



In cooperation with



**ACADEMIC FORUM ON ISDS**

2023 Conference

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor

29-30 September 2023

**Call for Papers**

The Academic Forum on ISDS will hold its next plenary conference on 29-30 September 2023, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, in cooperation with the Michigan Program in Law and the Global Economy. The core of the conference will be a series of presentations based on papers collected through this call. Details on the submission procedure and key dates can be found at the end of this call.

**Conference theme**

ISDS (and investment law more generally) is in a state of flux. The horizon holds the possibility of significant change, notably through the ongoing multilateral reform negotiations in UNCITRAL Working Group III. With this Conference, the Academic Forum aims to explore the nature, costs, and benefits of investment arbitration - from its functions and conceptual origins, to questions of reform and institutional design. Interested academics (including PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers), practitioners, and policymakers are invited to submit paper abstracts on any of the following suggested topics. This call is open to all, with no requirement of membership in the Academic Forum.

This is an open call in terms of subject-matter, with the constraint that papers should focus on ISDS. All viewpoints and methods are welcome. We encourage submissions related to the origins of ISDS, its conceptual underpinnings, as well as work on its social meaning, its functions, and its consequences. We also encourage papers focused on all aspects of reform, including critical work

questioning the merits of extant reform processes. Mixed methods are particularly encouraged, including historical, sociological, and philosophical perspectives, approaches grounded in political science, and economic analyses of investment arbitration. While ISDS should be a component of any submission, we also welcome broader pieces on investment law and the role of ISDS within international economic law more generally.

### **Guidelines for submission**

Interested authors are invited to submit, by 1 May 2023, an abstract of an original paper. Only one abstract per author will be considered (with an exception for co-authored works). Abstracts must not exceed 500 words, must be anonymous and not identify the author(s) or their affiliation, and must be submitted to the following email address: [academicforumisds@gmail.com](mailto:academicforumisds@gmail.com). In addition to the abstract, each submission should contain, as a separate file, a CV, including the author's name, title, and affiliation and contact details.

Abstract selection will take into account the originality and relevance of the proposal, as well as the need to ensure a diverse conference in all respects.

Authors of selected abstracts for the Conference will be notified by 1 June 2023.

### **Practical details**

Authors of accepted abstracts will be expected to commit to attend the conference in person and to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation.

### **Key dates**

**\*\*Extended\*\*** Abstract submission **by 15 May 2023**

Speakers notified **by 1 June 2023**

Draft papers due **by 15 September**

Conference to be held on **29-30 September 2023**