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Possible reform of investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS)

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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Poss	ible reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
A.	Tribunals, ad hoc and standing multilateral n	nechanisms		
(i)	Multilateral advisory centre	Setting up advisory centre(s), for instance, as a stand-alone body, as part	Resources for the establishment of relevant	Cost and duration of ISDS proceedings (excessive
	Mentioned in: A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.168	of an institution, as an inter- governmental or non-governmental organization, or as a trust fund, established with a seat in one location or on a regional basis	facilities to provide support particularly to developing and least developed countries and	financial burden on the parties, including developing and least
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.159/Add.1, submission from the European Union and its Member		possibly SMEs	developed countries and possibly SMEs)
	States	Functions and services to be delineated	Development of relevant best	Correctness and consistency
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the Government of Morocco	(assistance in organizing the defence; support during dispute settlement	practices and sharing of institutional information to	Access to justice
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from	proceedings; advisory services; alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services; as well as capacity-building and sharing of best practices)	prevent disputes, while protecting confidentiality and avoiding potential conflicts of interest	
	the Government of Costa Rica	Beneficiaries to be determined (all or some States and/or small- and medium-		
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.174, submission from the Government of Turkey	sized enterprises (SMEs)		
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.179, submission from the Government of the Republic of Korea	This reform option can be implemented as a stand-alone reform or in conjunction with any other reform options		
		Possible interactions: third-party funding reform (see F. below)		
(ii)	Stand-alone review or appellate mechanism	Review of decisions	Review of decisions	Review of decisions
	Mentioned in:	Scrutiny system for awards prior to issuance	Setting up of a mechanism for review of ISDS tribunals	Absence of, or limited mechanisms in many
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.159/Add.1, submission from the European Union and its Member States (Appellate body, see also below A(iii))	Streamlined procedure for post-award actions such as interpretation, revision and annulment	decisions prior to issuance	existing treaties to addres inconsistency and incorrectness of decisions

Reform Options: Tabular presentation of framework for discussion

Possible reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the	Appellate mechanism	Appellate mechanism	Appellate mechanism
<i>Government of Morocco</i> (Prior scrutiny of awards and standing appellate mechanism)	 Development of an appellate mechanism, possibly tasked with a review of awards and decisions made by: Arbitral tribunals International investment court Regional investment court International commercial courts Domestic courts in case of denial of justice Determination of the framework within which it will be developed; it can be implemented jointly with any other reform options 	The relationship between an appellate mechanism and the ICSID Convention, which excludes any appeal or other remedy, except for those provided for in the Convention itself (Article 53) would deserve careful consideration The impact on the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (1958) should also be addressed	Absence of, or limited mechanisms in many existing treaties to address inconsistency and incorrectness of decisions
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan (Treaty-specific appellate review mechanism) A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.175, submission from the Government of Ecuador (Standing review and appellate mechanism) A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.177, submission from the Government of China (Stand-alone appellate mechanism)			
iii) Standing first instance and appeal investment court, with full-time judges Mentioned in:	Setting-up of a multilateral investment court, which would require preparing a statute to determine its functioning	The co-existence or articulation with the existing ISDS regime as well as with regional investment courts would need to be considered	Limits of the current mechanisms to address inconsistency and
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.159/Add.1, submission	This reform option would cover, and possibly work in conjunction with, other reform options. The option may make a number of other options for reform		incorrectness of decisions
from the European Union and its Member States			Concerns addressed in relation to arbitrators and decision-makers
Also discussed in: A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the Government of South Africa	redundant		Cost and duration
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.179, submission from the Government of the Republic of Korea	1 the		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.180, submission from the Government of Bahrain			

ssible reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed			
3. Arbitrators and adjudicators appointment methods and ethics						
·		The reform option may have a direct impact on party appointment mechanisms The impact on arbitral institutions' practice and their arbitration rules should be considered The impact on domestic legislation (including the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration) would also need to be assessed	Lack or apparent lack of independence and impartiality of decision makers in ISDS Issues regarding disclosure and challenge mechanisms available under many existing treaties and arbitration rules Lack of appropriate diversity among decision makers in ISDS Mechanisms for constituting ISDS tribunals in existing treaties and arbitration rules Correctness and consistency of decisions by ISDS tribunals			

Possible reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
challenge, clear guidelines on conflict of interest)			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.177, submission from the Government of China (Proposal to strengthen the framework on challenge and conflict of interest)			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.180, submission from the Government of Bahrain (Proposal to widen the pool of arbitrators and enhance diversity)			
ii) Code of conduct	Development of a code of conduct for	Development of a legal	Lack or apparent lack of
Mentioned in:	It would include determining appropriate sanctions in case of non-complianceframework, together with so law guidance on its useJoint project by ICSID and UNCITRAL	with an enforcement mechanism aimed at	independence and impartiality of decision makers in ISDS
A/CN.9/916			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.167		harmonizing the existing legal	
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.159/Add.1, submission from the European Union and its Member		framework, together with soft law guidance on its use	
States (full time judges, see above, option A(iii))			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the Government of Morocco	secretariats		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from the Governments of Costa Rica			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.174, Submission from the Government of Turkey			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.175, submission from the Government of Ecuador			

Possi	ible reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the Government of South Africa			
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.177, submission from the Government of China			
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.180, submission from the Government of Bahrain			
C.	Treaty Parties' involvement and control mech	anisms on treaty interpretation		
(i)	Enhancing treaty Parties' control over their instruments	Setting up mechanism(s) for treaty interpretation and related questions,	Design of mechanisms that could be applied to investment	Unjustifiably inconsistent interpretations of
	Mentioned in:	such as:	treaties generally	investment treaty provisions
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.159/Add.1, submission from the European Union and its Member	- Ad hoc authoritative interpretation mechanism		provisions
	States	- Authoritative interpretation by treaty		Lacking or limited
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the	institutions		mechanisms in many existing treaties to addres
	Government of Morocco	- Release of <i>travaux préparatoires</i>		alleged incorrectness of
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand	- Renvoi of interpretative questions		decisions
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan	Aimed at:		
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from	(i) Encouraging a more systematic use of:		
	the Government of Costa Rica	- Unilateral interpretations,		
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the	- Joint interpretations, or		
	Government of South Africa	- Multilateral interpretations		
		(ii)Ensuring abidance by arbitrators and decision-makers		
		This reform option can be implemented as a stand-alone reform or in conjunction with other reform options, such as reforms aiming at strengthening		

Possi	ble reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
		the involvement of State authorities (see C(ii), or at establishing review or appellate mechanisms (see A(ii))		
(ii)	Strengthening the involvement of State authorities Mentioned in:	Establishing/strengthening the framework for State-State preliminary consideration of issues, including:	Development of a legal standard for inclusion in investment treaties; and/or	Unjustifiably inconsistent interpretations of investment treaty
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.159/Add.1, submission from the European Union and its Member States	 Technical consultations Decisions by the respective State authorities 	Setting up of a multilateral framework, also applicable to	provisions Absence of, or limited
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from the Governments of Costa Rica	 Setting up a joint review committee by the treaty Parties Review/Appeal mechanism or State- State body to which application could be made if the claim cannot be settled at the technical level in a given time period 	existing treaties, such as an appellate mechanism or a body to allow for an appeal of joint State authorities' decisions	mechanisms in many existing treaties to address inconsistency and incorrectness of decisions
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.171, submission from the Government of Brazil			
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the Government of South Africa			Cost and duration of ISDS proceedings, including frivolous claims and abuse
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.180, submission from the Government of Bahrain	This reform option can be implemented as a stand-alone reform or in conjunction with other reform options, such as reforms aiming at enhancing the control by treaty Parties on their instruments (see C(i))		of process
D.	Dispute prevention and mitigation			
(i)	Strengthening of dispute settlement mechanisms other than arbitration	For instance, mediation and ombudsman facilities as part of the promotion of	Development of relevant standard clauses for	Cost and duration of ISDS proceedings
	(ombudsman, mediation)	early settlement of disputes, particularly during the cooling-off period	investment treaties, promotion of existing mediation rules	Preservation of
	Mentioned in: A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.156, submission from the Government of Indonesia	This reform option can be implemented as a stand-alone reform or in conjunction with other reform options	(ICSID and UNCITRAL Mediation Rules are being updated); and establishment of relevant facilities if necessary	long-term relations

Possible re	eforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
fro	CN.9/WG.III/WP.159/Add.1, submission om the European Union and its Member ates		Promotion of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement	
	CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the overnment of Morocco		Agreements Resulting from Mediation ("Singapore Convention on Mediation")	
	CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the overnment of Thailand		convention on weakion)	
	CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the overnments of Chile, Israel and Japan			
A/	CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from to Governments of Costa Rica			
	CN.9/WG.III/WP.171, submission from the overnment of Brazil			
	CN.9/WG.III/WP.174, submission from e Government of Turkey			
	CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the overnment of South Africa			
	CN.9/WG.III/WP.177, submission from e Government of China			
	CN.9/WG.III/WP.179, submission from the overnment of the Republic of Korea			
(ii) Ex	chaustion of local remedies	Development of model provisions on	Development of model	By-passing of domestic
M	entioned in:	exhaustion of local remedies	provisions for treaties	courts
	CN.9/WG.III/WP.156, submission from the overnment of Indonesia	This reform option can be implemented		
Go A/	CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the overnment of Morocco CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the overnment of South Africa	as a stand-alone reform or in conjunction with other reform options		

Possible reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
(iii) Procedure to address frivolous claims, including early dismissal	mechanism to dismiss frivolous	Possible impact on/necessity of coordination with:	Cost of ISDS proceedings Lack of a mechanism to
Mentioned in:	claims at an early stage, including the possibility for the tribunal to order	- Rules/treaties that already	address frivolous or
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.156, submission from the Government of Indonesia	the claimant to pay all costs associated with such claims, taking the form of rules, guidelines for arbitrators, model clauses for treaties, specific procedure with a permanent or semi-permanent first instance court	provide for these procedures	unmeritorious claims
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the Government of Morocco A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from the Government of Costa Rica			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.174, submission from the Government of Turkey			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the Government of South Africa			
(iv) Multiple proceedings, reflective loss and counterclaims by respondent States	Guidance to arbitral tribunals regarding multiple proceedings	The role of tribunals is strengthened in options listed	Lack of framework to address multiple proceedings and allow counterclaims
Mentioned in:	(i) Where different entities within the	under (i), and the role of States is enhanced in options listed	
(Multiple proceedings)	same corporate structure have a right of action against a State regarding	under (ii)	counterenamis
A/CN.9/915	the same investment/same State	Possible impact on:	Consistency of decisions by
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.170	measure and for the benefit of substantially the same interests,	- Arbitral institutions, their	ISDS tribunals
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.159/Add.1, submission	possibility to consider developing	 rules, practices and role Non-institutional arbitration rules Specific treaty language in certain treaties (e.g., "indirect" investor, 	
from the European Union and its Member States	 legal standards regarding: Proactive use of consolidation Possibility to exchange information between tribunals 		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178,, submissions from the Government of Costa Rica	- Stay of proceedings		

1 055	ible reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.174, Submission from the Government of Turkey	- Considering the use of <i>lis pendens, res judicata</i> and other doctrines (e.g.,	providing a legal basis for counterclaims etc.)	Development of new legal standards (see A/CN.9/915)
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the Government of South Africa	abuse of process) (ii)In the situation of a concurrent		Can also address:
		proceeding where a measure by a		Abuse of process
	(Counterclaims)	State has an impact on a number of		Judicial economy
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the Government of Morocco			Costs and Duration
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the Government of South Africa			
		 System of preliminary rulings by specific bodies 		
E. (i)	Cost management and related procedures <i>Expedited procedures</i>	Application of relevant rules and practices, or of specific procedures for smaller claims and non-complex cases:	Both ICSID (current reform process) and UNCITRAL (current work on expedited	Cost and duration of ISD
	1 <i>A</i> 1 A			
	Mentioned in:	smaller claims and non-complex cases;	(current work on expedited	proceedings
	Mentioned in: A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan		1 /	proceedings
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the	smaller claims and non-complex cases; development of rules to streamline the procedure and expedite certain aspects of the procedure, for instance,	(current work on expedited arbitration by Working Group II) are working on the development of expedited	proceedings
	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from	smaller claims and non-complex cases; development of rules to streamline the procedure and expedite certain aspects of the procedure, for instance,	(current work on expedited arbitration by Working Group II) are working on the development of expedited	proceedings
(ii)	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from the Government of Costa Rica A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.174, submission from	smaller claims and non-complex cases; development of rules to streamline the procedure and expedite certain aspects of the procedure, for instance, preliminary objections Development of cost-sharing mechanism between the parties to the	(current work on expedited arbitration by Working Group II) are working on the development of expedited procedure rules Development of principles and rules that provide guidance to	1 0
(ii)	A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from the Government of Costa Rica A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.174, submission from the Government of Turkey Principles/guidelines on allocation of cost	smaller claims and non-complex cases; development of rules to streamline the procedure and expedite certain aspects of the procedure, for instance, preliminary objections	(current work on expedited arbitration by Working Group II) are working on the development of expedited procedure rules Development of principles and	Cost and duration of ISD

Possible reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand	Development of regulation on security for cost to ensure its availability and use	The option can accompany any other option for reform	need for rules on security for cost
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan	by tribunals		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from the Government of Costa Rica			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.174, submission from the Government of Turkey			
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the Government of South Africa			
(iii) Other streamlined procedures and tools to manage costs	Streamlining the procedure including the introduction and implementation of	Introduction of stricter timelines and compliance	Cost and duration of ISDS proceedings
Mentioned in:	stricter time line	mechanisms	Allocation of cost by ISDS
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the Government of Morocco	- Requiring parties and the tribunal to establish a budget at the outset of a case	More effective management of costs through information- sharing	tribunals; difficulties for States in cost recovery and need for rules on security for
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand	 Adopting a ceiling for overall costs; and 	Improved case management by ISDS tribunals	costs
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan	 Requiring tribunals to provide parties with enhanced, real-time information 	The option can accompany any other option for reform	
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from the Government of Costa Rica	about the status of a case, including budget		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the Government of South Africa			
F. Third party funding			
Mentioned in:	Definition	Impact on the overall ISDS	Definition of
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.172	Prohibition	procedure including	third-party funding
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.161, submission from the Government of Morocco	Regulation with regard to:	transparency requirement,	Use or regulation of third- party funding

Possible reforms	Elements of the reforms - Link to other reform options	Main implications	Concerns addressed
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.162, submission from the Government of Thailand	- Limitation of admissibility	security for costs and	
	- Disclosure requirement	allocation of costs	
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.163, submission from the Governments of Chile, Israel and Japan	- Consideration in cost decisions		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.164 and	- Legal aid mechanism		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.178, submissions from	- Code of conduct		
the Government of Costa Rica	Possible interactions:		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.174, submission from the Government of Turkey	- Legal aid mechanism under umbrella of multilateral advisory centre		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.176, submission from the Government of South Africa	- Equity funding and indirect claims, claims by shareholders and reflective		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.177, submission from the Government of China	- Application of UNCITRAL		
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.179, submission from the Government of the Republic of Korea	G.III/WP.179, <i>submission from the</i> transparency standards		
G. Other possible reform options	To be determined by the Working Group		
IMPLEMENTATION OF REFORM OPTIONS			
Opt-in Convention	Modelled after the Mauritius		Possibility to ensure
Mentioned in:	Treaty-based Investor-State		application of the reforms to
A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.159/Add.1, submission			existing investment treaties
A/CIN.7/ WO.III/ WF.139/Auu.1, SUDMISSION	Aromation and the OECD		Possibility to offer a range

Multilateral Convention to

and Profit Shifting

Implement Tax Treaty Related

Measures to Prevent Base Erosion

Possibility to offer a range of reform options

from the European Union and its Member

Government of Colombia

Government of Ecuador

A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.173, submission from the

A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.175, submission from the

States