39th Joint Colloquium on International Arbitration

Paris | 6 November 2026

American Arbitration Association | ICDR

ICC Dispute Resolution Services

ICSID International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

PROGRAMME

Friday 6 November 2026

08:30-09:00 *Registration and welcome coffee*

09:00-09:45 **Institutional developments: Reports from each institution**

- **Michael A. Marra**, Senior Vice President, AAA-ICDR, Philadelphia, PA
- **Martina Polasek**, Secretary-General, ICSID, Washington, D.C.
- **Claudia Salomon**, President, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris

09:45-10:45 **Enter the Shark Tank 2.0: Judging impactful innovations in arbitral practice**

Following its successful debut at the 38th Joint Colloquium, the Shark Tank panel returns as an interactive forum for arbitrators and practitioners to present innovative proposals aimed at enhancing the efficiency, timeliness, and cost-effectiveness of international arbitration. In a Shark Tank–style format, panellists will pitch their ideas to a panel of judges, who will evaluate the proposals and select their top choice.

Judges:

- **Tina Cicchetti**, Independent Arbitrator, Cicchetti Arbitration, Italy
- **Kai Uwe Karl**, Global Chief Litigation Counsel, GE Renewable Energy, United Kingdom
- **Guy Pendell**, Partner, CMS, United Kingdom

Pitchers:

- **Pedro Arcoverde**, Senior Legal Counsel, Airbus, France
- **Isabela Lacreta**, Partner, Mayer Brown, France
- **Charlotte Matthews**, Senior Associate, HANEFELD, France

10:45-11:15 *Coffee break*

11:15-12:00 **Keynote Address**

- **Paul Verhagen**, Author of The Techtonic Shift; Strategic Liaison, University of Amsterdam; Senior Fellow, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS), The Netherlands/United States

12:00-12:15 **Q&A**

12:15-13:45 Lunch

13:45-14:45 **Panel I – Arbitration Under Sanctions: Navigating Geopolitical Constraints in International Dispute Resolution**

The increasing use of economic sanctions has created new challenges for international arbitration. Sanctions regimes adopted by states and regional organisations can affect virtually every stage of arbitral proceedings, including the appointment of arbitrators, the payment of advances on costs, the participation of counsel and experts, and the enforcement of awards. As part of a broader environment marked by rising geopolitical tensions and economic nationalism, these measures increasingly shape how institutions and parties conduct cross-border dispute resolution. Arbitral institutions, tribunals, and parties are therefore required to navigate complex and evolving sanctions frameworks while ensuring that proceedings remain fair and effective. This panel explores the practical and legal challenges that sanctions create for arbitral institutions, arbitrators, and parties, as well as the emerging measures to address them.

- **David Bigge**, Partner, Wordstone Dispute Resolution US LLP, United States
- **Anna Kozmenko**, Partner, Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, Switzerland/United Arab Emirates
- **Bart Legum**, Founding Partner, Honlet Legum Arbitration, France
- **Jennifer Younan**, Partner, A&O Shearman, France

Moderated by:

- **Diora Ziyaeva**, Partner, US Sector Co-Lead, Mining & Natural Resources, Dentons, United States

14:45-15:00 **Q&A**

15.00-16:00 **Panel II – Life after the Award: Courts, Sovereigns, and the Limits of Award Recovery**

Securing an arbitral award is often only half the battle. The real test frequently lies in enforcement. In recent years, enforcement has become one of the most contested and politically sensitive stages of international arbitration. Courts are increasingly confronted with applications that touch on sovereign interests, diplomatic considerations, and the treatment of state-linked assets. At the same time, sovereigns are making use of a widening array of procedural and strategic tools to shape, delay, or resist enforcement, contributing to a more fragmented and uncertain recovery landscape.

This panel will explore how courts handle politically or institutionally sensitive enforcement scenarios, how sovereign conduct influences or complicates proceedings, and what practical approaches award creditors are adopting to navigate multijurisdictional enforcement challenges.

- **Niuscha Bassiri**, Co-Founder, ArbBoutique, Belgium
- **Simon Gabriel**, Attorney at Law, Partner, Gabriel Arbitration AG, Switzerland
- **Christopher Harris KC**, Partner, Global Co-Chair, International Arbitration Practice Group and Judgement and Award Enforcement Practice Group, Gibson Dunn, Switzerland/United Kingdom
- **Florencia Villaggi**, Senior Vice President, Burford Capital, United States

Moderated by:

- **Mohamed Abdel Wahab**, Founding Partner & Head of International Arbitration, Construction and Energy, Zulficar & Partners, Egypt

16:00-16:15 **Q&A**

16:15-16:45 Coffee break

16:45-17:45 **What would you do? Responding to real-life challenges in international arbitration**

A longstanding fixture of the Joint Colloquium, this panel invites speakers to engage with pressing challenges arising in international arbitration and to explain how they would respond in practice.

- **Raëd Fathallah**, Partner, Bredin Prat, France
- **Fernando Mantilla-Serrano,** Of Counsel, Latham & Watkins, France
- **Diana Paraguacuto-Maheo**, Partner, Global Co-Chair, International Litigation & Arbitration Department, Foley Hoag, France
- **Sofia de Sampaio Jalles**, Partner, Armesto Dispute Resolution, Spain

Moderated by:

- **Michael McIlwrath**, Founder, MDisputes, Italy

17:45-18:00 **Q&A**

18:00-19.00 *Cocktail Reception*