

Dear Members of the ISDS Academic Forum,

I am writing to express my candidacy for a position on the ISDS Academic Forum Steering Committee. Over the past four years, I have actively participated as a member of the ISDS Academic Forum (AF), witnessing its growth and evolution. While I remain steadfast in my belief in the initiative's significance and potential impact on UNCITRAL works and stakeholder dialogue, I have observed a notable decline in its initial momentum.

The ISDS Academic Forum was established with the noble intention of fostering meaningful conversations and driving positive change within the field of Investor-State Dispute Settlement. However, in my assessment, the forum has encountered challenges including a decline in effective communication breakdowns, a decrease in the number of initiatives, and an underutilization of its potential to promote its invaluable work. I posit that these issues are not insurmountable but rather a matter of perspective.

Accordingly, it is my belief that another perspective, outside homogeneous academic circle currently represented in ISDS AF organs, will bring a fresh and critical viewpoint. This, I believe, is crucial for understanding the root causes of the challenges faced by the ISDS Academic Forum and devising innovative strategies to overcome them. Communication lies at the heart of any successful initiative. As a Steering Committee member, I aim to address this issue by encouraging more open and transparent channels of communication. By encouraging dialogue between various stakeholders, we can reignite the forum's vibrancy and ensure that ideas and initiatives are shared and developed collaboratively.

I am motivated by a profound dedication to the mission of the ISDS Academic Forum. My academic background, encompassing both research and managerial responsibilities, equips me with a comprehensive skill set. Furthermore, my perspective on recent governance decisions reflects a divergence that I believe can bring valuable insights to the Steering Committee. I am confident that this blend of academic experience and a nuanced viewpoint positions me as a valuable asset to contribute effectively to the committee's objectives. I am eager to contribute my skills, insights, and energy to address the current challenges, revitalize the forum's activities, and propel it towards even greater success.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and contribute to the continued success of the ISDS Academic Forum.

Sincerely,



Marcin J. Menkes