

NOMINATION STATEMENT

Having been a member of the ISDS Academic Forum since its establishment, I am honoured to accept the nomination to run for a position on the Steering Committee. The Forum is an integral part of the closely scrutinized and widely reported UNCITRAL Working Group III negotiations on ISDS reform, fleshing out the finer points of issues that are raised and discussed during the course of these negotiations in a series of thoughtful and instructive position papers. The combined expertise of the Forum members who author these papers is then shared with the participants, in particular, state delegations, in Working Group III, ensuring a dynamic and meaningful exchange between Forum and Working Group III members, as well as informed discourse within Working Group III. All the credit for this constructive symbiosis must go to the current Steering Committee which has sailed the ship on reform in the right direction.

Singaporeans are pragmatic by nature so I never set out to upend a functioning model of state-scholar engagement. That said, even the best models can benefit from a greater variety of views, which may in turn rejuvenate what is turning out to be a long and drawn-out reform process. And with increasing public interest in ISDS reform, stoked by popular media sensationalism of anti-ISDS sentiments, it has become harder to assist in and advance a reform process that sidesteps the more profound problems of ISDS. My past and present counsel work in ISDS, my emerging reputation as a critical international economic law scholar, and the tutelage and exposure afforded by UNCITRAL Secretary Ms Anna Joubin-Bret enable me to bring something new to the Steering Committee. I am uniquely placed to offer more critical perspectives on ISDS reform that respect the institutional and other constraints faced by both Forum and Working Group III members, as well as the UNCITRAL Secretariat.

If elected, I pledge to play an active role within the Steering Committee and in the organization of in-person or online activities on behalf of the Forum.

*Jean HO
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7 December 2020*