

Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement - UNCITRAL

Establishment of an advisory centre

Webinar on 21 April 2020, 2 to 4 pm (Vienna, Austria time), at <http://bit.ly/webinar-advisory-2>

The UNCITRAL Secretariat and the Academic Forum are organizing a webinar on the establishment of an advisory centre with a focus on the potential scope of services and beneficiaries.

The webinar is open for participation to all UNCITRAL Working Group III member and observer States delegations as well as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations with observer status. Please, connect on 21 April 2020 (Tuesday), at 2-4 pm (Vienna, Austria time) at <http://bit.ly/webinar-advisory-2>. No meeting ID or password is required.

Programme

1. Opening of the session (2-2.10pm)

Welcome remarks by Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary, UNCITRAL and Malcolm Langford, Academic Forum

2. General overview of the reform agenda and advisory centre (2.10-2.40pm)

This first part of the webinar will recap the current status of the reform discussions in Working Group III and provide a brief overview of the reform option for the establishment of an advisory centre and its main aspects.

- Status of the reform discussions at Working Group III regarding the advisory centre, by Shane Spelliscy, Chairperson, Working Group III
- Presentation of the main aspects to be considered in the establishment of an advisory centre, by Karl P. Sauvart, Academic Forum member
- Summary of the scoping study prepared by the Columbia Centre for Sustainable Investment (CCSI) on behalf of the Government of The Netherlands, by Brooke S. Guven, CCSI representative

3. Remarks by State delegations and organizations on the possible scope of services and beneficiaries, with general discussion (2.40-3.50pm)

In the second part of the webinar, State delegations will make short presentations on selected topics, including possible services (assistance in organizing the defence, support during the proceedings including in the selection and appointment of arbitrators, general advisory services as well

as capacity-building and sharing of best practices) and potential beneficiaries (States and possibly small- and medium-sized enterprises).

Presenters:

- General advisory services including on investment treaties, by Cellou Diallo, Representative from the Government of Guinea (TBC)
- Legal assistance, by Ralf-Vande Beek, Representative from the Government of The Netherlands
- Mediation services, by Charlie Garnjana-Goonchorn, Representative from the Government of Thailand
- Capacity Building and sharing of best practices, by Charles Afeku, African Legal Facility (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)
- Potential beneficiaries, by Ricardo Ampuero, Representative from the Government of Peru

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

4. Conclusion (3.50-4pm)

Concluding remarks by Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary, UNCITRAL

Background documents

The following documents contain information on the history and current status of the discussion on the establishment of an advisory centre in Working Group III and provide for a basis for the discussions. Further material can be found on the UNCITRAL website (https://uncitral.un.org/en/working_groups/3/investor-state).

- Document [A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.168](#), Note by the Secretariat on the establishment of an advisory centre
- Document [A/CN.9/1004](#), Report of Working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform) on the work of its thirty-eighth session (Vienna, 14–18 October 2019)
- Academic Forum on ISDS [Concept Paper 2019/14](#), An Advisory Centre on International Investment Law: Key Features, Karl P. Sauvant
- Scoping Study prepared by the Columbia Centre for Sustainable Investment (CCSI) on behalf of the Government of the Netherlands
(<https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/en/securingadequatedefense.pdf>)