

JULIAN ARATO

Professor of Law

*Co-Director, Dennis J. Block Center for
the Study of International Business Law*

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to stand for election to the Steering Committee of the Academic Forum on ISDS (AF). I am a Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School in New York. My research focuses on international investment law and dispute settlement, public international law, trade, and international organizations. I have been an active contributor to the AF since its founding, and it would be an honor to build on the Forum's remarkable success as a member of its governing body.

If elected, I would have three main priorities. I would first emphasize continuing the AF's core mission of producing cutting edge, collaborative, and policy relevant scholarship. I would place special emphasis on our continued relevance to the UNCITRAL process, and on adapting our work as WGIII shifts to a (potentially) faster pace drafting phase. Second, I would seek to enhance the AF's relationship with UNCITRAL – not only by building on our strong working relationship with the Secretariat, but also by developing new, deeper relationships with government, institutional, and NGO delegations. Third, I would work to increase the visibility and salience of AF output beyond WGIII, including our digital footprint.

I have contributed to a wide range of AF projects. I served on one of the first working groups, on the *lack of consistency in ISDS*. I contributed to its original concept paper ([2019/3](#)), and took a leading role in drafting the follow-on JWIT article (“Parsing and Managing Inconsistency in ISDS”). I also proposed, and now chair, a working group on *shareholder claims in ISDS*. I served as lead author of both its first concept paper ([2019/9](#)), and the forthcoming follow-on article in the *Journal of International Dispute Settlement* (JIDS). I represented both groups in presenting our work at WGIII in formal lunchtime side-meetings. Most recently, I co-organized the 2020 [UNCITRAL webinar on shareholder claims](#) (with the AF, Secretariat and OECD). I also serve as lead editor of the forthcoming JIDS special issue collecting articles based on the most recent group of AF concept papers. Beyond my work with the AF, I am an active participant in the UNCITRAL WGIII Process, as an observer delegate for the American Society of International Law (ASIL) since 2018. These experiences have given me a strong sense of what the AF does well, and, particularly, where it can make an impact in the reform process.

Lastly, I would bring to the Steering Committee a depth of experience in organizational governance. I serve on the ASIL Executive Council (its governing board). I co-chair the ASIL International Economic Law Interest Group, and previously co-chaired the ASIL International Organizations Interest Group. I also co-direct the Block Center for the Study of International Business Law at Brooklyn Law School. I have organized many conferences and workshops under these umbrellas, including hosting the 2019 ASIL Midyear Meeting and Research Forum at Brooklyn. I am also a member of the ITA Academic Council, and edit the International Decisions section of the *American Journal of International Law*.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.



Julian Arato