

Reforming International Investment Arbitration Workshop

Call for papers

1-2 February 2019, Oslo, Norway

Hosted by the ISDS Academic Forum, the CIDS, and Faculty of Law (University of Oslo)

Submission Deadline: 1 December 2018.

A range of international reform processes have commenced in order to redress critiques of Investor-State Dispute Settlement, the most prominent being within UNCITRAL's Working Group III. In early 2018, the [ISDS Academic Forum](#) was established under the auspices of the CIDS in order to make a constructive and research-based contribution to these discussions.

On 1-2 February 2019, the Forum, together with [PluriCourts Centre for Excellence \(LEGINVEST\)](#) and [Forum for Law & Social Science](#) at the University of Oslo, will host a workshop on reforming international investment arbitration.

The workshop will be structured around six themes that have triggered criticism of the existing regime:

- Excessive costs and recoverability of cost awards
- Excessive duration of proceedings
- Lack of consistency and coherence in legal interpretation
- Incorrectness of decisions
- Lack of diversity among ISDS adjudicators
- Lack of independence, impartiality & neutrality

We welcome submissions on these themes and especially how they would be dealt with under many or all of the following four scenarios:

1. Improvement of current system, by effecting changes in respect of appointment of arbitrators or other procedural changes (for instance, appointment of arbitrators entrusted predominantly with arbitral institutions or effected jointly by disputing parties; roster-system; adoption of ethical rules; etc.) ("*ISDS improved*");
2. Current ISDS system + appellate mechanism ("*ISDS + appeal*");
3. Multilateral investment court, with or without a built-in appeal ("*MIC*");
4. No ISDS, with two sub-scenarios, namely (i) recourse to domestic courts only; and (ii) state-to-state arbitration in addition to domestic courts ("*No ISDS*").

One paper on each theme will be selected for the workshop and be presented alongside the studies prepared by the Forum's working groups.

The workshop will also include a public session on the reform process while the remainder of the workshop will be limited to Forum members, presenters and a limited number of academic observers. There is no registration fee.

In order to apply, please submit a paper abstract of 250-500 words and an academic CV by 1 December 2018 here <https://skjema.uio.no/105144>. Notification of acceptance will occur by 7 December 2018. The full draft paper of maximum 8,000 words must be submitted by 25 January 2019.

Programme Committee

[Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler](#), President, International Council for Commercial Arbitration and Professor Emerita, Geneva University Law School, CIDS Geneva

[Michele Potestà](#), Senior Researcher, Geneva Center for International Dispute Settlement (CIDS)

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