

About me:

My name is Fernando Dias Simões and I am Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). I hold a PhD from the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), an LLM from the University of Glasgow (United Kingdom) and a bachelor degree from the University of Coimbra (Portugal). Before joining CUHK, I taught for 14 years in universities in Macau and Portugal. I have also taught occasionally at the Summer Law Institute (Beijing) and at the Institute of International Studies, Ramkhamhaeng University (Bangkok). I am Senior Research Fellow at the University Institute of European Studies (Italy); Member of the Scientific Committee and Senior Research Associate at gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development (United Kingdom); member of the Asia WTO Research Network (AWRN); and Rapporteur for the Oxford International Organizations – OXIO (Oxford University Press and Manchester International Law Centre).

Why I am applying for a position in the Steering Committee:

I teach mainly in the field of International Dispute Settlement. My research interests include international adjudication (in particular, commercial and investment arbitration), investment law, and comparative contract law. I have published widely in the fields of commercial arbitration and investor-state arbitration. Over the last years my research has particularly focused on the reform of Investor-state arbitration. I am fascinated by the idea of international arbitration as more than a simple dispute settlement mechanism: arbitrators are private service providers, and arbitration a market. However, this ‘market’ is undergoing profound changes, particularly in the field of investment arbitration. In my ongoing research projects, I question whether this phenomenon is evidence of simple growing pains or, more than that, of a true identity crisis. I believe that I could make a significant contribution to the Academic Forum because its purpose matches my research interests. In addition, in my capacity as Deputy Programme Director of the Master of Laws (LLM) in International Economic Law at CUHK, I have been organizing a series of online seminars on topics of International Law, including the reform of ISDS. I believe that it is important to promote regional and global events that promote discussion among scholars and other stakeholders about ISDS reform and its potential

impact on international dispute settlement. Despite its increasing economic importance, the Asia-Pacific Region is sometimes overlooked and under-represented in discussion fora. As a member of the steering committee, I would contribute to make the Forum more diverse and inclusive. I would also seek to engage more early-career and established academics in the activities of the Forum. While this is an Academic Forum, I believe that some seminars could also reach out to other international law actors such as practitioners, governments officials, NGOs and law firms. This would certainly further the goals of the Forum and deepen its contribution to the debate.