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2023 ITA CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION IN THE MINING SECTOR

Conference Report by T. Ryan Lax, Emily Sherkey, and Chris Hunter (Torys, Toronto)

The inaugural *ITA Conference on International Arbitration in the Mining Sector* took place on March 8 and 9, 2023 in Toronto, Canada. Timed to coincide with the annual Convention for Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada, the conference was co-chaired by Nigel Blackaby KC (Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Washington D.C.), Kathryn Khamsi (Three Crowns, Paris), and Myriam Seers (Agora, Toronto).

The conference began with welcome remarks by Tom Sikora (Chair, ITA and Senior Counsel, Exxon Mobil Corporation, Houston), and Myriam Seers. Ciara Ros (Vinson & Elkins, London) and Hugh A. Meighen (Borden Ladner Gervais, Toronto) introduced the two panels of the Young Lawyers Roundtable presented by Young ITA, which was the focus of the March 8 talks.



Myriam Seers

I. "Take the Witness:" Excellence in Cross-Examination (March 8, 2023)

Panelists: D. Brian King (Independent Arbitrator, New York) and Christina L. Beharry (Foley Hoag, Washington D.C.)

Mr. King and Ms. Beharry discussed practical tips to make the most of cross-examination in international arbitration. They set out ten strategic considerations and common pitfalls grounded in their experience:

 Prepare extensively and master the record and public information. Questions should be short and focused on one fact each. Consult and revise the questions extensively.

- 2. Know your objectives. Pick three to five key topics, including contradictions between evidence and written argument, testimony unsupported or contradicted by contemporaneous documents, and bias.
- Do not ask questions if you do not know, or cannot show, the answer. Documents are useful to discipline the witness.
- Avoid asking too many questions but avoid asking too few questions and stopping short of the admission needed. Have a colleague listen and advise if you do not have a clean admission.
- Listen to the answers given and look for "targets of opportunity." Be flexible in adjusting to helpful admissions given by a witness.
- Show the tribunal something new in cross-examination to maintain interest. This may also surprise a witness. Moreover, consider new ways to use documents.
- Avoid cross-examination on immaterial points. Choose topics that are relevant and enable you to score points.
- Be firm but courteous. A harsh or aggressive tone can create sympathy for the witness. A firm but courteous tone may be particularly useful where a witness is argumentative, arrogant, giving long-winded answers, or stalling.
- Maintain focus on the witness. Attempting to establish a rapport can elicit more forthcoming answers. Avoid showboating.
- 10. Avoid sarcasm (unless truly warranted, which is very rare).

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Attendees asked questions regarding other best practices. There was general agreement that humour can be effective but may benefit more senior practitioners who are often unconsciously given more leeway in this regard. Depending on the context, it can be effective to take a witness to a key document in cross-examination to ensure that the Tribunal is aware of important excerpts and nuances. More broadly, cross-examination strategy must be thought of in light of the tribunal's background. For example, civil law lawyers may view a document-heavy cross-examination as more reliable, as compared to common law lawyers.

II. "Take the Tribunal:" Excellence in Oral Argument (March 8, 2023)

Panelists: Julie Bédard (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, New York) and Michael Kotrly (One Essex Court, London)

Ms. Bédard and Mr. Kotrly discussed practical tips for excellence in oral argument. The panel compared oral argument in international arbitration with other forums for advocacy. The panelists agreed that this is not a uniform question. Effective advocacy adjusts to the particular context and decision-maker. Effective advocacy therefore looks different in light of the tribunal's legal tradition, prior experience as a judge or counsel, as well as relevant sector and type of dispute. While key skills remain the same, slight adjustments for the audience are important. The panelists also agreed that an honest advocate is an effective one and it is important to avoid overstating or misstating the law or evidence.

Ms. Bédard discussed her team's experimentation with different forms of advocacy, including dividing up oral argument so that the team member expert in a particular issue presents that issue. This strategy has the advantage of focusing each lawyer on a concise portion of the argument. However, to succeed in this approach, effective coordination and project management is essential. Ms. Bédard also emphasized the importance of graphic design in creating effective demonstratives.

Mr. Kotrly also discussed experimentation with new forms of advocacy and new tools. With respect to damages, he discussed working with experts to prepare complex spreadsheets, in which variables can be adjusted in real time to show the sensitivity of an outcome on certain variables.



Julie Bédard (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, New York) and Michael Kotrly (One Essex Court, London)

A lively discussion with attendees followed, exchanging views on the use of PowerPoint. It was broadly agreed that there is too much bad usage of PowerPoint. Those opposed argued that slides are often dense and visually inaccessible. They also argue that PowerPoint tends to constrain oral argument, reduce the willingness of counsel to depart from their planned submissions, and impact the ability of tribunals to have their questions answered.

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Those in favour argued that PowerPoint can be an effective tool to present key documents and to conceptualize key points when it is done in a visually accessible manner and with a willingness to deviate from the plan to follow a tribunal's direction.

Kathryn Khamsi concluded with closing remarks for the day.

The conference resumed on March 9, with introductory remarks by Nigel Blackaby KC. The Chatham House Rule applied to both of the morning panels. The discussion of those panels below is therefore brief and unattributed.

III. "Political Risk" v. Regulatory Flexibility: Key Contractual Clauses (e.g. Stabilization Clauses) and Other Protections (Including Investment Treaties) (March 9, 2023)

Moderator: Myriam Seers (Agora, Toronto)

Panelists: Nils Engelstad (Alamos Gold, Toronto); Ana María Ordoñez (ANDJE, Bogotá); Yousef Rehman (Centerra Gold, Toronto); and Liz Snodgrass (Three Crowns, Washington D.C.)



The panelists discussed the tension between protecting investments and a state's regulatory powers. The following key points were discussed:

- Companies which invested in foreign countries have to assess and manage many different types of risk beyond legal and regulatory risk.
- These risks can include corruption, arbitrary detention of employees, the discovery of an unknown archaeological site near a project, and everything in between. These risks can cause serious impacts on investments.
- What is sometimes thought of as "political" risk may actually be commercial or regulatory risk within the government's control (e.g. the decision to permit mining in a particular ecological zone).
- IV. Everything a Mining Company Needs to Know About Investment Treaty Protections (March 9, 2023)

Moderator: John Terry (Torys, Toronto)

Panelists: Abby Cohen Smutny (White & Case, Washington D.C.); Mélida Hodgson (Arnold & Porter, New York); and Amanda Fullerton (Denarius Metals, Toronto)

The panelists discussed what mining companies should think about in managing their investments and treaty arbitrations. The panel covered four topics: 1) structuring the investment under an investment treaty; 2) the decision to serve notice or commence arbitration and its consequences; 3) leveraging investment

protections in negotiations with a state; and 4) navigating a case from commencement to conclusion.

V. Quantifying Damages in Arbitrations Involving Mining Projects (March 9, 2023)

Moderator: Junior Sirivar (McCarthy Tétrault, Toronto)

Panelists: Carla Chavich (Compass Lexecon, New York); Elliot Luke (Clifford Chance, Perth); and Howard Rosen (Secretariat, Toronto)

The panelists discussed legal and appraisal issues that frequently arise when quantifying damages in mining arbitrations. The panel discussed how valuing mining claims can involve significant uncertainty. The degree of uncertainty often depends on the stage of project development at the time of the alleged treaty breach. If the breach occurs prior to a feasibility study, a cost approach is a common way that tribunals will deal with that uncertainty, though it does not necessarily reflect the project's true value from an economic perspective. Conversely, where a feasibility study demonstrated a viable project, a discounted cash flow or market approach will often be appropriate.

At the early stages of project development (such as in the exploration stage), mining companies generally raise money through equity, which is the most expensive form of capital. That valuation may not reflect the true value of the project given the risk premium that an investor assumes. As a result, the value that the market assigns to a project may be greater than the value of an award that the company can reasonably expect for an early stage project.

The panel explained that typically a mining company engaged in exploration or development activities will be required to continuously report information about the project to government authorities. As a result, if a project is stopped, the state is left with greater information about project feasibility and risk profile than the company had when it first made its investment. Furthermore, it remains to be seen whether the doctrine of "unjust enrichment" can provide a basis for awarding damages where there is too much uncertainty to order compensatory forms of damages.

VI. Addressing Social and Governance Obligations (Social License; Anticorruption; Indigenous Rights), and Their Impact on Arbitrations (March 9, 2023)

Moderator: Caroline Richard (Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Washington D.C.)

Panelists: Stephen Crozier (Ring of Fire Metals, Toronto); Cedric Soule (King & Spalding, New York); and Diana Suarez (Cerro Matoso, Colombia)

The panelists discussed the increasing significance of social and governance issues in arbitrations involving mining claims. The panel explained that most countries have a complex web of domestic social and governance laws, soft law requirements, and international best practices. Mining companies should be aware of these standards when setting up Health, Safety, Environment and Communities ("HSEC") policies. A treaty arbitration may reference these other standards in addition to local law.

There has been a growing emphasis on social issues such as the rights of Indigenous peoples, community consultation, and community participation rights, particularly in Latin America. This shift has often been driven by local courts. At times, local courts apply these judicial standards retrospectively to projects that have been permitted and are operating. This practice adds an additional level of uncertainty for mining projects, reinforcing the need for community consultation.

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Though controversial, there are instances where social license issues have been a hurdle for claimants and respondents in treaty claims. This has occurred even where the claimant has otherwise satisfied local legal requirements for a mining project, such as in *Bear Creek v. Peru*.

The panel concluded by highlighting that corruption by mining companies can provide a defence for states in treaty claims. It is crucial for mining companies, particularly those operating in jurisdictions where corruption is prevalent, to avoid corruption and follow proper procedures.

VII. Environmental Issues in Mining Arbitration: Standards, Claims and Advocacy (March 9, 2023)

Moderator: Kathryn Khamsi (Three Crowns, Paris)

Panelists: Francisco Balduzzi (Womble Bond Dickinson, Houston); Gino Bianchi Mosquera (GSI Environmental, Irvine); Mark A. Luz (Government of Canada (JLT), Ottawa); and Jose V. Zapata (Holland and Knight, Bogotá)

The panelists discussed the evolution of environmental protectionrelated investment treaty standards. In particular, they discussed how the overlap of local and international standards, combined with the role of local courts or tribunals to enforce domestic law, makes ascertaining the standard that mining companies will be held to in investment arbitration difficult and at times inconsistent.

Domestic legal standards do not always make technical sense. For example, states increasingly set numerical thresholds triggering a presumption of harm, such as the concentration of pollutants in soil. Different states often use different thresholds, which introduces ambiguity in the causation analysis. This can also result in arbitrary outcomes. For example, soil pollutant concentrations that are slightly under or slightly over a given threshold may pose similar risk but carry very different legal implications.

The panel also discussed the Canadian treaty context. Canada has responded to the complaint that investment treaties dampen governments' ability to protect the environment by evolving over time to more clearly protect states' ability to regulate the environment. However, environmental protection exemptions are not a "get out of jail free-card" if they are employed in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner.

VIII. Debate: "Investment Treaties Limit the Critical Right of States to Preserve the Environment and Protect Community Rights in a Mining Context" (March 9, 2023)

For: Kenneth Juan Figueroa (Foley Hoag, Washington D.C.); **Against:** Nigel Blackaby KC (Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Washington D.C.).

The panelists debated the extent to which investment treaties limit states' abilities to protect the environment and community rights. Speaking in favour of the resolution, Mr. Figueroa argued that environmental protection is a dynamic process that necessarily evolves over time and local communities are typically the most impacted by mining projects. He contended that we should expect a degree of *ex post facto* regulation and that an investor should bear that risk rather than the state. Mr. Figueroa further asserted that the majority of investment claims relating to the environment

relate to treaties executed in the 1990s that do not contain express protections in favour of the environment or local communities. Using the *Eco Oro v. Columbia* case as an example, Mr. Figueroa argued that even modern treaties like the Canada-Colombia FTA with robust health, safety and environmental exemptions are insufficient because the tribunal found that the state's inconsistent approach to regulating *paramos* was a breach of the treaty's fair and equitable treatment clause. Looking beyond specific cases, Mr. Figueroa asserted that the risk of investment claims relating to health and safety measures itself causes a chilling effect, pointing to New Zealand delaying a roll out of its tobacco regulations in the face of Australia's experience with Phillip Morris.



Nigel Blackaby KC (Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Washington D.C.)

Speaking against the resolution, Mr. Blackaby argued that treaties do not limit states' rights because treaty protections only come into play once the state commits itself to those protections. Moreover, several factors promote a "careful equilibrium" that undercuts the suggestion that a state's ability to regulate is impaired by investment treaties. For example, the police powers doctrine remains a fundamental precept of international law, modern treaties contain express protections in favour of environmental and social protection, mining claims only arise after the miner has complied with the domestic regime for permitting, and tribunals frequently require parties to comply with international standards that are greater than the local standard. Rather, investment protections require only that states respect the rights that they have committed themselves to in the first place. Where states seek to revise internal legal standards, they must do so in good faith and in a manner that is fair, predictable, and respects acquired rights. As in Eco Oro, the requirement that a state pay compensation when a new environmental protection law undermines previously acquired rights is consistent with notions of fairness and estoppel inherent in international law and recognized in most domestic legal systems. This does not prevent states from regulating in the public interest.

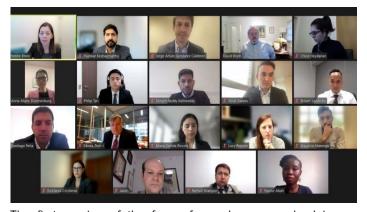
To conclude the conferece, Tom Sikora thanked the speakers and attendees and gave closing remarks.

REPORT FROM THE SECOND EDITION OF THE YOUNG ITA GLOBAL FORUM 2023

Conference Report by Catherine Bratic (Counsel, Hogan Lovells and Chair, Young ITA)

The second edition of the Young ITA Global Forum was held on February 22, 2023. This annual event brings together members of Young ITA from all over the world who serve as Regional Delegates from their respective regions to discuss and debate current issues related to the practice of international arbitration. The 2023 edition of the Young ITA Global Forum included 48 Global Delegates hailing from each of Young ITA's 12 regions.

This year's Global Forum began with an introduction by Tomasz Sikora (ITA Chair and Senior Counsel, ExxonMobil Corporation, Houston) who praised the geographic reach of Young ITA and the accompanying diversity of perspectives present at the forum. Catherine Bratic (Young ITA Chair and Counsel, Hogan Lovells, Houston) then gave an overview of Young ITA's recent and upcoming activities, before introducing the Global Forum itself and the moderators, each of whom serves on the Board of Young ITA and on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration. The Global Forum was held under the Chatham House Rule.



The first session of the forum focused on procedural issues submitted by the Regional Delegates, and was moderated by Anne-Marie Doernenburg (Nishimura & Asahi, Tokyo and Asia Chair, Young ITA), Philip Tan (White & Case, Singapore and Asia Vice-Chair, Young ITA), and Maria Camila Rincon (LLM Candidate, Georgetown University Law Center and Chair of South America (Spanish-speaking jurisdictions), Young ITA).

The discussion started by addressing bifurcation, with participants debating under what circumstances bifurcation could promote efficiency, considering that such requests also increase the length of proceedings and their costs. Many participants noted that bifurcation to preliminarily decide on procedural issues is a necessary tool to avoid abuses of process.

Participants also discussed developments related to early dismissals, preliminary determinations, and similar tools to increase efficiency. One Regional Delegate presented the recent efforts by the UNCITRAL Working Group II to prepare guidance on early dismissal and preliminary determination as an additional note in the Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings as a notable example of the struggle to further develop rules in this area.

Next, the participants considered the issue of joinder and consolidation, which is increasingly regulated through detailed institutional rules setting out the conditions for granting such requests. Again, participants debated the matter of efficiency, noting that while consolidation can increase efficiency particularly in the context of multi-party and multi-contract disputes, consolidation can also be controversial and problematic in investor-state cases. One Regional Delegate noted in particular the controversies surrounding the consolidation of past claims against Argentina and Spain, or more recently, potential claims against the Russian Federation. Considering the current situation in Ukraine, participants also discussed whether mass-claims systems should be redesigned under international investment agreements ("IIAs") to address claims related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and mentioned the initiative to create an International Claims Commission for Ukraine.

The discussion continued with participants exchanging their views on the choice-of-law analysis relating to the law governing arbitration agreements. The discussion was informed by a number of recent decisions on this topic, including from England & Wales (Enka v. Chubb, Kabab-Ji v. Kout) and Singapore (Mittal v. Westbridge). It was observed that there appeared to be a growing affirmation of the English Sulamerica approach, while a more difficult issue relates to what the "presumed" law under such approach would be in cases where parties have not expressly chosen a law to govern the arbitration agreement (i.e., stages two and three of the Sulamerica test).

The participants then moved to recent developments in the United States to discuss the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *ZF Automotive v. Luxshare*, which closed off the ability to obtain court-assisted discovery in support of most international commercial arbitration cases. Regional Delegates noted that the *ZF Automotive* decision does not entirely foreclose the use of court-assisted discovery in arbitration, as some investor-state arbitrations could potentially be considered "a foreign or international tribunal" under the language of 28 U.S.C. § 1782 and the rules adopted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Continuing on the subject of discovery, the next topic addressed whether evidence determined in judicial proceedings to be illegally obtained would be admissible in related arbitrations. One Regional Delegate observed that the answer could depend on the nature of the judicial proceedings, specifically, whether they were administrative or quasi-judicial in nature. Regional Delegates pointed to the guidance contained in Article 9(3) of the IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration, which allows an arbitral tribunal to exercise its discretion on whether to exclude evidence obtained illegally.

Moving to recent geopolitical events, participants then discussed the effect of sanctions on international arbitration, with particular focus on the sanctions imposed against the Russian Federation and many Russian nationals, as well as the retaliatory countersanctions Russia has imposed on NATO countries and diplomats. Regional Delegates explored the vast range of practical effects that such sanctions could have on institutions, counsel, experts, and arbitrators, and on the enforcement of awards on parties with blocked assets.

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Regional Delegates also discussed challenges to arbitrators based on their independence and impartiality, and the potential need for mechanisms to discourage frivolous challenges. Participants discussed their reactions to the Paris Court of Appeal's decision to set aside an ICC award based on the Chair's failure to disclose a close personal relationship with Emmanuel Gaillard, whose firm represented the prevailing party in the dispute. This relationship was revealed through a eulogy given by the Chair, in which he described "regular meetings" with Gaillard for years and stated that he both "admired" and "loved him."

The first session concluded with a discussion regarding the tension between transparency and confidentiality, and whether a distinction should be drawn between investment and commercial arbitration. With regards to investment arbitration, the participants referred to the 2022 Arbitration Rules adopted by ICSID, which aim to ensure greater transparency through provisions regarding the publication of case materials and third-party funding. Turning to the commercial context, Regional Delegates discussed the complexities of balancing transparency against parties' expectations of and business needs for confidentiality in sensitive commercial matters.

After a brief break, the second session of the Global Forum focused on issues related to substantive law submitted by the Regional Delegates. This session was moderated by Derya Durlu Gürzumar (Ph.D. Candidate, University of Neuchâtel and Vice Chair, Thought Leadership, Young ITA), Robert Bradshaw (LALIVE, London, UK Region Vice Chair, Young ITA), and Jorge Arturo Gonzalez (LLM Candidate, Harvard Law School and Vice Chair of Communications, Young ITA).

The first topic concerned the suitability of international arbitration in resolving environmental, social and governance ("ESG") disputes and enforcing the ESG obligations of states and private parties. One Regional Delegate discussed an Indian case involving human rights violations concerning supply-chain contracts.

The discussion then turned to recent cases brought under the Energy Charter Treaty ("ECT") such as *Rockhopper v. Italy* (which awarded compensation to an oil and gas company denied a drilling permit due to Italian environmental legislation banning certain oil production concessions) and *RWE v. Netherlands* (challenging the Netherlands' plan to phase out coal by 2030), with Regional Delegates debating whether the ECT contained excessive protections for fossil fuel production that could be considered outdated in light of commitments to reduce emissions and invest in green energy. Regional Delegates also highlighted the waves of investment arbitration claims that Spain, Italy, and the Czech Republic have endured related to renewable energies, and the decisions by Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands, and Poland to withdraw from the ECT.

Next, Regional Delegates provided insights on corruption issues in international arbitration. Regional Delegates compared French and Swedish rules on how arbitrators should address corruption, with the latter jurisdiction adopting a maximalist regime (i.e., putting a higher burden on arbitrators in enforcing corruption claims, thereby protecting the arbitral award). Different standards of proof were discussed and debated, including the use of circumstantial red flags of corruption, compared to a higher standard of "clear and convincing evidence" showing corruption. Participants also probed how far a tribunal could go in conducting a *sua sponte* investigation of evidence of corruption, in the absence of specific allegations made by either party.

Turning specifically to the investment arbitration context, participants discussed the different ways in which allegations of corruption could taint the contract or the economic transaction giving rise to the investment. Regional Delegates noted that such allegations touch not only on substantive rights, but also on the very existence of a state's consent to arbitrate, as well as on transparency to the extent that corruption allegations made in a confidential arbitration may not be reported to national authorities.

Participants next explored whether there has been an uptick in set-aside challenges to arbitral awards, and debated whether more jurisdictions should allow for national court review of an arbitral tribunal's decisions regarding their own jurisdiction. Some Regional Delegates considered that such *de novo* review by courts of arbitrators' jurisdictional decisions undermines the finality of arbitral awards originally envisaged in the New York Convention.

Relatedly, Regional Delegates next addressed the decision of the European Court of Human Rights ("ECtHR") in *BTS Holding, A.S. v. Slovakia*, which related to Slovakian courts' refusal to enforce an arbitral award based on jurisdictional and public policy arguments that the ECtHR found to be arbitrary. Regional Delegates noted that similar arguments might result in takings claims before national courts or before other international bodies, such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

The final topic addressed sanctions, with participants discussing whether the existence of sanctions would justify contractual non-performance under doctrines of frustration, force majeure, and illegality. Regional Delegates shared their own experiences dealing with sanctioned parties and force majeure arguments.

The moderators and Young ITA Chair Catherine Bratic closed the Global Forum by thanking the moderators and Regional Delegates for their attendance and engaged participation. The Global Forum is an annual event, and the next edition will be held in February 2024, with Regional Delegates to be chosen by application and invitation at the end of this year.



ARBITRATION REFORMS IN NIGERIA

Report by: Elizabeth Ebelechukwu Arubalueze (ADR Dispute Resolution Centre, LAWSA Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria)



The clarion call to resolve disputes in a justifiable manner without recourse to the traditional system of justice, that is, the court of law, brought about the rise of Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR"). Inasmuch as this field has been in existence since time immemorial, as adopted by our forefathers in resolving communal disputes, it had not gained formal ground in Nigeria until recently.

Arbitration in Nigeria is becoming more recognized and widely used due to its apparent benefits – such as affording parties the freedom to decide how they want the proceedings to materialize. The Nigerian judiciary has gone as far as mandating arbitration upon individuals as a preliminary step to explore before flooding the courts with disputes, as evidenced by the various Multi-Door Courthouses ("MDC") in Nigeria. MDC is a court-connected initiative that routes incoming cases to the most appropriate alternative dispute resolution mechanism, saving time and money for both the courts and the parties to the dispute. So far, this innovation has been implemented in over seventeen states in Nigeria.

The presence of arbitration in Nigeria gained reasonable traction through its Arbitration and Conciliation Act ("ACA"), which had been the national law for over thirty-five years. With the fluid landscape of international arbitration, foreign investment, and international trade, Nigeria's arbitration regime was long overdue reforms to align itself with pro-arbitration states like the UK, the U.S., and Singapore, and to firmly cater to the intricacies of the times. May 10, 2022, marked a significant day for Nigeria as an ADR-friendly jurisdiction with the adaptation and advancement of Nigeria's arbitration legislation to mirror recent trends influencing the practice of arbitration. On that day, Nigeria's Upper House of Assembly passed the Arbitration & Mediation Bill (the "Bill"), repealing the older ACA.

Although the Bill awaited assent from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for over a year, on May 26, 2023 the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria signed the Arbitration and Mediation Act into law. The Bill, now the Arbitration and Mediation Act 2023 ("the New Act"), repeals the ACA and will govern both domestic and international arbitration proceedings in Nigeria.

The New Act's reforms are the talk of the Nigerian arbitration community as it is predicted to change the trajectory of the practice of arbitration in Nigeria, both from a national and an international perspective. The purpose of the New Act is to provide a unified legal framework for the fair and efficient settlement of commercial

disputes by arbitration and mediation, and expressly codifies the recognition of foreign arbitral awards in Nigeria. It introduces some key innovations pertaining to third-party funding and the review of awards, which could make Nigeria a more appealing arbitral seat and friendlier environment for international investors.

1. Third-Party Funding

Third-party funding ("TPF") manifests via an arrangement between an independent, commercial funder, who has no prior connection to the dispute, and a party to the dispute, to provide full or partial funding for the proceedings in exchange for a portion of or the full amount recovered by that party after the determination of the dispute.

Unlike the ACA, the new Act explicitly weakens the common law doctrines of Maintenance and Champerty, fundamental concepts that can hinder the practice of TPF. Generally, these doctrines prohibit TPF to prevent fraudulent and unscrupulous claims of a funder who, with the intention of strengthening his claim, joins his claim along with a claimant in return for a share of profits. The practice is discouraged on the basis of public policy and the maintenance of justice. To account for these considerations, the New Act imposes a disclosure obligation on the party benefitting from the funding, and includes specific provisions on how TPF should be discouraged and to what extent basic information of the funding agreement must be revealed. The rationale behind the mandated disclosure is to aid the tribunal in running the proceeding smoothly and managing any conflicts of interest. This reform makes Nigeria one of the few jurisdictions, alongside Hong Kong and Singapore, to introduce this type of arbitral reform as a piece of national legislation.

2. Arbitral Review Tribunal

The New Act makes adequate provisions for parties to specify in their arbitration agreement that an award made in a proceeding seated in Nigeria may be reviewed by an arbitral review tribunal ("ART"). When constituted, the ART is mandated to give an award within sixty days.

This remarkable innovation favors disgruntled parties that are not pleased with the initial tribunal's decision. However, an ART decision can still be reviewed by a court of law if any party to the proceeding applies for it. This factor has cast doubt on the efficacy of the ART, since the courts still have the power to review its decision. It begs two key probing questions – first, does it defeat the whole purpose of the ART and reveal the lack of faith a court of law has in an arbitral decision? Second, will it pave the way for unscrupulous claims by parties?

It should be emphasized that in Nigeria the court is and will always remain the last hope of the common man — which is why parties still have the right to set aside the decision reached by a tribunal, and not necessarily appeal said decision, save for certain grounds. Thus, a party resorting to court does not necessarily offset the tribunal's decision; rather, it ensures that the party gets the justice that it so deserves. This innovation may also give rise to delays backed with unscrupulous claims made by parties as a tactic to frustrate the proceedings. To that end, the New Act limits the grounds on which one might challenge the decision reached by the ART. In short, these grounds are arbitrability and whether the decision was contrary to public policy.

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(Cont'd from **ARBITRATION REFORMS IN NIGERIA** page 7)

3. Interim Measures

The New Act makes provisions for the arbitral tribunal to grant interim measures to parties where appropriate, establishing conditions that must be fulfilled for such interim measures to be imposed. Although this provision is not new, as it was provided for in the ACA, it is improved. It confers power on a tribunal to grant interim relief where appropriate and it provides pre-conditions that must be met for such interim relief to be granted - which are in pari materia with those in the UNCITRAL Model Law 2006. In addition, the powers to grant interim relief are in line with the rules of leading arbitral institutions, such as the International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC"), London Court of International Arbitration ("LCIA"), and Singapore International Arbitration Centre ("SIAC"). Notably, the Bill provides that tribunal-issued interim measures awarded in any jurisdiction are binding and can be enforced by Nigerian courts. This provision is, however, not absolute as the court may refuse enforcement on the grounds for resisting recognition and enforcement of a final award as set out in the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (commonly, the New York Convention).

4. Expedited Proceedings

An expedited or emergency proceeding is, as the name implies, an effective mechanism that enables disputing parties to seek urgent relief before an arbitral tribunal has been fully constituted.

This provision was not expressly mentioned in the ACA, and the New Act introduces a clear set of rules governing the process for appointing and challenging the appointment of an emergency arbitrator. Adapting to best practices, it shares similar statutory language as the arbitration rules of leading institutions, such as the Lagos Court of Arbitration ("LCA"), LCIA and ICC. Whilst a slight difference exists in their respective applications and approaches, their objectives align. A worthy innovation under this provision is that the New Act reserves the right for parties to seek urgent interim relief from the court of law, rather than using the emergency arbitrator option proffered by the Bill. This provision will, however, not be deemed as a waiver of the arbitration agreement.

Conclusion

Having showcased some of its key innovations, the New Act demonstrates Nigeria's commitment to becoming an increasingly arbitration-friendly jurisdiction steadily taking crucial and optimistic steps towards advancing arbitration practice and responding to evolving trends in global arbitration. The New Act's provisions reflect global best practices in international arbitration as adopted by leading arbitration jurisdictions and arbitral institutions. The provisions on the ART and TPF are of particular interest, and we can expect increased arbitral activity as a result.



INSTITUTE FOR TRANSNATIONAL ARBITRATION **EXPERTS...IN THE NEWS UPDATES**



Professor Peter Cameron (University of Dundee, Scotland) has joined ITA as an Academic /Government / Non-profit Member.

Sustaining Member ConocoPhillips Company has designated **Tonya Jordan** as a member of the Advisory Board.



Frank Lattal, FCIArb (Lattal ADR) has joined ITA as an Associate Member.



Independent Arbitrator, Marcus Salvato Quintanilla, has joined ITA as an Associate Member.



Sponsoring Member Wiley Rein LLP has designated Josh Simmons as a member of the Advisory Board.



Sustaining Member Three Crowns LLP has designated **Scott Vesel** as a member of the Advisory Board.

Supporting Member DLA Piper US LLP has designated Charlotte Westbrook as an Advisory Board representative under 40.



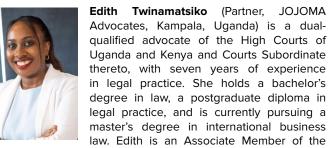


The United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit recently quoted the scholarship of Professor Chip Brower in its unanimous en banc opinion in Corporación AIC, SA v. Hidroeléctrica Santa Rita, S.A., F.4th ____ (11th Cir., Apr. 13, 2023). Also, Professor Brower's article Dirty Secret: The Laundering of Foreign Arbitral Awards will appear in 75 UC L SF J ____ (2024) (formerly the Hastings Law Journal).

Advisory Board Member Ben Love, a Partner at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP in New York and Washington D.C., was recently selected to serve a three-year term on the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law.







Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK, and the founder of the Women in Arbitration Initiative, which aims to encourage diversity in alternative dispute resolution. Additionally, Edith is a member of the East Africa Law Society's Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Association of Young Arbitrators.

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(as of June 23, 2023)

ABBREVIATIONS

NY United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (commonly, 1958 New York Convention)

ICSID Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (commonly, ICSID Convention 1965)

IA Inter-American Convention on International Commercial Arbitration (commonly, Panama Convention) (1975)

USBIT United States Bilateral Investment Treaty

TIP US Treaties with Investment Protection Provisions

ECT Energy Charter Treaty (1998)

MC United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (commonly, Mauritius Convention) (2017)

SYMBOLS

S Signed, but not ratified

R Ratified, acceded or succeeded

A Subscribed, but not signed, ratified or paid (*) Capital-exporting country under MIGA

N/A Not applicable

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE

NY Timor Leste (R)

ICSID None.
IA None.
USBIT Updated.

MC None.

TIP None.

NATION	NY¹	ICSID ²	ECT ³	IA	USBIT	TIP⁴	MC
Afghanistan	R	R	R			R	
Albania	R	R	R		R		
Algeria	R	R				s	
Andorra	R						
Angola	R	R				S	
Antigua and Barbuda	R					R ²³	
Argentina	R	R		R	R	R	
Armenia	R	R	R		R	S	
Australia	R	R	S			R / S ¹⁹	R
Austria	R	R	R				
Azerbaijan	R	R	R		R		
Bahamas	R	R				R ²³	
Bahrain	R	R			R	R / S ²⁴	
Bangladesh	R	R			R		
Barbados	R	R				R ²³	
Belarus	R	R	S ²⁰		S		
Belgium	R	R	R				S
Belize	R	S				R ²³	R
Benin	R	R				S ²² / R ²⁹	R
Bhutan	R						
Bolivia ⁶	R			R		S ³¹	R
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁷	R	R	R				
Botswana	R	R				R ²⁶	
Brazil	R			R		R	
Brunei Darussalam	R	R				R / R ²⁷ /S ¹⁹	
Bulgaria	R	R	R		R		
Burkina Faso	R	R				S ²² / R ²⁹	
Burundi	R	R				R ²⁵ / R ³⁰	
Cambodia	R	R				R / R ²⁷	
Cameroon	R	R			R		R
Canada	R	R				R ⁸ / S ¹⁹ /S ²¹	R

Cape Verde	R	R	1	1	1	S ²²	
	R	R	<u> </u>	+	+	3	<u> </u>
Central African Republic Chad	- K	R	 	+	+	-	
		 	<u> </u>	 _	+	D / 010	
Chile	R	R		R		R / S ¹⁹	-
China (People's Republic) ⁹	R	R	<u> </u>	 _	+	24	-
Colombia	R	R	ļ	R		R / S ³¹	ļ
Comoros	R	R		ļ		R ³⁰	
Congo	R	R			R		S
Congo (Democratic Republic of)	R	R		ļ	R	R ³⁰	ļ
Cook Islands	R			ļ			
Costa Rica	R	R		R		R ¹⁰	
Côte d'Ivoire	R	R				S ²² / R ²⁹	
Croatia ⁷	R	R	R		R		
Cuba	R						
Cyprus	R	R	R				
Czech Republic	R	R	R		R		
Denmark ¹¹	R	R	R				
Djibouti	R	R				R ³⁰	
Dominica	R			Ì	1	R ²³	
Dominican Republic	R	S	İ	R	İ	R ¹⁰	
Ecuador	R	R	<u> </u>	R	<u> </u>	S ³¹	1
Egypt	R	R		† · · ·	R	R / R ³⁰	1
El Salvador	R	R		R	S	R ¹⁰	<u> </u>
Equatorial Guinea		, n	 	 	† 	<u> </u>	
Eritrea		+		+	<u> </u>	R ³⁰	+
	R	R		1	+ -	I K	-
Estonia	- R	1	R	+	R	R ²⁶ / R ³⁰	<u> </u>
Eswatini		R	-	+		+	-
Ethiopia	R	S	-	+	+	R ³⁰	-
Fiji	R	R		1	+		
Finland	R	R	R	 			S
France ¹²	R	R	R	 	1		S
Gabon	R	R		ļ		ļ	S
Gambia		R		ļ		S ²²	R
Georgia	R	R	R		R	R	
Germany	R	R	R				S
Ghana	R	R		_		R / S ²²	
Greece	R	R	R				
Grenada		R			R	R ²³	
Guatemala	R	R		R		R ¹⁰	
Guinea	R	R				S ²²	
Guinea-Bissau		S				S ²² / R ²⁹	
Guyana	R	R				R ²³	
Haiti	R	R			S	R ²³	
Holy See (Vatican City)	R						
Honduras	R	R		R	R	R ¹⁰	
Hungary	R	R	R		1		
Iceland	R	R	R	1	İ	s	
India	R	1	† · · ·	†	1	<u> </u>	1
Indonesia	R	R		<u> </u>	1	R ²⁷	†
Iran	R	' ''	<u> </u>	†	1	K	<u> </u>
Iraq	A	R	<u> </u>	†	1	s	R
Ireland	R	R	R	+	+	+	K
		†	, r	1	+	R	+
Israel	R	R	 	+	+	K K	_
Italy	R	R	 	<u> </u>	+ -		S
Jamaica	R	R		-	R	R ²³	
Japan	R	R	R	1	1	S ¹⁹	-
Jordan	R	R	R	1	R	R	
Kazakhstan	R	R	R	<u> </u>	R	R ²⁸	
Kenya	R	R			1	R ²⁵ / R ³⁰	

Kiribati			1	1		1	
Korea (Republic) (South)	R	R	 	+		R	
Kosovo	K		 	+	-	K	
		R	-	+		6 / 624	
Kuwait	R	R		+	 _ _	S / S ²⁴	
Kyrgyzstan	R	R	R	1	R	R ²⁸	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	R	-	ļ	1	-	R / R ²⁷	
Latvia	R	R	R	-	R		
Lebanon	R	R		ļ		S	
Lesotho	R	R				R ²⁶	
Liberia	R	R	ļ	ļ		R/S ²²	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya						S / R ³⁰	
Liechtenstein	R		R				
Lithuania	R	R	R		R		
Luxembourg	R	R	R				S
Madagascar	R	R				R ³⁰	S
Malawi	R	R				R ³⁰	
Malaysia	R	R				R / R ²⁷ / S ¹⁹	
Maldives	R					R	
Mali	R	R		1		S ²² / R ²⁹	
Malta	R	R	R	1			
Marshall Islands	R	1	· ·	1		1	
Mauritania	R	R		†		+	
Mauritius	R	R	 	+		R / R ³⁰	R
Mexico	R	R		R		R ⁸ /S ¹⁹ /S ²¹	IX .
	, K	•	<u> </u>	K		R-/3/3	
Micronesia		R		+	+	+	
Moldova	R	R	R	+	R	+	
Monaco	R	_		1	_		
Mongolia	R	R	R	-	R	R	
Montenegro	R	R	R				
Morocco	R	R	ļ	ļ	R	R	
Mozambique	R	R		ļ	R	R	
Myanmar (Burma)	R	Ļ				S / R ²⁷	
Namibia		S				R ²⁶	
Nauru		R					
Nepal	R	R					
Netherlands ¹³	R	R	R				S
New Zealand ¹⁴	R	R				R / S ¹⁹	
Nicaragua	R	R		R	s	R ¹⁰	
Niger	R	R				S ²² / R ²⁹	
Nigeria	R	R				R	
North Macedonia ⁷	R	R	R				
Norway	R	R	s			1	
Oman	R	R	İ			R / S ²⁴	
Pakistan	R	R	†	1	1	1	
Palau	R	1		1		1	
Panama	R	R	 	R	R	R	
Papua New Guinea	R	R	 	 	+ "	<u> </u>	
Paraguay	R	R	 	R	+	S	
Peru	R	R	 	R	1	R / R ¹⁸ /S ¹⁹ / S ³¹	
	_	1	 	K		K/K/3"/3"	
Philippines	R	R		+	+ -	+	
Poland	R	 _	R	+	R	R ²⁷	
Portugal	R	R	R	+	1	0.400	
Qatar	R	R	 	+	1	S / S ²⁴	
Romania	R	R	R	 	R		
Russian Federation	R	S	S		S	<u> </u>	
Rwanda	R	R	ļ	1	R	R / R ²⁵	
Saint Kitts and Nevis		R	ļ			R ²³	
Saint Lucia		R				R ²³	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	R	R				R ²³	

Samoa		R					
San Marino	R	R					
Sao Tome and Principe	R	R					
Saudi Arabia	R	R			İ	R / S ²⁴	
Senegal	R	R			R	S ²² / R ²⁹	
Serbia ⁷	R	R					
Seychelles	R	R				R ³⁰	
Sierra Leone	R	R				S ²²	
Singapore	R	R				R / R ²⁷	
Slovakia	R	R	R		R		
Slovenia ⁷	R	R	R				
Solomon Islands		R					
Somalia		R				R ³⁰	
South Africa	R					R / R ²⁶	
South Sudan	<u> </u>	R				R ²⁵	
Spain	R	R	R		<u> </u>	1	
Sri Lanka	R	R		Ì	R	R	
Sudan	R	R				R ³⁰	
Suriname	R					R ²³	
Sweden	R	R	R				s
Switzerland	R	R	R			R	R
Syrian Arab Republic	R	R					S
Taiwan	1			ì			ĺ
Tajikistan	R		R	1	İ	R ²⁸	
Tanzania	R	R		ì		R ²⁵	ì
Thailand	R	s		1		R / R ²⁷	
Timor Leste	R	R		ì		I R/R	ì
Togo	1	R		1	İ	S ²² / R ²⁹	
Tonga	R	R		ì			ĺ
Trinidad and Tobago	R	R		1	R	R ²³	
Tunisia	R	R			R	R ³⁰	
Turkey	R	R	R		R	S	
Turkmenistan	R	R	R			R ²⁸	
Tuvalu							
Uganda	R	R		ĺ		R ²⁵ / R ³⁰	
Ukraine	R	R	R		R	S	
United Arab Emirates	R	R		ĺ		S / S ²⁴	
United Kingdom ¹⁵	R	R	R				S
United States of America ¹⁶	R	R		R	N/A	N/A	S
Uruguay	R	R		R	R	R	
Uzbekistan	R	R	R		S	R ²⁸	
Vanuatu							
Venezuela	R			R			
Vietnam	R					R /S ¹⁹ / R ²⁷	
West Bank and Gaza ¹⁷	R						
Yemen		R	R			R	
Zambia	R	R				R ³⁰	
Zimbabwe	R	R				R ³⁰	

Notes: (1) Extends to metropolitan and overseas constituent territorial subdivisions but not to overseas dependent territories. Consult UNCITRAL for definitive status, as well as for the reservations to the Convention. (2) Extends to metropolitan and overseas constituent territorial subdivisions and to overseas dependent territories unless specifically excluded. (3) 1991 European Energy Charter was signed by the the United States of America ("US" or "USA"). European Union and EURA-TOM have ratified the ECT. (4) Treaties signed or ratified by the US with provisions on investmens. (5) See also 2014 UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration. (6) ICSID Convention entered into force for Bolivia on July 23, 1995. On May 2, 2007. Bolivia denounced the ICSID Convention, with effect on November 3, 2007. The Government of Bolivia delivered notice to the United States on June 10, 2011, that it was terminating the "Treaty Between the Government of the US and the Government of the Republic of Bolivia Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment." As of June 10, 2012 (the date of termination), the treaty ceases to have effect, except that it continues to apply for another 10 years to covered investments existing at the time of termination. (7) As of 4 February 2003, The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has changed its name to "Serbia and Montenegro." Montenegro declared itself independent from Serbia on June 3, 2006. Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Slovenia are separated successor states to parts of the former Yugoslavia and have succeeded to the NY. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia changed its name to the Republic of North Macedonia on 12 February 2019. (8) Included in the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Canada and Mexico. (9) NY: includes Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (10) Included in the Dominican Republic - Central America - United States Free Trade Agreement (11) NY: includ

Indian Ocean Territory, Pitcairn Islands, British Antarctic Territory and Sovereign Base Areas of Cyprus. ICSID Convention: continues to include Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (16) NY: includes, inter alia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands. (17) West Bank and Gaza are not recognized as states by the United States. (18) United States - Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. (19) Trans-Pacific Partnershig signed on February 4, 2016. (20) The State has signed the ECT and it applies it provisionally, under Art. 45 of the ECT. (21) USMCA signed on November 30, 2018. (22) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) — US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) signed on August 5, 2014. (23) Caribbean Community (CARICOM) — US TIFA, in force on May 28, 2013. (24) Gulf Cooperation Council — US Framework Agreement signed on September 25, 2012. (25) East African Community — US TIFA, entered into force on July 16, 2008. (26) Southern African Customs Union — US TIFA, entered into force on July 16, 2008. (26) Southern African Customs Union — US TIFA, entered into force on Agriz 24, 2002. (30) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa COMESA) — US TIFA, entered into force on April 24, 2002. (30) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa COMESA) — US TIFA, entered into force on April 24, 2002. (30) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa COMESA) — US TIFA, entered into force on April 24, 2002. (30) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa COMESA) — US TIFA, entered into force on April 24, 2002. (30) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa COMESA) — US TIFA, entered into force on April 24, 2002. (30) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa COMESA) — US TIFA, entered into force on April 24, 2002. (30) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa COMESA) — US TIFA, entered into force on April 24, 2002. (30) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa COMESA) — US TIFA, entered into force on April 24, 2002. (30) Common Market for Ea

This issue was compiled by Co-Editors Crina Baltag and Monique Sasson of The Institute for Transnational Arbitration based on the following sources: United Nations; ICSID; UNCITRAL; Organization of American States; Energy Charter Sccretariat; UNCTAD and the Office of the United States Trade Representative. The Scoreboard is designed to be a convenient reference and it is not intended to be relied on as legal advice. Please consult the sources directly to confirm the status of any particular ratifications, reservations, changes, special conditions or new developments. Copyright 2023, The Center for American and International Law.

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Rica)
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