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**Operationalization of the Advisory Centre on  
International Investment Dispute Resolution**

## **Road map for the operationalization of the Advisory Centre**

### **I. Introduction**

1. At the first AC-OP meeting, the secretariat was requested to prepare a road map for the operationalization of the Advisory Centre, including a timetable for determining its location(s) (with a deadline for Governments to express their interest to host the Centre) and the necessary steps to be taken ([A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.251](#), para. 20)
2. Further, during the fifty-first session of Working Group III (first part) in February 2025 in New York, the importance of having a road map for the commencement of operations was underscored as facilitating budget planning by potential Members as well as host States ([A/CN.9/1196](#), para. 26).
3. Accordingly, this document sets forth a possible road map for the operationalization of the Advisory Centre. The road map below may be presented to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session in July 2025 for its consideration and adoption.

### **II. Possible road map**

#### **Commission session (mid-July 2025)**

4. At the fifty-eighth session in July 2025, the Commission may take decisions on certain issues relating to the operationalization as an outcome of the second operationalization meeting in Yerevan.

#### **Proposals by Governments to host the Centre (October 2025)**

5. For example, the Commission may wish to make a final call for Governments to express their interest to host the headquarters or a regional office of the Centre and to submit a detailed proposal (including financial commitments) by October 2025. It is expected that the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly would be hearing the report of the Commission in mid-October in New York, which would provide an opportunity for Governments to express their interest through their permanent missions. The Commission may wish to set that date as the deadline for proposals by Governments.

#### **Third AC-OP meeting (December 2025)**

6. As the third AC-OP meeting is scheduled to be held in Paris, France from 1 to 3 December 2025, Governments that had expressed their interest would be invited to make a final presentation to the group, which would be broadcasted online and recorded for future viewing (see also the [webpage](#) of the first AC-OP meeting). Discussions will be based on any actions taken upon by the Commission, including those that have been further identified by the Commission.

#### **Fourth AC-OP meeting (Second quarter of 2026)**

7. Further discussions on issues that have not been fully addressed at the third AC-OP meeting could be held at the fourth AC-OP meeting (to be confirmed) possibly in the spring of 2026. This would allow recommendations to be made to the Commission in 2026.

### **Commission (June/July 2026)**

8. At its fifty-ninth session in summer of 2026, the Commission would aim to finalize the Statute and present it to the General Assembly for its adoption. This would require the Commission to take decision on aspects that have not been finalized in the Statute<sup>1</sup> (in particular (i) classification of Members in article 4(3); (ii) the constitution of the Executive Committee in article 5(5); (iii) the priority of services in article 7(3); (iv) the contributions by members in article 8(3)(b); (v) the location of the headquarters in article 9(2); (vi) the depositary in article 11; (vii) location of the open for signature in article 12; (viii) the thresholds for entry into force in article 12; (ix) annexes and amendments thereto in article 15; and (x) amount of minimum contribution if any). The Commission may make any necessary adjustments to the Statute.

### **Sixth Committee and General Assembly (second half of 2026)**

9. Based on the recommendation by the Commission, the Statute may be adopted by the General Assembly in late 2026. In doing so, the resolution of the General Assembly could indicate how the Statute would interact with the multilateral instrument to implement ISDS reforms (MIIR). It is anticipated that the earliest that the Working Group could present the MIIR to the Commission for its consideration would be at the sixtieth session in 2027. Accordingly, when adopting the Statute, the General Assembly may wish to also decide that the Statute would become a protocol to the MIIR, once it is completed.

### **Statute open for signature (2027)**

10. The Statute could be open for signature once it is translated into all official languages of the United Nations. A signing ceremony could take place at the future location of the Advisory Centre headquarters.

### **Entry into force of the Statute and commencement of full operation**

11. The Statute would enter into force once the threshold in the Statute (including the number of Members) is met. The Advisory Centre will be fully operational when the Statute enters into force.

## **III. Related actions**

12. During the process outlined above and when appropriate, the Commission or the General Assembly could take decisions on the following steps.

### **Finalization of the MIIR**

13. As noted above, it is foreseen that the Statute would form a protocol to the MIIR. The MIIR is being prepared by Working Group III along with a number of other ISDS reform elements. The relationship of the protocol with the MIIR would need to be clarified, for example, whether the MIIR would require States to become parties to the MIIR in order for them to become a party to its protocols.

### **Creation of a trust fund**

14. A trust fund could be established for receiving voluntary contributions to support the operationalization of the Advisory Centre and to support activities encouraging States to become parties to the Statute and to provide contributions. The funds could be transferred to the Advisory Centre once the Statute enters into force and the Advisory Centre is fully operational.

### **Host state agreement and the funding agreements**

15. Negotiations to prepare the host country agreement and any funding arrangements with the host State and other donors could begin. Such arrangements would eventually be concluded by the representative of the Advisory Centre.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/en/2413025e.pdf>.

## Relationship agreement with the United Nations

16. A draft relationship agreement with the United Nations could be prepared and initial discussions could be held with the respective entities within the United Nations.

## Draft decisions of the Governing Committee to be prepared

17. Decisions to be taken at the first meeting of the Governing Committee could be prepared, one such being the establishment of regional offices.

## Interim secretariat

18. Considering the time required for the Statute to enter into force, the establishment of an interim secretariat may be foreseen. Depending on the mandate to be given to that interim secretariat, the above-mentioned actions could also be handled by the interim secretariat. Staff members could be recruited to serve in the interim secretariat. The recruitment of the Executive Director could also begin at a certain stage.

