
**Operationalization of the Advisory Centre on
International Investment Dispute Resolution****Annotated provisional agenda****I. Introduction**

1. In 2024, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (“UNCITRAL” or the “Commission”) finalized and adopted in principle the Statute of the Advisory Centre on International Investment Dispute Resolution (the “Advisory Centre”).¹ The Statute, which consists of 16 articles, sets forth rules on the creation of the Advisory Centre, its objectives, general principles of operation, membership, governance structure, services, financing, legal status and liability and other related issues.²

2. Hereby UNCITRAL has adopted another key reform element, prepared by Working Group III, which had been mandated in 2017 to work on the reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). This reform element fulfils the need for an institution to support countries in responding to investment claims.

3. In its deliberations, Working Group III identified the desirability of establishing the Advisory Centre as a means to address the urgent need to provide training, support and assistance with regard to international investment dispute resolution, in particular to least developed and developing countries, which could enhance the legitimacy of the international investment dispute resolution system more broadly, as well as enhance the capacity of such States and regional economic integration organizations (“REIOs”) to prevent and handle international investment disputes.

4. Working Group III conducted work on the draft statute of an advisory centre during its forty-third, forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions and approved the draft at its forty-eighth session in April 2024. The summary of the deliberations and the relevant working papers can be found at https://uncitral.un.org/en/working_groups/3/investor-state.

5. Upon adopting the Statute in principle, the Commission agreed that the operationalization of the Advisory Centre would require further preparatory work.³

6. The Commission agreed that the basis of the preparatory work should be the Statute and that the work could address issues such as: (a) ways to establish the Advisory Centre within the United Nations system based entirely on extrabudgetary resources; (b) criteria for determining the location of the headquarters and regional offices; (c) the anticipated budget based on potential membership and workload, and the need to ensure sustainable operations; (d) the amount of contributions by Members and methods of payment; (e) objective criteria for classifying States in the annexes; (f) thresholds of membership and contributions for the entry into force of the Statute; and (g)

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly., Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/79/17)*, para.167.

² *Ibid.*, Annex III.

³ *Ibid.*, para. 159.

decisions, rules and regulations to be adopted by the Governing Committee, including staff and financial regulations.⁴

7. The Commission also agreed that in order to facilitate the preparatory work, it would utilize an informal process involving all States and regional economic integration organizations. It was agreed that, as an informal process, no decisions should be made, and efforts should be made to maintain the transparency and inclusiveness of the process by ensuring remote participation and by making a summary of the informal discussions available.⁵

8. The first meeting on the operationalization of the Advisory Centre (“AC-OP meeting”) was held from 2 to 4 December 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand at Siam Kempinski Hotel.⁶ At that meeting, the proposal by the Government of Armenia to host the second AC-OP Meeting in Yerevan from 6 to 8 May 2025 was welcomed.

9. At the first part of the fifty-first session of Working Group III (17-19 February 2025), the summary of the first AC-OP meeting was presented for discussion and exchange of view (A/CN.9/1196, paras. 19-30). In light of the divergence in views, it was agreed that the summary of the second AC-OP meeting could be presented to the Commission at its upcoming session, where the Commission could further discuss whether the summaries of AC-OP meetings, would need to be presented to the Working Group every time for an exchange of views (without needing to take a decision) before the Commission takes any decision related to the possible outcomes of those meetings (A/CN.9/1196, para. 30).

10. The invitations to the second AC-OP Meeting were dispatched on 20 March 2025 to all Member States of the United Nations via a Note Verbale to their Permanent Missions. Invitations were also sent to a number of relevant inter-governmental organizations.

II. Agenda items

11. The second AC-OP meeting will be held at Elite Plaza Business Center from 6 to 8 May 2025. Meeting hours will be from 9:30-12:30 and 14:00-17:00 (UTC+4), except on Tuesday when the meeting will begin at 10:00.

12. The meeting will be chaired by Mr. Shane Spelliscy and Ms. Natalie Yu-Lin Morris-Sharma.⁷

13. The meeting will focus on matters pertaining to: (1) ways to establish the Advisory Centre within the United Nations system; (2) criteria for determining the location of the headquarters and regional offices; (3) classification of Members of the Advisory Centre; (4) budget and financing, including the amount of contributions by Members and methods of payment; (5) thresholds of membership and contributions for the entry into force of the Statute.

⁴ Ibid., para. 158.

⁵ Ibid., para. 159.

⁶ The summary of the first meeting is captured in document [A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.251](#). See also [the webpage of the first meeting](#).

⁷ [A/79/17](#), para. 167. The Commission agreed that the informal process should be led by the bureau of the Commission and the bureau of Working Group III.

14. The following is the suggested scheduling of the discussions.

6 May 2025 (Tuesday)	
10:00	Welcome remarks and opening session
10:30-12:30	Session I: Ways to establish the Advisory Centre within the United Nations system
Lunch	
14:00-17:00	Session II: Criteria for determining the location of the headquarters and regional offices and classification of Members of the Advisory Centre
7 May 2025 (Wednesday)	
9:30-12:30	Session III: Budget and financing of the Advisory Centre including the amount of contributions by Members and methods of payment
Lunch	
14:00-17:00	Session IV: Budget and financing of the Advisory Centre including the amount of contributions by Members and methods of payment (continued)
8 May 2025 (Thursday)	
9:30-12:30	Session V: Thresholds of membership and contributions for the entry into force of the Statute
Lunch	
14:00-17:00	Session VI: Next steps and other business
	Closing session

15. The meeting will be held in hybrid format with interactive virtual participation available. Simultaneous interpretation between English and French will also be provided. Partial travel support may be provided to limited number of participants from developing countries.⁸

Background documentation

16. The Commission requested the secretariat to provide support for the preparatory support work and the informal process, including the preparation of informal documents.⁹ Accordingly, the secretariat will prepare the following documentations to facilitate the discussions on the operationalization of the Advisory Centre.

- AC/OP/BD.6 Annotated provisional agenda
- AC/OP/BD.7 Ways to establish the Advisory Centre within the United Nations system
- AC/OP/BD.8 Criteria to determine the location of the headquarters and regional offices
- AC/OP/BD.9 Classification of the Members of the Advisory Centre
- AC/OP/BD.10 Budget of the Advisory Centre
- AC/OP/BD.11 Financial Frameworks in establishing the Advisory Centre

⁸ Ibid., para.164.

⁹ Ibid.

- [Road map for the establishment of the Advisory Centre]

17. States and REIOs are encouraged to submit additional documents for consideration at the meeting. They will be made available on the dedicated webpage.

Summary of the meeting

18. The summary of the second AC-OP meeting (A/CN.9/1218 (TBC)) will be presented to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session in 2025 along with the summary of the first AC-OP meeting ([A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.251](#)) and the report of the Working Group of its first part of the fifty-first session in February 2025 in New York ([A/CN.9/1196](#)).

Future AC-OP meetings

19. The Government of France expressed its interest to the third AC-OP meeting in Paris tentatively from 1 to 3 December 2025 ([A/CN.9/1196](#), para. 28). The Government of Paraguay also expressed an interest to host an AC-OP meeting in the near future. The secretariat will continue to consult with those Governments.¹⁰

¹⁰ Ibid., para. 165.