was the lack of consistency in arbitral decisions. The meaning of investment-protection standards often appears to vary from tribunal to tribunal, creating uncertainty for both States and investors. Early in the process, many States signalled that greater consistency should be a central objective of reform. One potential solution is the introduction of a formal system of precedent in the reformed version of ISDS. While such a mechanism might deliver the consistency States seek, it might be seen to be giving over legislative power to adjudicators. Moreover, recognising that many domestic legal systems have not adopted a system of precedent, there is an outstanding question whether a system of precedent is appropriate in the international sphere. On the other hand, even in legal systems without a formal doctrine of precedent, a de facto practice often emerges. This raises the question of whether a system of precedent would naturally develop in the reformed version of ISDS and, if so, whether States should now seize the opportunity to regulate how tribunals use prior decisions. This Oxford-style debate will explore these issues, with panellists presenting contrasting views and the audience invited to share their own perspectives.</i></p> <p>Please register via the following email: Client_Events_AT@bakermckenzie.com (Please note that the audience size is limited)</p> <p>Venue: Baker McKenzie (Vienna office), Schottenring 25, 1010 Vienna</p>
23 Sep. Tuesday	<p>Procedural Provisions in Focus: Insights for UNCITRAL WG III (18:00 –20:30)</p> <p>Organized by the Delegation of Bahrain and ICSID</p> <p>6:00 - 6:30 PM: Arrival of participants, food, and refreshments (served throughout the event)</p> <p>6:30 PM - Welcome & Opening Remarks: Professor Marike Paulsson, Secretary-General of the Council for International Dispute Resolution</p> <p>6:45 PM - Opening Remarks: Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCITRAL</p> <p>7:00 PM - Panel Discussion Introduction:</p> <p><i>The discussion will focus on the draft procedural and cross-cutting issues. Provisions currently on the agenda for the 52nd session of UNCITRAL Working Group III. Panellists will share insights from their work with similar provisions under both institutional rules and the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and explore practical considerations for implementing these procedural provisions in investor-State arbitration proceedings. This interactive session offers a unique opportunity to gain perspectives from practitioners at the forefront of international arbitration reform.</i></p> <p>Provisions under Discussion: Draft Provision 5 – 9, Draft Provision 11 – 12 and Draft Provision 21 – 22</p> <p>Moderator: Martina Polasek, Secretary-General of ICSID</p> <p>Proposed Speakers: TBD</p> <p>8:00 PM - Open Floor Discussion / Q&A</p> <p>8:30 PM - Closing Remarks - Professor Marike Paulsson, Secretary-General of the Council for International Dispute Resolution.</p> <p>Venue: Grand Hotel, Körntner Ring 9, 1010 Vienna</p>
24. Sep. Wednesday	<p>Code of Conduct for Arbitrators (12:40 – 13:40)</p> <p>Organized by the American Society of International Law (ASIL)</p> <p><i>The adoption of the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators in International Investment Dispute Resolution is one of the most important accomplishments of WGIII so far. Two years after its adoption and the accompanying commentary by the Commission, this panel will discuss how the Code has impacted ISDS, the changes it has brought to ISDS practice and what steps are still needed to encourage its widespread use by parties, arbitrators and institutions. The panel will also include a presentation of the book "The UNCITRAL Code of Conduct for Arbitrators in International Investment Dispute Resolution: An Article-by-Article Commentary", which was published</i></p>

	<p><i>this month. The panel will be moderated by the editors of the book (Chiara Giorgetti (San Marino) and Michele Potestà (Switzerland)) and speakers will include delegates of WGIII that have contributed to the book (Maria Chiara Malaguti (Italy), Jaroslav Kudrna (Czech Republic), Margie Jaime (Panama) and Tereza Sevcíková (Czech Republic).</i></p> <p><i>The Secretary of UNCITRAL, Anna Joubin-Bret will deliver the introductory remarks and the Secretary-General of ICSID, Martina Polasek, will deliver the closing remarks.</i></p> <p>Venue: Boardroom D</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Friends of the Advisory Centre (FoAC) Reception - Managing Headquarters and Regional Offices: Lesson Learnt from the PCA's Experience (17:10 –19:00)</p> <p><i>Organized by the Permanent Mission of Thailand and France</i></p> <p>Venue: Mozart Room</p>
25. Sep. Thursday	<p style="text-align: center;">Presentation and informal discussion of the proposal from the European Union and its Member States concerning certain issues pertaining to the jurisdiction of the Standing Mechanism (A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.257) (12:40 – 13:40)</p> <p><i>Organized by the European Union and its Member States</i></p> <p><i>The European Union and its Member States invite to a presentation and informal discussion of the proposal submitted by the European Union and its Member States concerning certain issues pertaining to the jurisdiction of the Standing Mechanism. The submission presents suggested language for Articles 14 and 18 of the draft statute of standing mechanism, and addresses issues such as the scope of jurisdiction, exclusive jurisdiction, and the listing of instruments. The goal of this submission is to further assist the Working Group in the discussions relating to jurisdiction, as reflected in A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.256.</i></p> <p>Venue: Boardroom D</p>