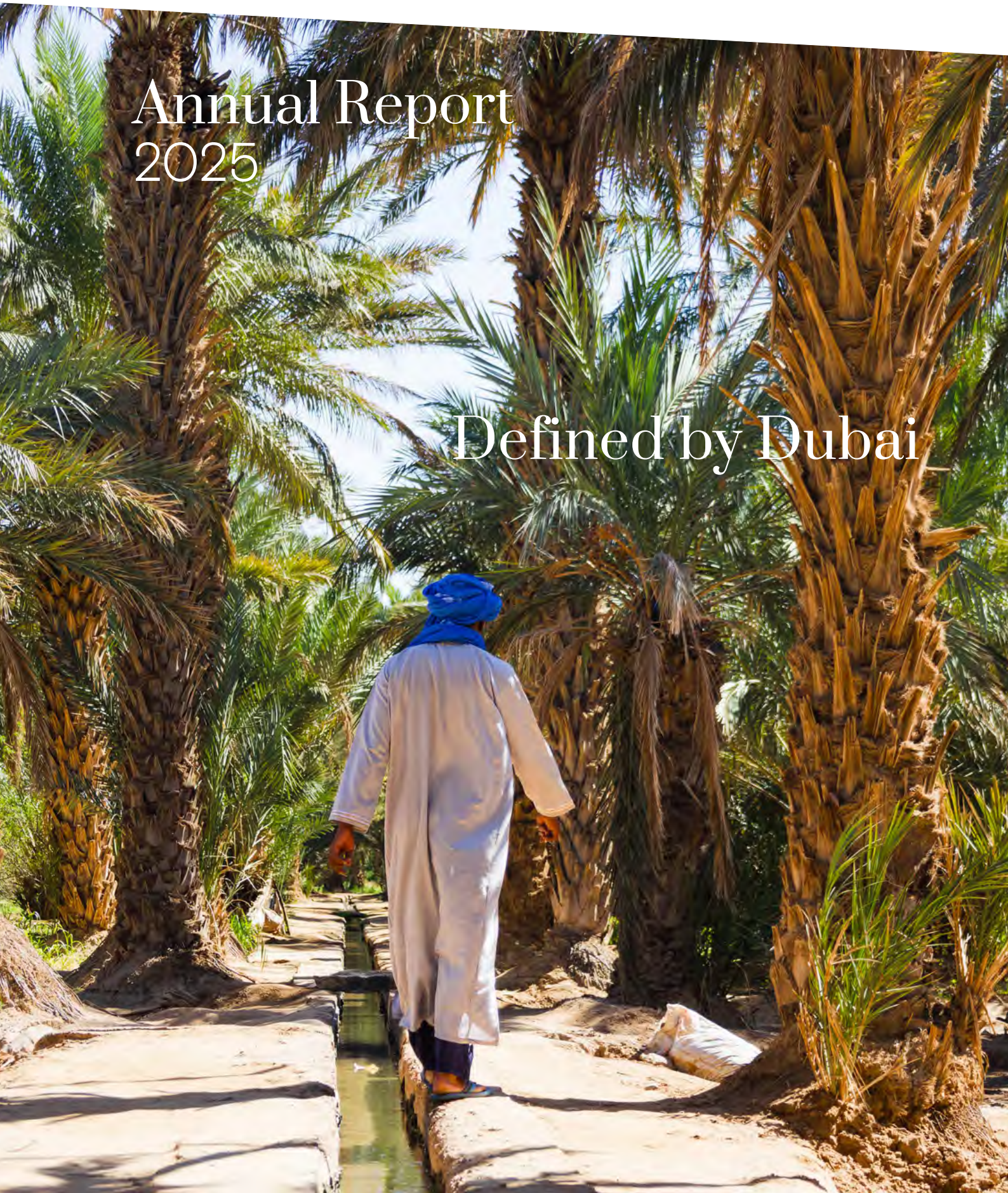
DUBAI مركـــــــــــز
INTERNATIONAL دبـــي
ARBITRATION للتـحكيـم
CENTRE الدولـــــــي

DIAC

Annual Report 2025

Defined by Dubai





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About

Defined by trust

About

Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC or the Centre) has over three decades of experience of providing dispute resolution services to parties doing business in, or through, the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia (MEASA) region. The Centre is the region's largest arbitral institution, independent and impartial, committed to excellence, efficiency, and diversity.

We administer arbitrations pursuant to the DIAC Arbitration Rules (DIAC Rules), which are flexible and suitable for all types of arbitrable disputes. In addition, we regularly act as an appointing authority and administer arbitrations conducted pursuant to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Arbitration Rules (UNCITRAL Rules). We also provide other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services including mediation and conciliation services.

Further, we conduct an international programme of events and courses. In 2025, we co-ordinated 185 events during Dubai Arbitration Week – one of the largest arbitration weeks on the international arbitration event calendar, attended by over 1,700 delegates.

As a trusted arbitral institution, we are committed to creating a culture where our people feel respected, valued, and that they belong; supporting the communities in which our people live and work; and protecting the environment and tackling climate change.

We only work with suppliers who share these values and goals and have policies in place to ensure that our officers, people, and suppliers operate in compliance with applicable anti-bribery and anti-corruption legislation and to the highest ethical standards. We are a signatory and active supporter of the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge; the Equal Representation for Expert Witnesses Pledge; the Racial Equality for Arbitration Lawyers Initiative; and the Green Pledge and the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations.

We are an independent, impartial, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation. We have a three-tier structure, comprising a Board of Directors, an Arbitration Court, and an Administrative Body. The Board of Directors has also formed an Advisory Committee to assist and support it in its functions.

EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN ARBITRATION

#letsgetREAL! REAL Racial Equality for Arbitration Lawyers

CAMPAIGN FOR GREENER ARBITRATIONS



Board of Directors

The Board of Directors comprises a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and up to seven other members. The Board of Directors is currently chaired by H.E. Dr Tariq Humaid Matar Al Tayer and is made up largely of prominent Dubai-based business leaders, lawyers, and arbitration practitioners.
It is principally concerned with the operation and development of the Centre and its compliance with applicable law. The Board of Directors does not have an active role in case administration, though it does maintain a close interest in the Centre's Administrative Body, particularly through the Arbitration Court, which supervises the work of the Case Management Team and whose members the Board of Directors appoints. The functions of the Board of Directors are set out in the Centre's statute.



H.E. Dr Tariq Al Tayer
Chairman



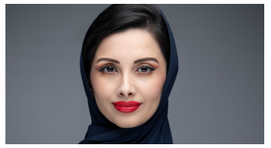
Ahmad Belyouha
Vice-Chairman



Abdulaziz Bin Shafar
Member



Ahmed Al Rasheed
Member



Jehad Kazim
Member



Graham Lovett
Member



Prof Dr Klaus Sachs
Member



Richard Briggs
Member



Thomas Snider
Member

Arbitration Court

The Arbitration Court is made up of 13 members, currently representing 11 nationalities, selected to provide and maintain a balance of leading practitioners in commercial arbitration from the major trading areas of the world. The Arbitration Court is the final authority for the proper application of the DIAC Rules. Its principal functions are appointing arbitrators and mediators, determining challenges to arbitrators, controlling the costs of the proceedings and deciding on other procedural matters under the DIAC Rules.

Although the Arbitration Court meets regularly in plenary sessions, most of its functions under the DIAC Rules are performed, on its behalf, by the President, Vice-President, or by three or five-member subcommittees. The functions of the Arbitration Court are set out in the Centre's statute.

The Board of Directors appoints the members of the Arbitration Court. The current members of the Arbitration Court were appointed in February 2023. The President of the Arbitration Court is Dr Michael Pryles AO PBM and the Vice-President is Erin Miller Rankin. The other 11 members of the Arbitration Court are: Abdulwahid Alulama; Prof Albert Jan van den Berg; Prof Emilia Onyema; Dr Hassan Arab; Hiroo Advani; Ilya Nikiforov; Mohammed Rashed Alsuwaidi; Ning FEI; Dr Rouven Bodenheimer; Rupert Reed KC; and Wendy Miles KC.



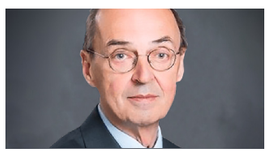
Dr Michael Pryles AO PBM
President



Erin Miller Rankin
Vice-President



Abdulwahid Alulama
Member



Prof Albert Jan van den Berg
Member



Prof Emilia Onyema
Member



Dr Hassan Arab
Member



Hiroo Advani
Member



Ilya Nikiforov
Member



Mohammed Rashed Alsuwaidi
Member



Ning FEI
Member



Dr Rouven Bodenheimer
Member



Rupert Reed KC
Member



Wendy Miles KC
Member

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee was formed by the Board of Directors in 2023 to assist and support it in the performance of its functions. It plays a critical role, providing expert insight, guidance and recommendations on the strategy and initiatives of the Centre, and promoting the work of the Centre. The Advisory Committee comprises nine members, and is chaired by Anne Hoffmann. The other eight members of the Advisory Committee are: Robert Stephen (Vice-Chair); Ahmed Ibrahim; Ali Al Hashimi; Bushra Ahmed; Prof Julian Lew KC; Sarah Malik; Wolf von Kumberg; and Dr Yousuf Al Suwaidi.



Anne Hoffmann
Chair



Robert Stephen
Vice-Chair



Ali Al Hashimi
Member



Bushra Ahmed
Member



Prof Julian Lew KC
Member



Sarah Malik
Member



Dr Yousuf Al Suwaidi
Member



Ahmed Ibrahim
Member



Wolf von Kumberg
Member

Administrative Body

The Administrative Body is responsible for the operations of the Centre and the day-to-day administration of all disputes referred to the Centre.

Management



Robert Stephen
Registrar

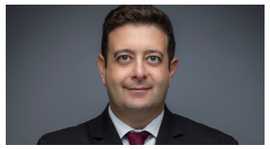
Case Management Team



Katy Hacking
Deputy Registrar



Markel Equiluz Parte
Deputy Registrar



Mohamed Hafez
Special Counsel



Anis Naim
Senior Counsel



Anna Boer
Senior Counsel



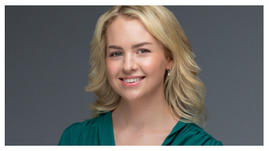
Tala Fahoum
Senior Counsel



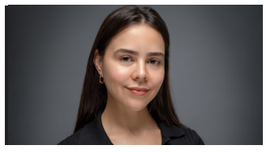
Laura Jiménez Jáimez
Senior Counsel



Akash Srivastava
Senior Counsel



Laura Roberts
Senior Counsel



Isabela Monerat Mendez
Counsel

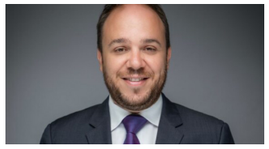


Sunitha Menon Thamattoor
Case Manager

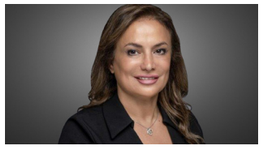


Monique Nicolas
Administrative Assistant

Operations



Zain Makhlouf
Strategy and Marketing Manager



Ritta Saoud
Events Manager



Rochelle Cruz
Lead Accountant



Hesham Basha
Strategy and Marketing Executive



Nayiri Boghossian
Events Executive



Sreekala Babu
Accountant and Audit Executive



Laila Moaz
Strategy and Marketing Executive



Nama AlAli
Events Administrator



Daisy Cureg
Accountant



Ibrahim Noor
Administration Assistant and
Public Relations Officer



Ayah Haffar
Executive Assistant

Message from the Chairman

Defined by strength

H.E. Dr Tariq Al Tayer
Chairman



Welcome to our 2025 Annual Report, which records another year of progress for Dubai International Arbitration Centre – the leading arbitral institution in the MEASA region.

2025 was a year of continued progress for the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, with further development in its capabilities, international reach and institutional standing.

The results presented in this report reflect DIAC's growing international reach, the increasing confidence of its users and the continued strengthening of its institutional framework. The Centre served an increasingly diverse user base, administered disputes arising from a wide range of commercial relationships and further developed its role in mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

The Board remained firmly focused on safeguarding DIAC's independence, strengthening governance, supporting the framework for consistent and efficient case administration, and maintaining high standards of institutional decision-making and service.

The UAE's designation of 2025 as the Year of Community, under the theme "Hand in Hand", was particularly relevant to DIAC. Throughout the year, the Centre engaged with parties, counsel, arbitrators, mediators, courts, public institutions, businesses, universities and the next generation of practitioners through professional dialogue, training, knowledge-sharing and local and international initiatives. DIAC's contribution also extended beyond the legal profession through its support for Al Jalila Foundation.

Diversity and inclusion remain integral to DIAC's work. The Centre draws upon a wide range of professional experience across nationalities and backgrounds, while the DIAC Arbitration Court continues to give careful attention to gender diversity and broader representation in its appointments.

Trusted and independent dispute resolution is an essential part of the framework supporting business, trade and investment in Dubai. As Dubai's arbitral institution, DIAC plays an important role within that framework, serving users from the UAE, the wider region and around the world.

We remain deeply grateful for the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, whose vision continues to strengthen Dubai's position as a leading global centre for business and international engagement.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere appreciation to the DIAC Arbitration Court, the Advisory Committee, the Centre's management and employees, our arbitrators, mediators, partners, users and the wider alternative dispute resolution community.

As 2026 progresses, the Board remains committed to building on DIAC's progress, maintaining the highest standards of governance and service, and advancing DIAC's position as a trusted international institution.

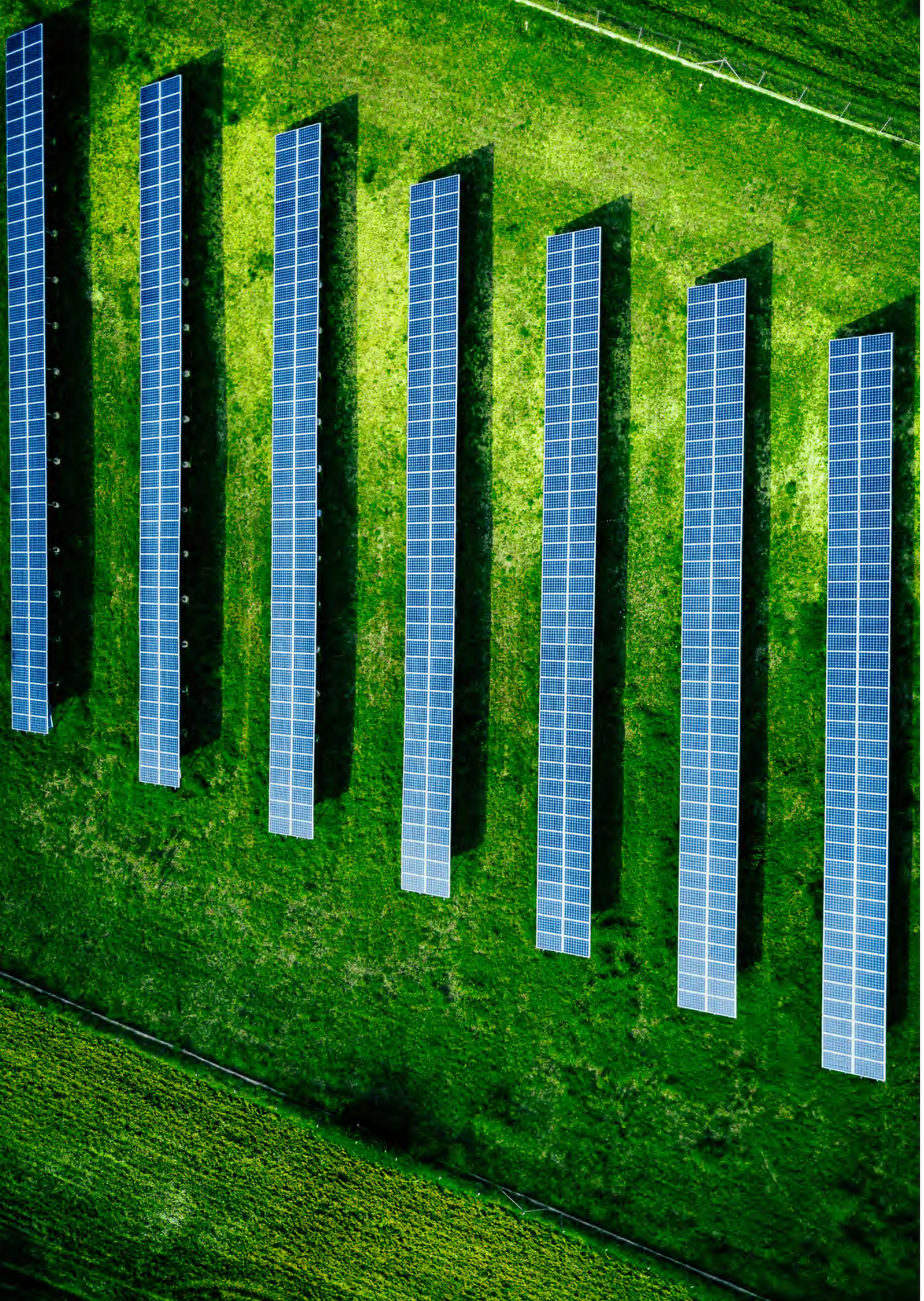
Tariq Humaid Al Tayer



Statistics

Defined by excellence





Statistics

Executive summary

In the past six years, the Centre has administered more than 1,500 arbitrations.

2025 was another good year for the Centre, with a total of 313 cases registered, broken down as 281 arbitrations, 24 appointing authority cases and 8 mediations. This marked a 6% increase to the cases registered by the Centre in 2024, with the number of administered arbitrations increasing by 7%. This was also the fourth consecutive year that the Centre has registered more than 250 administered arbitrations.

In total, the administered arbitrations registered in 2025 had an aggregate amount in dispute of AED 13.9 billion (up from AED 9.7 billion in 2024) with an average amount in dispute of AED 49 million (up from AED 37 million in 2024).

Despite global economic challenges, the construction sector in the MEASA region continues to show remarkable resilience. It is no surprise therefore that the construction and real estate sector continued to make up the majority of the Centre's caseload in 2025, representing almost 50% of all DIAC arbitrations.

The leading construction and real estate industries in 2025 were commercial and residential construction, followed by real estate development.

Sale and purchase contracts were the most common contract type in 2025, accounting for 31% of all underlying contracts in DIAC arbitrations, followed by construction contracts at 30%.

DIAC arbitrations in the banking and finance sector represented almost 11% of the Centre's caseload in 2025 (overtaking the energy sector, which was the second largest sector represented in the DIAC caseload in 2024).

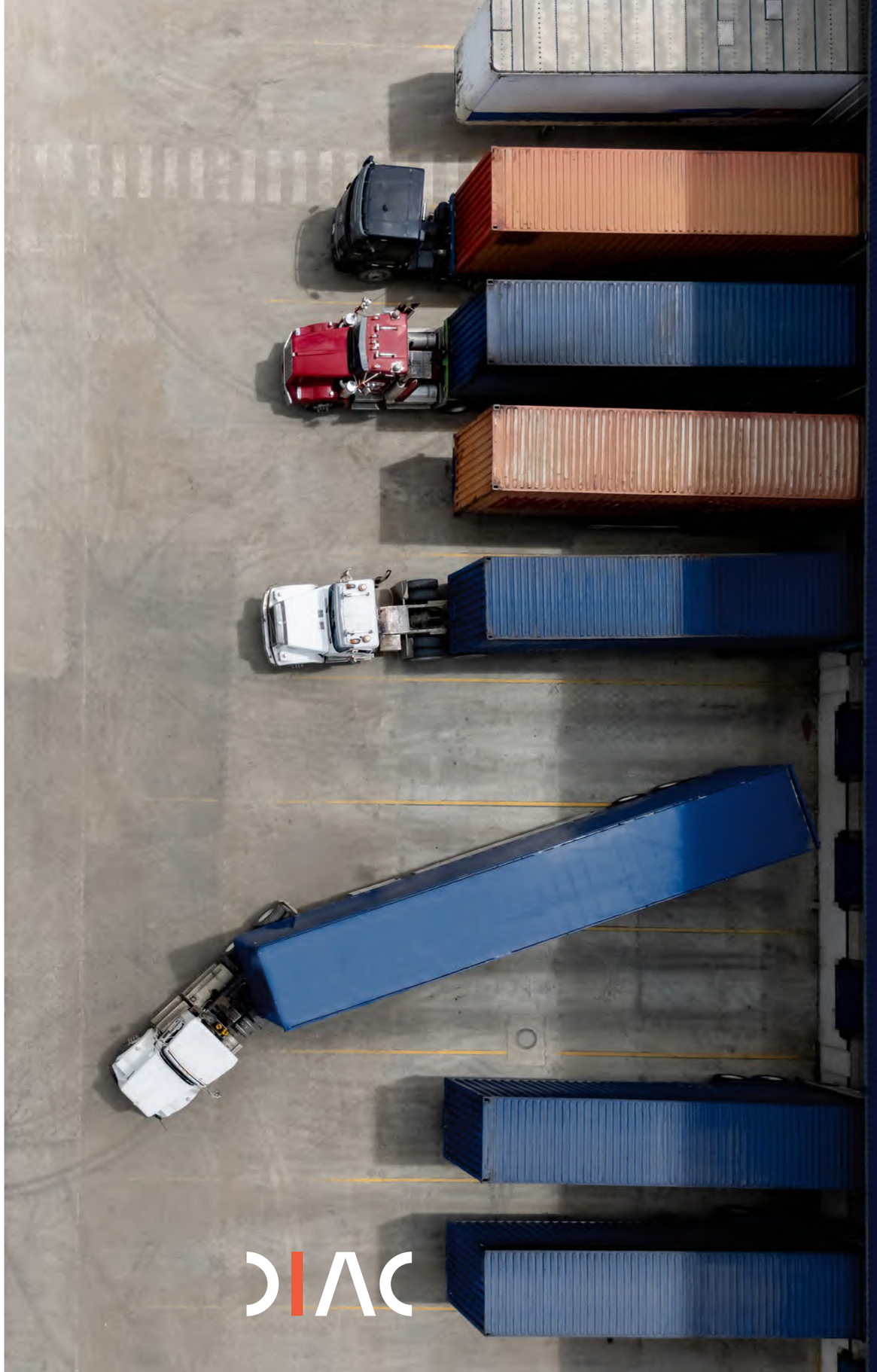
More than two thirds of the contracts out of which disputes arose in DIAC arbitrations registered in 2025 were concluded within the past six years. Interestingly, more than 43% arose from contracts concluded in the last three years (up from 36% in 2024 and 25% in 2023), reaffirming that parties continue to recognise the Centre's unique strengths and services.

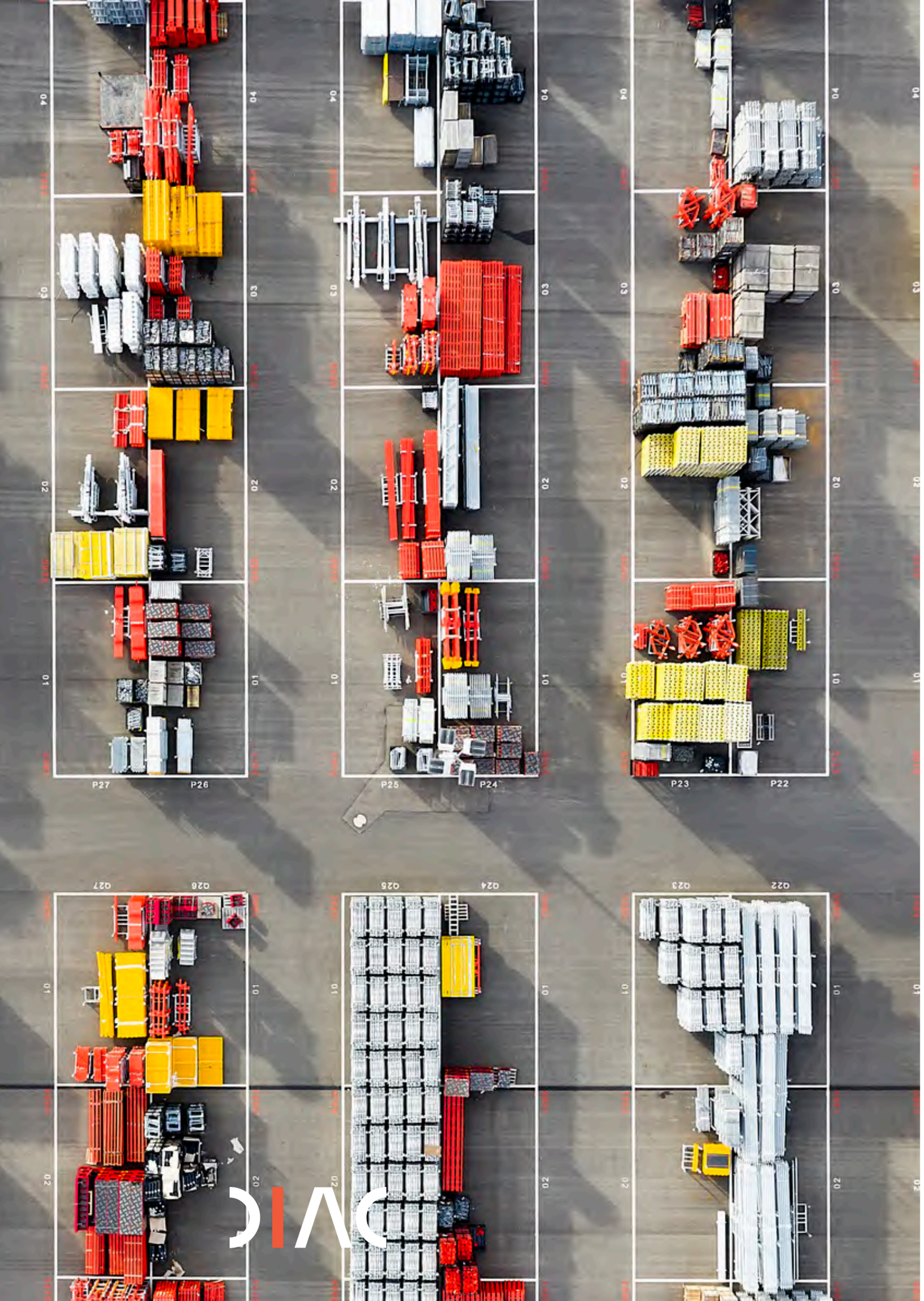
In 2025, the Arbitration Court constituted 198 Tribunals in administered arbitrations. In constituting these tribunals, the Arbitration Court appointed a total of 348 arbitrators similar to the 388 appointments made in 2024.

The Arbitration Court continued to lead the way with diversity in appointments in 2025, with the selection of female arbitrators by the Arbitration Court exceeding 40% for the third consecutive year at 42%. The Centre was shortlisted for the GAR Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge Award at the 15th annual GAR Awards in Paris on 10 April 2025 for the Arbitration Court's remarkably consistent representation of women. There is still more to be done by parties and co-arbitrators to improve the overall percentage of appointments of women (30% in 2025, 33% in 2024, and 31% in 2023).

Only 18% of the arbitrators appointed following party nomination were women while 29% of the tribunal chairs nominated by co-arbitrators were women.

The Centre continued to improve its international reach with arbitrators from 45 different countries appointed by the Arbitration Court in 2025.





Caseload

The Centre's performance in 2025 was strong, with a total of 313 cases registered, broken down as 281 arbitrations, 24 appointing authority cases and 8 mediations being registered. There was a 6% increase to the cases registered by the Centre in 2025 compared to the previous year. The number of administered arbitrations increased by 7%. This marks the fourth consecutive year of the Centre registering more than 250 administered arbitrations per year.

The total aggregate amount in dispute increased in 2025 to AED 13.9 billion (from AED 9.7 billion in 2024) with an average amount in dispute of AED 49 million (up from AED 37 million in 2024). Most of the cases registered in 2025 were administered arbitrations, with the parties having agreed to an application of the DIAC Rules.

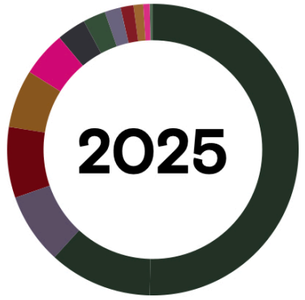
A minority of the cases registered were appointing authority cases, which were referred to the Centre either on the basis of the parties having agreed to mandate DIAC to act as appointing authority pursuant to Article 4 of Appendix II to the DIAC Rules, on the basis of an order from the Dubai Courts authorising the Centre to act in this capacity as a "Relevant Authority" pursuant to Article 11 of the UAE Federal Arbitration Law, or on the basis of a delegation by the Secretary General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Sector and industry of dispute

The sector and industry of dispute in cases registered in 2025 were largely consistent with those of cases registered in 2024. Disputes in the construction and real estate sector continued to make up the majority of the Centre's caseload, representing 50% of all cases administered. As in the previous year, the leading construction and real estate industries were commercial and residential construction, followed by real estate development.

Outside of the construction and real estate sector, the Centre's caseload involved administered cases in the banking and finance (32 or c. 11%); energy (22 or c. 8%); transport and logistics (22 or c. 8%); manufacturing and industrial (18 or c. 6%); retail and consumer goods (14 or c. 5%); tourism and hospitality (9 or c. 3%); technology and telecommunications (7 or c. 2%); education (5 or c. 2%); professional services (4 or c. 1%); media and entertainment (3 or c. 1%); healthcare (2 or c. 1%); and agriculture (1 or c. <1%) sectors.

SECTOR AND INDUSTRY OF DISPUTE



- CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE - 141
- BANKING AND FINANCE - 32
- ENERGY - 22
- TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS - 22
- MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL - 18
- RETAIL AND CONSUMER GOODS - 14
- TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY - 9
- TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS - 7
- EDUCATION - 5
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - 4
- MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT - 3
- HEALTHCARE - 2
- AGRICULTURE - 1



Contract types

The Centre also records the contract type for all administered arbitrations registered. The most common contract type in 2025 was sale and purchase contracts, accounting for 88 (or c. 31%) of all underlying contracts (compared to c. 25% in 2024). Within this category, sales contracts, share purchase agreements, and supply agreements were particularly prevalent. This broke from what we have seen in the past, where construction contracts have been the most common contract type. For administered arbitrations registered in 2025, construction contracts accounted for 83 (or c. 30%) of all underlying contracts (compared to c. 41% in 2024).

Like 2024, the third largest contract type for arbitrations registered in 2025 was service and provider contracts, accounting for 34 (or c. 12%) of administered arbitrations (up from 31 cases in 2024).

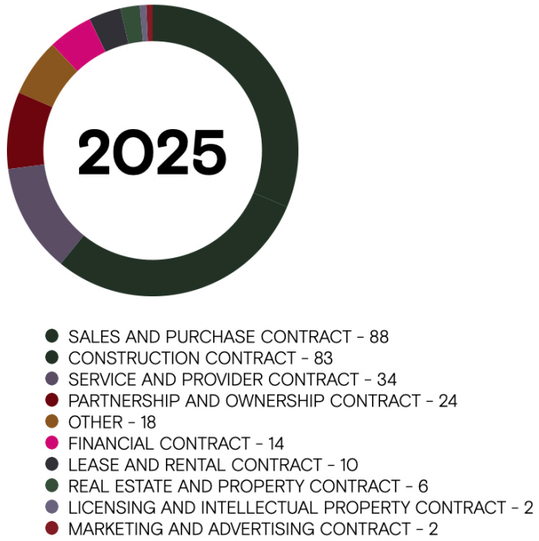
Interestingly, partnership and ownership contracts, which accounted for 11 (or c. 4%) of underlying contracts in 2024, more than doubled in 2025, to 24 (or c. 9%).

Other common types of contracts for administered arbitrations registered in 2025 include financial contracts (14 or c. 5%), and lease and rental contracts (10 or c. 4%). The 18 (or c. 6%) of contracts classified as “Other” in 2025 include framework agreements, charterparties and settlement agreements.

There has been a decline in real estate and property contract cases, which was evident in 2024 and persisted in 2025. In 2025, only 6 (or c. 2%) compared to 16 (or c. 6%) in 2024 of administered arbitrations arose out of real estate and property contracts.

Licensing and intellectual property contracts accounted for 2 (or c. 1%), and marketing and advertising contracts accounted for 2 (or c. 1%) of the administered arbitrations.

CONTRACT TYPE



Sector and industry of contract

Recognising that the sector and industry of the parties' contract can be different to the sector and industry of the parties' dispute in some cases, the Centre records data on the sector and industry of the parties' contract.

For the cases registered in 2025, the sector and industry of the parties' contract broadly reflected the sector and industry of the parties' dispute, with these being different in only 7 cases. We expect this to diversify over time.

SECTOR AND INDUSTRY OF CONTRACT



- CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE - 141
- BANKING AND FINANCE - 31
- ENERGY - 23
- TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS - 21
- MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL - 17
- RETAIL AND CONSUMER GOODS - 14
- TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY - 9
- TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS - 8
- EDUCATION - 6
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - 4
- MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT - 3
- HEALTHCARE - 2
- AGRICULTURE - 1
- ENVIRONMENTAL AND UTILITIES - 1

Nationality of parties

In 2025, parties to arbitrations commenced under the DIAC Rules originated from 60 different countries (up from 53 in 2024 and 49 in 2023). Consistent with cases registered in 2024, the percentage of parties from the United Arab Emirates continued to be significant at 67% or 411 (as compared to 71% or 416 in 2024). 33% or 207 parties were from countries other than the United Arab Emirates (as compared to 29% or 166 in 2024 and 28% or 195 in 2023). These statistics are based on the parties' nationality or country of incorporation. The true number of international parties in DIAC cases is likely higher than the statistics presented as many international companies conduct commercial activities in the UAE and wider MENA region through UAE corporate entities or branches.

In the past two years, we have seen a notable interest from India and Russia in the Centre's services. 19 (or 3%) were from India; 12 (or 2%) were from Russia in 2025. The above numbers could be an early indication that DIAC clauses are increasingly being written into contracts involving parties from these countries. We expect the share of parties from the above-mentioned countries to increase over time.

Other than the United Arab Emirates, parties from Saudi Arabia, India, Kuwait, UK, Russia, Cayman Islands, Italy, France and Lebanon were the most common users of the Centre in 2025. Of these, and consistent with cases registered in 2024, the most significant was the number of parties from Saudi Arabia, at 24 or 4% in 2025.



- UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – 411
- SAUDI ARABIA – 24
- INDIA – 19
- KUWAIT – 19
- UNITED KINGDOM – 19
- RUSSIA – 12
- CAYMAN ISLANDS – 9
- ITALY – 7
- FRANCE – 6
- LEBANON – 6
- EGYPT – 5
- JORDAN – 4
- SINGAPORE – 4
- USA – 4
- BAHRAIN – 3
- CANADA – 3
- GERMANY – 3
- HONG KONG – 3
- IRAN – 3
- KAZAKHSTAN – 3
- OMAN – 3
- ARMENIA – 2
- AUSTRALIA – 2
- GHANA – 2
- IRAQ – 2
- IRELAND – 2
- NORTH MACEDONIA – 2
- PALESTINE – 2
- QATAR – 2
- SWITZERLAND – 2
- ALBANIA – 1
- AZERBAIJAN – 1
- BRAZIL – 1
- BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS – 1
- CHINA – 1
- CROATIA – 1
- CYPRUS – 1
- DR CONGO – 1
- GEORGIA – 1
- GREECE – 1
- GRENADA – 1
- LIBERIA – 1
- NIGERIA – 1
- NORWAY – 1
- PAKISTAN – 1
- PANAMA – 1
- POLAND – 1
- ROMANIA – 1
- SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS – 1
- SENEGAL – 1
- SERBIA – 1
- SLOVAKIA – 1
- SOUTH AFRICA – 1
- SOUTH KOREA – 1
- SPAIN – 1
- SUDAN – 1
- SWEDEN – 1
- THE NETHERLANDS – 1
- TURKEY – 1
- YEMEN – 1

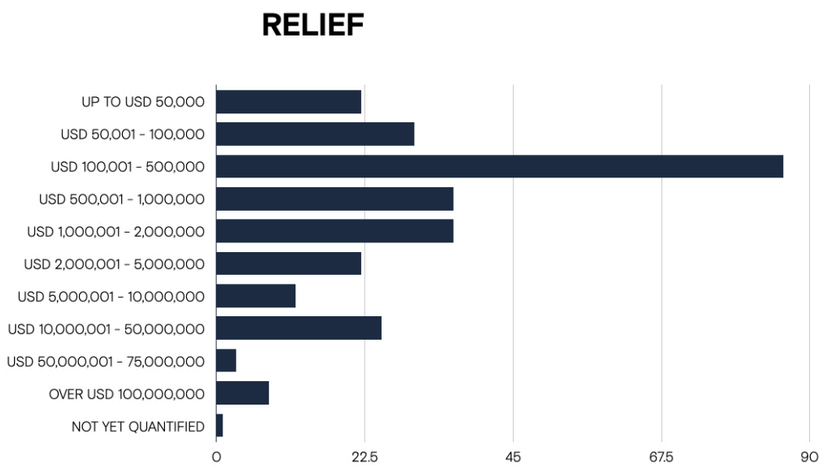
Relief

In total, the DIAC arbitration cases registered in 2025 had an aggregate amount in dispute of more than AED 13.9 billion (USD 3.8 billion). This marked an increase in the aggregate amount in dispute compared to cases registered in 2024, for which the total amount in dispute was AED 9.7 billion (USD 2.647 billion).

The lowest amount in dispute in 2025 was AED 73,470 (USD 20,005). The highest amount in dispute in 2025 was AED 5,049,687,500 (USD 1,375,000,000). The average amount in dispute for administered arbitration cases registered in 2025 was AED 49,342,308 (USD 13,435,618) and the median was AED 1,855,644 (USD 505,281). By comparison, in 2024, the lowest amount in dispute was AED 24,978 (USD 6,801), and the highest amount in dispute was AED 3,532,440,920 (USD 961,862,742). Further, the average amount in dispute in 2024 was AED 37,108,914 (USD 10,104,537) and the median was AED 1,743,961 (USD 474,870).

As some of the quantified claims were accompanied by claims for unquantified damages the amount of the claims advanced by parties will under-represent the amount sought.

In addition, many of the sums claimed will increase by the value of counterclaims sought by Respondents or change because of the parties subsequently amending their claims.



Arbitrator appointments

Pursuant to the DIAC Rules, parties and co-arbitrators may (and often do) select their own arbitrators. Formal appointment by the DIAC Arbitration Court is contingent on the Arbitration Court's approval of the candidate following a review of the candidate's independence and impartiality, and of their availability. The Arbitration Court constituted 198 Tribunals in 2025 (compared to 214 in 2024), with 348 individual appointments (similar to the 388 appointments made in 2024). In addition, the Arbitration Court made 27 appointments (down from 29 in 2024) in appointing authority cases during 2025. This corresponds to the 24 appointing authority cases registered in 2025.

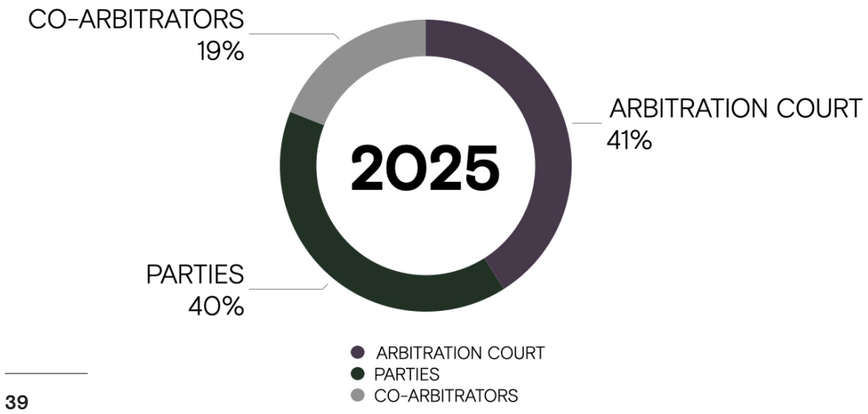
Of the Tribunals constituted in the administered arbitrations, 123 (or 62%) were Tribunals consisting of a sole arbitrator (compared to 127 or 59% in 2024) and 75 (or 38%) were three-member Tribunals (compared to 87 or 41% in 2024). Our 2025 appointment figures are therefore consistent with those in 2024. We have previously posited that the large proportion of sole arbitrator Tribunals is a result of the default position under the Rules being that a Tribunal shall consist of a sole arbitrator in the absence of party agreement, unless the Arbitration Court determines that a three-member Tribunal would be more appropriate.

We have seen the same trend in appointing authority cases where, of the 22 tribunals appointed in these cases, 19 concerned the appointment of a sole arbitrator while 3 concerned the appointment of arbitrators in default to three-member Tribunals.

Of the 348 arbitrators appointed in administered cases in 2025, 141 (or 41%) (compared to 43% in 2024) were selected by the Arbitration Court. The Arbitration Court selected 113 of the 123 (or 92%) of the sole arbitrators (compared to 94% in 2024); 19 of 150 (or 13%) of co-arbitrators (compared to 20% in 2024), of which six were on behalf of Claimants and 13 were on behalf of Respondents; and nine out of 75 (or 12%) presiding arbitrators (compared to 15% in 2024). The co-arbitrators nominated the remaining 66 of the 75 (or 88%) presiding arbitrators (compared to 85% in 2024).

As with appointments in previous years, these numbers show that the selection of arbitrators was driven, in part, by the parties, whether directly or indirectly. They also show that sole arbitrators will generally be selected by the Arbitration Court whereas, unsurprisingly, most co-arbitrators will be appointed upon the nomination of the parties and most presiding arbitrators will be appointed upon a joint nomination of the co-arbitrators.

SELECTION OF ARBITRATORS



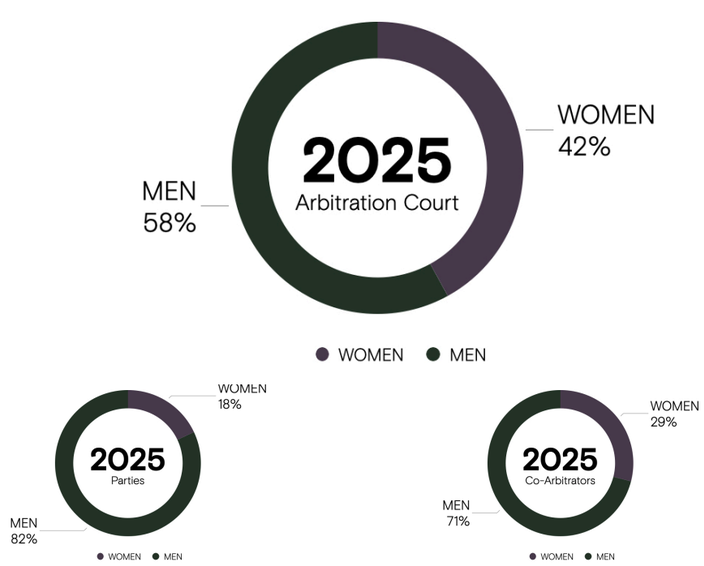
Diversity

The Centre is committed to appointing diverse candidates as arbitrators. When the Arbitration Court is tasked to appoint arbitrators, it works hard to ensure that it appoints as many different arbitrators as possible, and achieves diversity in its appointments in different ways, including nationality, gender, and first-time appointments where possible and appropriate, and avoiding repeat appointments.

Often, the Arbitration Court is asked to appoint sole arbitrators or presiding arbitrators, where prior DIAC experience generally is preferred, and nationality restrictions apply. The prevalence of UAE parties means that Article 11.1 of the DIAC Rules necessarily precludes the selection and appointment of a sole arbitrator or presiding arbitrator with UAE nationality. Despite these limitations, the Arbitration Court achieves a remarkable level of diversity and notably outperforms the parties and/or arbitrators in this respect. Notably, UAE nationals were the third most common nationality appointed in administered arbitrations in 2025.

In 2025, the Arbitration Court's appointment of women as arbitrators reached near parity at 47% of all Arbitration Court appointments. Remarkably, the Arbitration Court's selection of female arbitrators in 2024 was also 47% of all Arbitration Court appointments. Out of the 141 arbitrators selected by the Arbitration Court in 2025, 59 (or 42%) were women (compared to 47% in 2024). Of all 348 arbitrators appointed in 2025, 103 (or 30%) were women (compared to 33% in 2024). Of the 139 party-nominated arbitrators, 25 (or 18%) were women (compared to 15% in 2024), and of the 66 presiding arbitrators jointly nominated by co-arbitrators, 19 (or 29%) were women (compared to 38% in 2024). These numbers are testament to the Arbitration Court's continued and consistent commitment to diversity in arbitral appointments and in line with what we have observed in the past of us appointing more women than parties and co-arbitrators.

GENDER DIVERSITY



Nationality of arbitrators

Arbitrators from all over the world are appointed in DIAC arbitrations. In 2025, arbitrators from 45 different countries were appointed by the Arbitration Court in administered arbitrations (similar to the 46 countries in 2024). Nationals of the United Kingdom were the most appointed in administered arbitrations in 2025, with 103 (or 30%) of the appointed arbitrators being nationals of the United Kingdom (compared to 32% in 2024). This is in part explained by a prevalence of UK nationals in the UAE and MEASA region, and that locally based arbitrators will generally be appointed in lower value cases. Second in 2025 were Egyptian nationals at 40 (or 11%), and third were UAE nationals, with the number of UAE nationals appointed in 2025, 36 (or 10%), consistent with the number (33 or 8%) in 2024, and significantly higher than the historic number of four (or 3%) in 2023.

Of the 27 arbitrators appointed in the appointing authority cases, 20 were selected by the Arbitration Court. Of the remaining seven arbitrators, four were selected by the parties and three were selected by the co-arbitrators. Five (or 25%) of the Arbitration Court-selected arbitrators were female, one (or 33%) of those nominated by the co-arbitrators were female, and all four of those nominated by the parties were male.

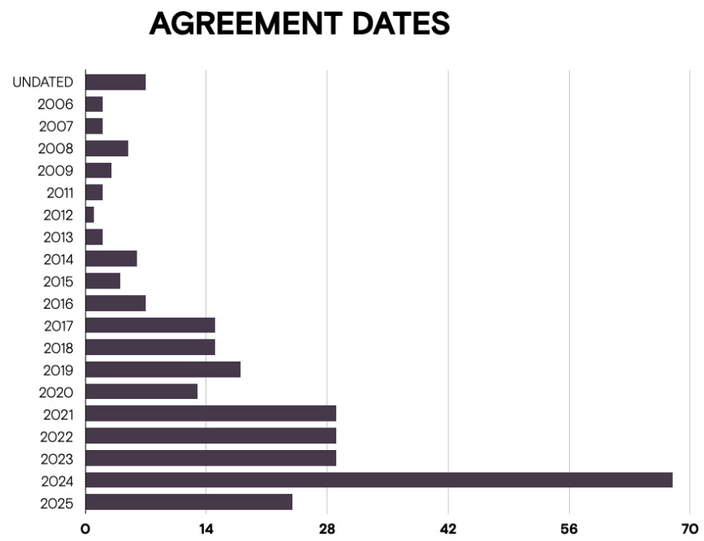


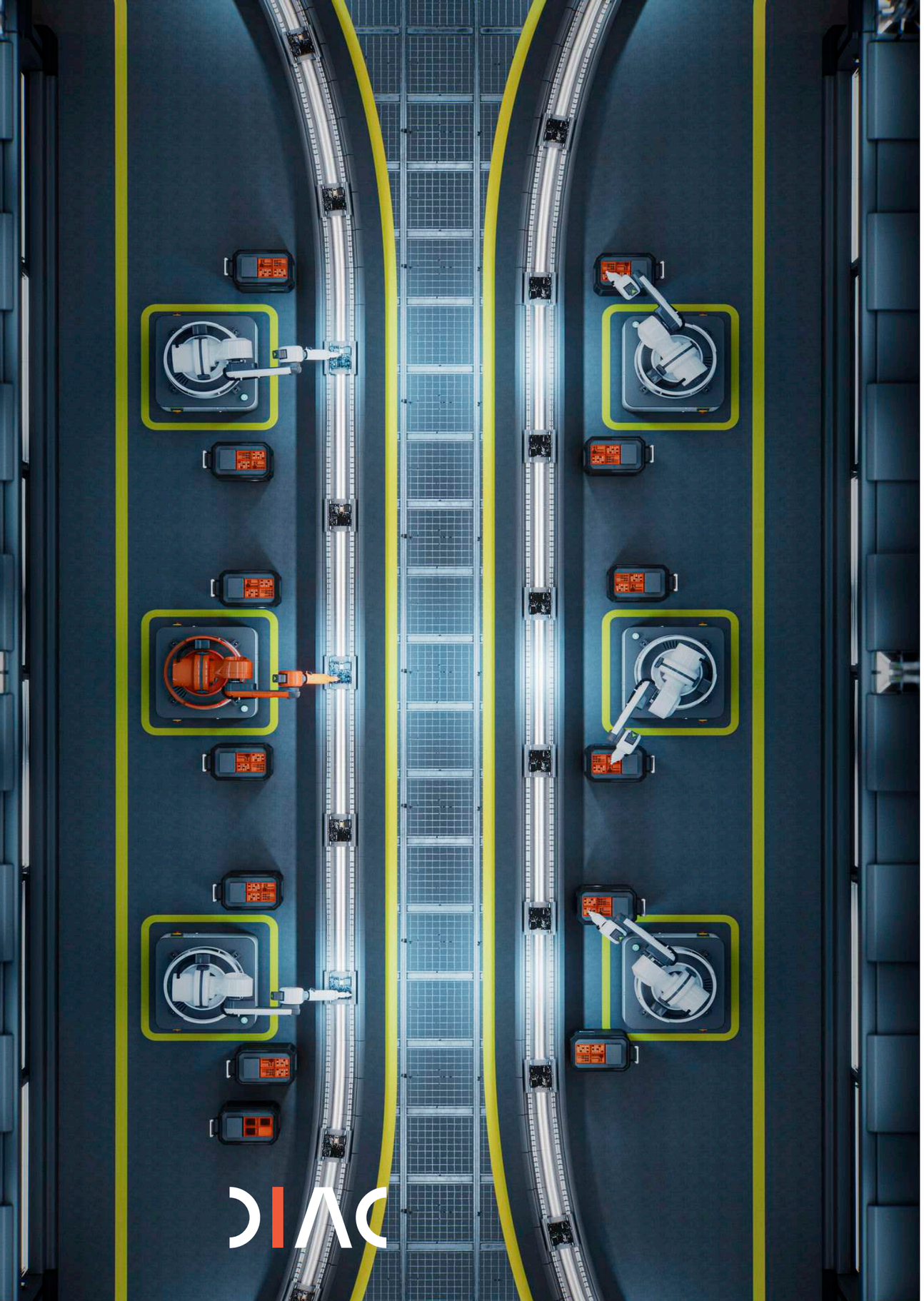
- UNITED KINGDOM – 103
- EGYPT – 40
- UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – 36
- LEBANON – 31
- FRANCE – 18
- CANADA – 13
- JORDAN – 9
- ALGERIA – 8
- AUSTRALIA – 8
- GERMANY – 8
- SYRIA – 8
- INDIA – 7
- USA – 4
- DENMARK – 3
- IRAQ – 3
- IRELAND – 3
- KENYA – 3
- NEW ZEALAND – 3
- PAKISTAN – 3
- SINGAPORE – 3
- TURKEY – 3
- GREECE – 2
- LATVIA – 2
- MALAYSIA – 2
- MAURITIUS – 2
- ROMANIA – 2
- RUSSIA – 2
- TUNISIA – 2
- AUSTRIA – 1
- BAHRAIN – 1
- BELGIUM – 1
- HONG KONG – 1
- ITALY – 1
- SAUDI ARABIA – 1
- NIGERIA – 1
- OMAN – 1
- PALESTINE – 1
- PORTUGAL – 1
- QATAR – 1
- SCOTLAND – 1
- SOUTH AFRICA – 1
- SPAIN – 1
- ST KITTS AND NEVIS – 1
- SUDAN – 1
- SWITZERLAND – 1

Agreement dates

To assess the potential impact of external developments on the make-up of the Centre's caseload, we assess the time-lag between the date of the agreements out of which disputes arise and the year in which the disputes are referred to the Centre.

The following chart shows the time-lag for DIAC arbitrations in 2025. Interestingly, while 68% of contracts were entered into in the last six years (comparable to 71% of cases registered in 2024), 43% were entered into the past three years, 2023–2025 (up from 36% of cases registered in 2024 and 25% in 2023). We think this affirms that parties recognise our strengths and improved service level and may indicate a positive market response to the efforts made in the past few years. It is also notable that 24% of contracts, representing the largest individual share of contracts out of which disputes arose in 2025, were entered into in 2024. Anecdotally, this development mirrors positive market feedback that has been conveyed to us recently.





Applications

Applications for appointment of an Emergency Arbitrator

The Centre received five applications for the appointment of an Emergency Arbitrator under Article 2 of Appendix II of the Rules in 2025 (the same number of applications in 2024). In one case, the application was made without notice to the Respondent in accordance with Article 2.2 of Appendix II of the Rules.

In all cases, the Arbitration Court was prima facie satisfied that it was reasonable to allow the emergency proceedings in accordance with Article 2.5 of Appendix II of the Rules. The Emergency Arbitrator was appointed in all cases within one day of receipt of a complete application, in accordance with Article 2.5 of Appendix II of the Rules.

The Emergency Arbitrator decided to grant emergency interim relief in two cases that proceeded to the appointment of an Emergency Arbitrator. In the first case, a preliminary order was issued 18 days after the appointment of the Emergency Arbitrator. In the second case, an order was issued 12 days after the appointment of the Emergency Arbitrator.

In one case, two applications for emergency relief were filed before the same Emergency Arbitrator, one by the Claimant and one by the Respondent.

Jurisdictional objections

Respondents submitted jurisdictional objections pursuant to Article 6.2 of the Rules in 16 cases in 2025 (the same number as in 2024).

The Arbitration Court was invited to decide on the Centre's prima facie jurisdiction in 16 other cases for the purpose of determining whether they could be registered and administered under the Rules in 2025 (compared to 34 cases in 2024).

Applications for joinder, consolidation and claims under multiple contracts.

Parties requested consolidation under Article 8.2 of the Rules in 14 cases in 2025. The Arbitration Court also decided on three requests for joinder under Article 9 of the Rules in 2025.

The Arbitration Court determined whether claims brought pursuant to multiple arbitration agreements should be allowed to proceed in a single arbitration in 22 cases in 2025.

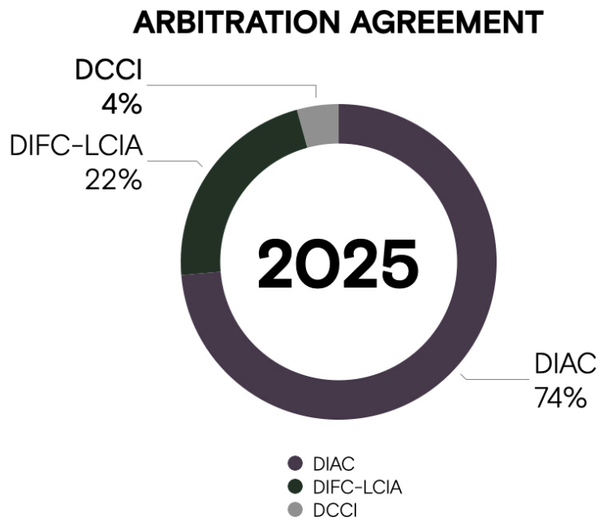
Challenges

The Centre received five challenges to the continued appointment of an arbitrator under Article 15 of the Rules in 2025. One challenge was successful, and four were dismissed by the Arbitration Court.

Arbitration agreement

Under Article 2.1 of the DIAC Rules, the DIAC Rules are applicable where parties have agreed to submit existing or future disputes to Dubai International Arbitration Centre/DIAC or the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI). Further, the Centre has jurisdiction under the DIAC Rules to administer arbitrations brought under arbitration agreements referring to the DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre (DIFC-LCIA) or Emirates Maritime Arbitration Centre (EMAC).

Of the administered arbitrations registered in 2025, 207 (or 74%) (compared to 171 or 65% in 2024) of cases were brought on the basis of a DIAC arbitration agreement; 62 (or 22%) of cases were brought on the basis of a DIFC-LCIA arbitration agreement (compared to 69 or 26% in 2024); and 12 (or 4%) cases were brought under arbitration agreements referring to the DCCI (compared to 21 or 8% in 2024). No cases were brought based on an EMAC arbitration agreement (compared to one in 2024). Unsurprisingly, the proportion of DIFC-LCIA agreements referred to the Centre has declined over time, decreasing from just over one third of all administered arbitrations registered in 2022 to approximately one quarter in 2025.

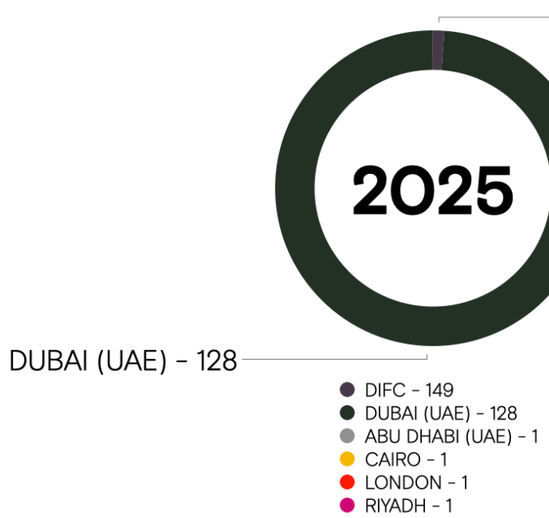


Seats and applicable law

Dubai (UAE) was selected as a seat in 128 or 46% of the 281 arbitrations registered by the Centre in 2025 (compared to 136 or 46% in 2024). Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) was selected as a seat in 149 (or 53%) arbitrations (compared to 126 or 49% in 2024), and Abu Dhabi (UAE), Cairo, London and Riyadh were selected as a seat in one arbitration each registered by the Centre in 2025.

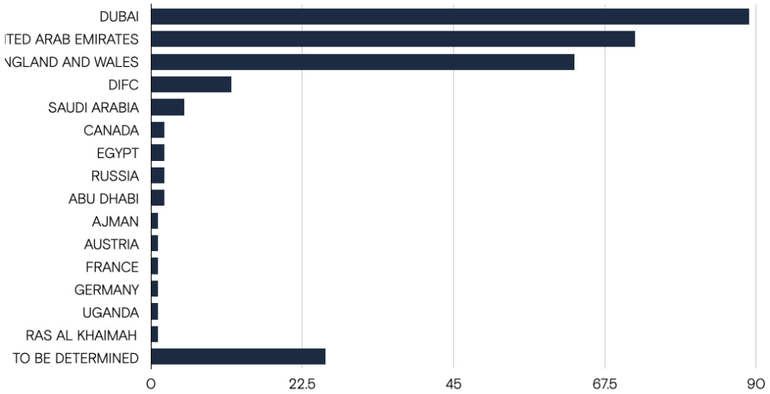
It should be noted that the number of DIFC seats includes cases where the seat is yet to be determined by the Tribunal absent party agreement. In accordance with Article 20.1 of the DIAC Rules, the initial seat in these cases shall be the DIFC.

SEAT OF ARBITRATION



The laws of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates were the most frequent contractual choices of law by parties to arbitrations under the DIAC Rules in 2025 applying in 58% of the cases registered in 2025. The proportion of cases governed by the laws of England and Wales increased to 22% in 2025 (up from 15% in 2024). In addition, seven cases applied governing laws outside the GCC and England and Wales, namely the laws of Austria, Canada, France, Germany and Russia.

APPLICABLE LAW





Languages

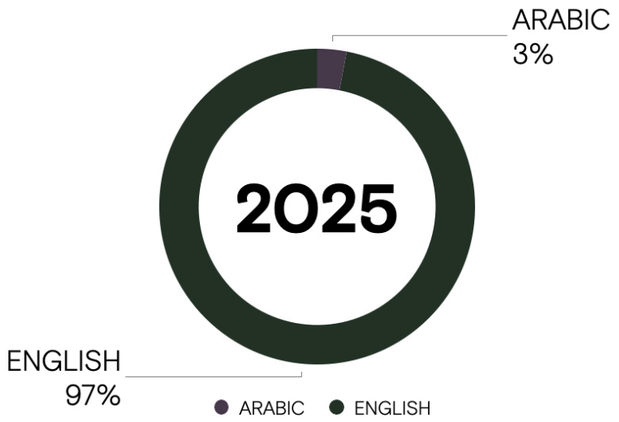
English was the language of choice in 272 (or 97%) of the DIAC arbitrations registered in 2025 (compared to 298 or 95% in 2024). Arabic was the language of choice in 9 (or 3%) of the DIAC arbitrations in 2025.

These numbers include cases where the language of the arbitration was agreed by the parties or the Tribunal, or where the initial language of the arbitration was determined pursuant to Article 21 of the DIAC Rules.

English was the language in 12 (or 50%) of the appointing authority cases (compared to 36% of the appointing authority cases in 2024), with Arabic being the language in 11 appointing authority cases. There was one appointing authority case in which parties agreed to conduct the proceedings in both English and Arabic. English was the language in all eight mediation cases.

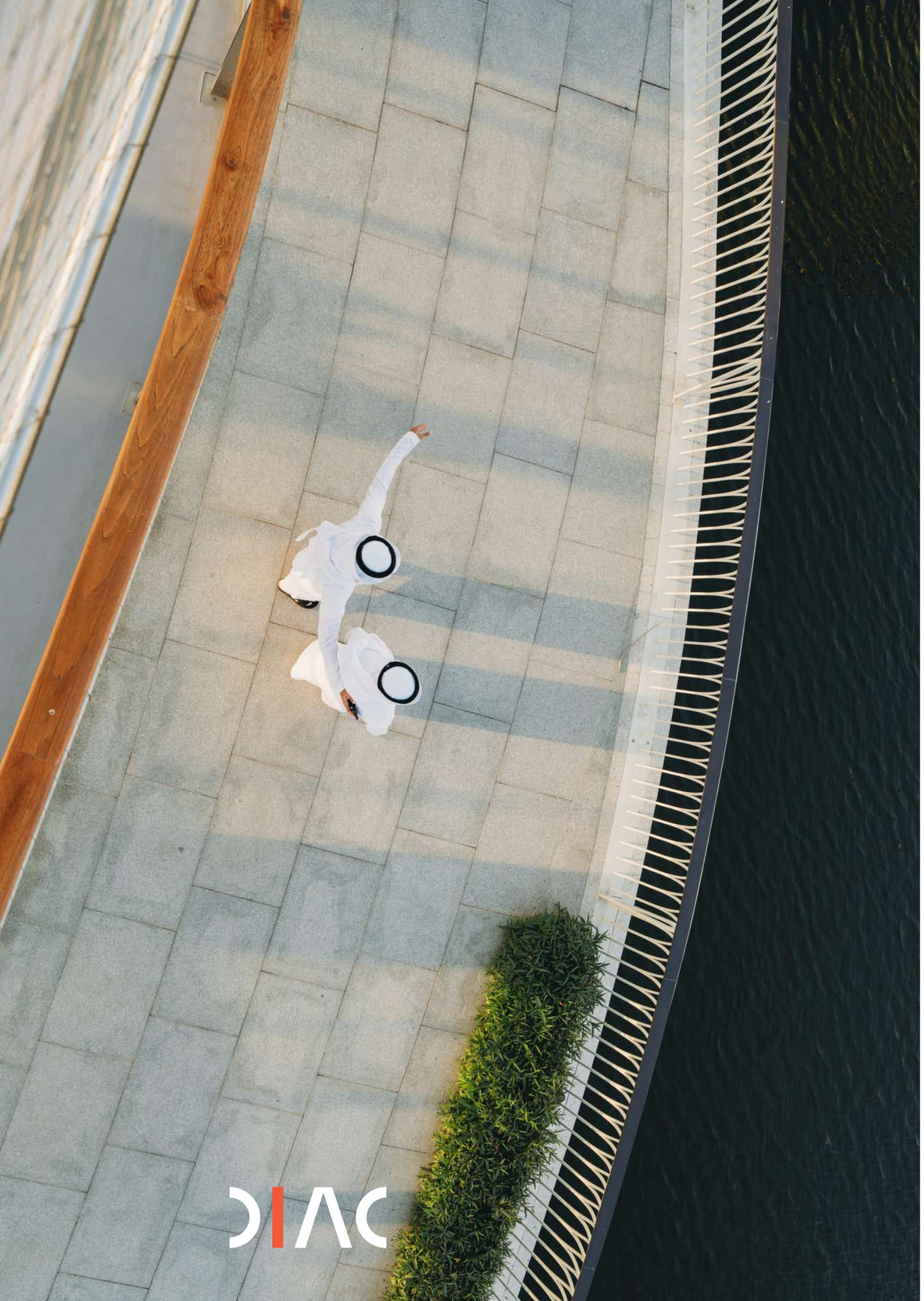
These numbers include cases where the language of the arbitration was agreed by the parties or the Tribunal, or where the initial language of the arbitration was determined pursuant to Article 21 of the Rules.

LANGUAGE OF DISPUTE



Events and Courses

Defined by leadership



Events and Courses

Exploring the latest trends and insights

Events
In 2025, our people travelled throughout the United Arab Emirates and overseas to promote the Centre and connect with the international dispute resolution community.

We attended and supported arbitration conferences, conventions, gatherings and weeks in Abu Dhabi, Cairo, Guangzhou, Istanbul, London, Muscat, Paris, Riyadh, Seoul, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Singapore and St Petersburg. We also hosted networking events and organised a series of business breakfasts and industry events.

In March 2025, we announced a partnership with the Al Jalila Foundation and launched our annual community suhoor in support of the Foundation's Child Fund. Later in the year, we also hosted events to celebrate the launch of our Academy and ADR Lab, two initiatives designed to support professional development, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building.

We participated in several events virtually in line with our broader sustainability commitments. Through the participation of our people on sub-committees and task forces, we also contributed to the organisation of events hosted by the Middle East sub-committee of the Equal Representation in Arbitration Campaign and the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations.

We again supported Dubai Arbitration Week 2025, by providing strategic support to the organising committee in planning, promoting, and executing the week. Dubai Arbitration Week is a premier fixture on the international arbitration calendar that attracted more than 1,700 participants from across the globe in 2025. One of the highlights of the Week was the Centre's flagship symposium, titled "Shifting sands—Certainty in an uncertain world", which was attended by more than 450 lawyers, arbitrators, practitioners, and stakeholders.

Learning from the best legal experts

Courses
A core focus in 2025 was our continued commitment to supporting professional development and capacity-building within the arbitration community. Through our dedicated courses and training initiatives, we provided delegates with practical knowledge, technical expertise, and a deeper understanding of arbitration and alternative dispute resolution.

Our professional diploma in international arbitration went from strength to strength in 2025. Now a comprehensive three-stage programme, it is designed to provide delegates with both theoretical and practical insights into arbitration proceedings under the DIAC Rules. Covering foundational principles, procedural aspects of proceedings, and award writing, the programme offers a structured pathway for practitioners looking to develop their experience.

Delivered by leading practitioners and international arbitration experts, the programme offers participants direct exposure to a broad range of perspectives. A graduation ceremony was held in the second half of the year to celebrate the participants who successfully completed the curriculum.

In December, we co-hosted a two-day programme with ICSID designed to provide delegates with an understanding of investor-state dispute settlement and the ICSID framework. The programme was delivered by leading experts in international arbitration and representatives from the ICSID and DIAC case management teams.

















Business Development and Marketing

Defined by partnerships

DIAC



Business Development and Marketing

Making meaningful connections

Building upon our strategic outreach in 2024, we sustained a high level of international engagement in 2025. Through active participation in leading conferences, forums, and industry events across the Middle East, Europe, and Asia, we maintained strong relationships with arbitration stakeholders, law firms, government entities, and institutional partners across multiple regions. These engagements directly supported the Centre's ongoing efforts to promote arbitration and alternative dispute resolution, strengthen international cooperation, and expand global awareness of our services and Dubai as a global centre for business and dispute resolution.

In addition to event participation, we continued to deepen our cooperation with professional networks and academic institutions, contributing to discussions on international arbitration policy, procedural harmonisation, and emerging areas such as digital transformation, ESG-linked disputes, and technology-driven arbitration. This multidimensional engagement ensures that the Centre's institutional presence remains relevant to the evolving landscape of global dispute resolution.

We launched the DIAC Academy, a new initiative designed to support professional development, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building. With an expanding programme of educational content, the Academy will help to develop a new generation of arbitration practitioners in the region.

We also announced the creation of the ADR Lab, an innovative platform designed to encourage dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas on emerging issues affecting arbitration and alternative dispute resolution.

Partnerships to meet the challenges facing business and the arbitration community

Partnerships and strategic alliances remained central to our institutional development in 2025. During the year, we formalised cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding with the Italian Association for Arbitration, Russian Arbitration Association, Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre, and Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Arbitration and Mediation Centre.

We also established strategic collaborations with Jus Mundi, Dubai Customs, and the Al Jalila Foundation, creating new opportunities for cooperation, engagement, and mutual exchange of expertise. These collaborations focused primarily on promoting arbitration and alternative dispute resolution, supporting professional development, facilitating knowledge-sharing.

We were recognised by leading international media outlets and in respected data rankings and surveys in 2025. The Centre was again whitelisted in the GAR Guide to Regional Arbitration, one of just three arbitral institutions in the MEASA region and the only institution in the United Arab Emirates.

The Centre was also the only arbitral institution in the MEASA region to achieve top ten rankings in the GAR 100 Data Report (covering the period 2015 to 2023), and the only arbitral institution in the MEASA region ranked in the Queen Mary University 2025 International Arbitration Survey, with the DIAC Rules ranked fourth among the most preferred sets of arbitration rules by Middle East respondents (after ICC, LCIA and SIAC Rules).

Looking ahead, we will continue to advance our strategic objectives by strengthening relationships with institutional partners, expanding international cooperation, and promoting wider awareness and adoption of arbitration and alternative dispute resolution across both emerging and established markets.

















Responsible Business

Defined by people

Responsible Business

Inclusion, diversity, and equality
By embracing and celebrating different perspectives and backgrounds, and fostering an inclusive culture, we recognise that we can be a more collaborative, innovative, and positive organisation, and make a difference for our people, and all the businesses, governments, lawyers, and arbitrators that use our services.

We have taken an active stance on inclusion, diversity, and equality, and we have committed to support global commitments on the fair representation of women and equal opportunity.

We are a signatory and active supporter of the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge (ERA); the Equal Representation for Expert Witnesses Pledge (ERE); and Racial Equality for Arbitration Lawyers Initiative (REAL).

We proactively consider diversity of gender, age, and national origin when we recruit our people, select candidate arbitrators and mediators and host conferences, events, and training.

Women are employed at all levels of our organisation, including the most senior, and in 2025, 30% of all arbitrators appointed by the Arbitration Court were women, with the selection of female arbitrators by the Arbitration Court reaching 42%.

Wellbeing
We are committed to supporting our people and their mental and physical health and wellbeing both inside and outside work through our working practices and attitude as an employer. We have implemented internal initiatives to help increase awareness of the importance of wellbeing and the support available to our people. Our leaders are role models for these commitments and foster an environment where our people can thrive and openly discuss their mental and physical health without judgment.

We recognise that our people increasingly want greater flexibility in their decisions about how, when and where they work. We have implemented agile working policies and offer parents and carers flexibility to integrate their work with their lives, access to tools, resources and advice from colleagues.



Community
We take our responsibilities to our community and the businesses, governments, lawyers, and arbitrators that use our services seriously. We are passionate about ensuring that our stakeholders receive a fair, transparent and efficient experience each and every time they come into contact with us.

We seek to engage and promote awareness with our stakeholders on inclusion, diversity, equality, wellbeing, and sustainability, having organised conferences and events, and contributed to global initiatives on these issues.

We are an international arbitral institution, but we are rooted in the local community in which we live and work. We are committed to improving social mobility and inclusion.

We work with local education providers to provide young people with an opportunity to see possibilities, motivate, and provide skills and experiences that help them reach their maximum potential, regardless of their personal circumstances.

Sustainability
We strive to be sustainable and have a low carbon footprint, and we continuously seek to improve the sustainability of our operations as well as those of our suppliers and partners.

We are a signatory of the Green Pledge and a supporter of the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations, and we have implemented the Green Protocols.

A recommended clause prepared by the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations intended to help the users of our services to reduce the carbon emissions and other environmental impacts associated with managing and resolving disputes is available on our website.

We travel responsibly, we have adopted and encourage the use of technology, we minimise printing and the use of paper, we encourage recycling, and we promote sustainable practices. Our head office is a LEED-certified green building, and we have adopted measures in our branch office to reduce our carbon footprint.

Message from the Registrar

Defined by community



Robert Stephen
Registrar

Looking back on 2025, I am encouraged by the progress the Centre has made and by the strength of the community that continues to support us.

The year's results provide clear evidence of that progress. Whilst statistics are important, what matters equally is what lies behind them: the continued confidence of parties, counsel and the wider business community in entrusting their disputes to the Centre.

That confidence is increasingly international. Parties to arbitrations commenced under the DIAC Rules originated from 60 countries in 2025, while arbitrators from 45 countries were appointed by the Arbitration Court. We were pleased to see 74% of administered arbitrations brought on the basis of a DIAC arbitration agreement, up from 65% in 2024. For me, this is one of the most encouraging indicators of the Centre's development, demonstrating that the Centre is increasingly being chosen directly by parties when they enter commercial relationships.

The UAE's Year of Community resonated with our work. Arbitration depends on a community of people and institutions working together: parties, counsel, arbitrators, experts, courts and many others. Throughout 2025, we continued to invest in those relationships through engagement, training and knowledge-sharing. Dubai Arbitration Week is a powerful demonstration of how vibrant and international that community has become.

Within the Centre, our team remained focused on improving the experience of those who use our services. We recruited more people, promoted internally and invested in training and systems. We also continued to refine our practices and procedures, developed and launched our new case management system, and supported the work of the Arbitration Court.

In 2025, the Court constituted 198 tribunals and made 348 individual arbitrator appointments from 45 countries. The Arbitration Court's continued commitment to diversity was reflected in women representing 42% of the arbitrators selected by the Court.

The first half of 2026 has been a reminder that progress is not always measured in periods of certainty. We continued to demonstrate resilience and adaptability, maintaining continuity and remaining focused on our users through an uncertain period. I am particularly proud of the professionalism and commitment shown by our people. The strength of the Centre lies not only in its rules, systems and governance, but in the people who deliver its services every day.

I am grateful to our case management and business services teams for their dedication throughout the year; to the Board of Directors, Arbitration Court and Advisory Committee for their leadership and support; and to the parties, counsel, arbitrators, mediators and wider professional community who continue to engage with and place their trust in us.

There is always more to do. As we look ahead, our focus will remain on listening to our users, improving our services and ensuring that we continue to evolve with the needs of the international business community. The progress achieved in 2025 gives us a strong foundation for this, and I look forward to building on it together.

Why Dubai?

Defined by vision

DIAC

Why Dubai?

Dubai balances tradition and Arabic culture with modernity. A city punctuated by gleaming towers and iconic structures, it is regarded as the economic and travel hub of the Middle East. Situated on the shores of the Arabian Gulf, Dubai is centrally positioned between East and West and home to more than 200 nationalities speaking more than 140 languages.

Dubai cultivates a tolerant and inclusive society. Gender inclusivity is high on the agenda, with women playing a prominent role in the city's socioeconomic fabric and occupying leadership positions in both the government and the private sectors. Religious freedom is protected, with dedicated places of worship including mosques, churches, temples and gurdwaras, and religious and cultural holidays are openly celebrated.

Dubai is at the heart of trillions of dollars of business and investment into the Middle East, Europe, Africa, India, Asia and beyond.
Its strategic global location, combined with business-friendly policies and future-forward infrastructure, have shaped it into a leading global trade, finance, and e-commerce powerhouse - and the sixth most-visited city on the planet.

It is home to half of all Fortune 500 companies; 17 of the top 20 global banks; a plethora of domestic, regional, and international law firms with dedicated international arbitration practices; a large number of expert and other professional services firms that support international arbitration practices; specialist university programmes that teach courses on arbitration practice and procedure; professional organisations such as the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators; the region's largest arbitral institution; and one of the largest regular international arbitration gatherings.

Arbitration hub
The city is now considered to be the leading arbitration hub for the MEASA region and has made considerable strides in recent years to bolster its arbitration infrastructure and credentials as a safe and increasingly popular seat of arbitration. The United Arab Emirates passed a new UNCITRAL Model Law-based federal arbitration law in 2018 and repealed other provisions of its law that were viewed as unfriendly to arbitration.

An executive regulation was passed in 2019 to facilitate and streamline the enforcement of arbitral awards, and in 2023 an Amendment Law to the 2018 Federal Arbitration Law was passed to codify recent developments in UAE case law and to further solidify the UAE as a global hub for arbitration. DIFC - a common law financial free zone - has its own arbitration law based on the UNCITRAL Model Law and specialist judiciary, as does the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), a short drive south of Dubai.





Active users and community
Dubai has an active and growing arbitration community that is made up of practitioners from both civil and common law traditions.

Parties in the United Arab Emirates are active users of international arbitral institutions, with year-on-year increasing caseloads reported at most of the arbitral institutions operating in and through the United Arab Emirates.

Conferences and events
The annually held Dubai Arbitration Week attracts an arbitration community from far and wide. The 2025 edition was the largest to-date and the second largest event of its kind in the world with 185 events attracting over 1,700 delegates from across the world.

Dubai regularly features as a venue on the international arbitration events calendar, hosting the annual Legal Plus International Arbitration and ADR Summit; the annual Legal 500 Middle East Disputes Summit; and the annual GAR Live: Dubai conference.

In 2023, DIAC successfully hosted the Inter-Pacific Bar Association Annual Meeting and Conference in March 2023, and the XXII International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators in November 2023. In 2026 DIAC will co-host the ASA Arbitration Retreat at The Ritz-Carlton Al Wadi in Ras Al Khaimah.

Vision
Dubai is a city built on vision. In just over 50 years, the city has come from being a desert landscape peppered with a few small buildings to a leading commercial and investment hub.

Dubai has bold visions for its future as the city establishes itself as a sustainability and technology leader in areas such as solar power, vertical farming, blockchain, 3D printing and artificial intelligence.

To understand where Dubai is going, it is essential to understand its development. In 1833, around 800 key members of the Bani Yas, one of Southern Arabia's most prominent tribes, identified Dubai Creek as a natural harbour. Led by the Al Maktoum family – Dubai's ruling family to this day – they settled near the Creek's mouth.

The township then referred to as Al Wasl or "the connection" in Arabic soon became a centre for fishing, pearl diving and maritime trade, attracting further settlers through trading with India, Iran, and other parts of the Gulf.

By the 1870s, Dubai had become the principal trading port of the Gulf, and by the turn of the century developed one of Arabia's largest souks (trading markets). Pearl diving remained a main staple of the local economy until the 1930s. The dredging – both widening and deepening – of Dubai Creek in 1960 was a turning point for the city, allowing much larger vessels to enter and strengthening Dubai's trading position still further.

Creating new legacies

The city is now on track to be a global sustainability leader with an ambitious target to reach 100% energy production capacity from clean energy sources by 2050. Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park will be the world's largest single-site solar park based on the IPP model on completion and by 2030, 25% of Dubai's transportation will be autonomous.

During this time, the city has experienced a notable rise in prominence on the global arbitration stage. Arbitration has flourished within specialised economic zones, such as the DIFC.

The most recent manifestation of this trend has led to the establishment of fresh arbitral institutions and new facilities, as well as the revitalisation of existing ones, including DIAC.

The city is also emerging as a global leader in other cutting-edge technologies:

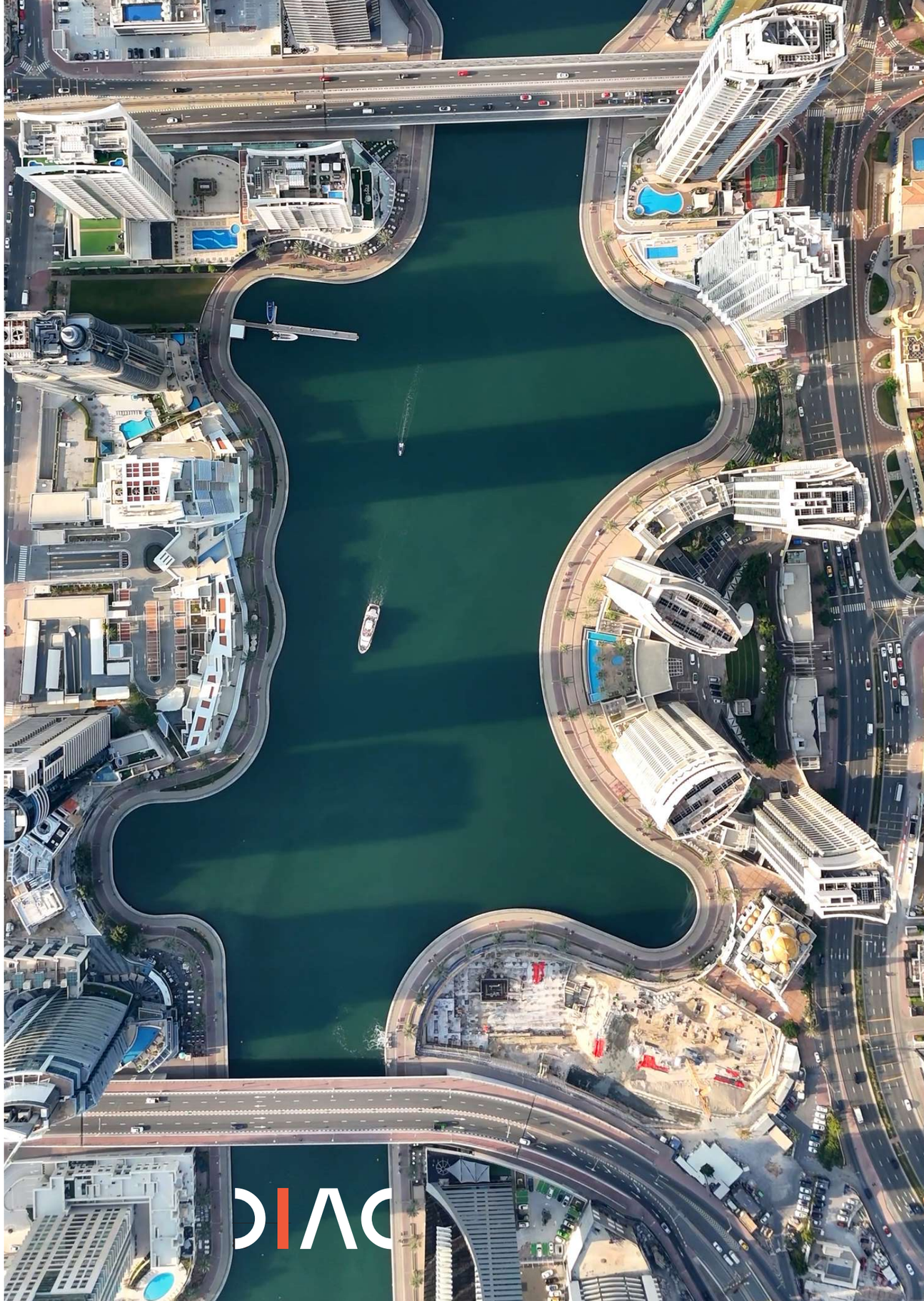
These developments, together with the adoption of state-of-the-art arbitral rules and community advocacy for strong political and regulatory support for arbitration, reflect a serious commitment to providing world-class arbitration services and furthering the growth of arbitration as the preeminent means of dispute resolution in the region.

Dubai aims to have the world's first blockchain powered government, ranking first globally for FDI technology transfer in AI and robotics.

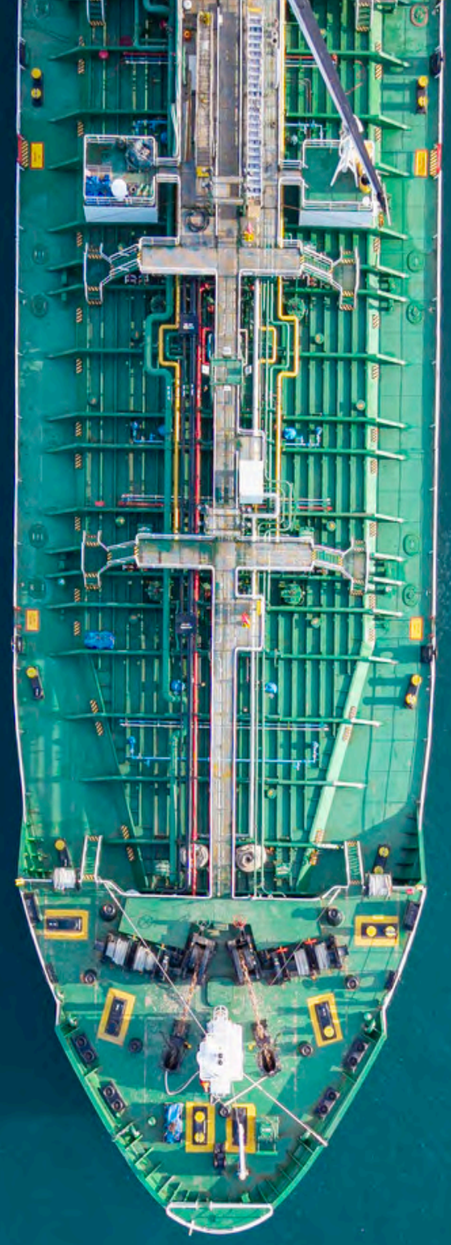
Dubai is embracing 3D printing technology, with 25% of the city's new buildings to feature 3D printing by 2030.

Fintech Hive, at DIFC, is the Middle East's first Fintech accelerator programme.

Dubai is an influential player and a catalyst in a larger economic story in the region. The city is solidifying over a decade's worth of continuing expansion and advancement in global arbitration.



Recommended Clauses



Defined by independence

DIAC

Recommended Clauses

A poorly drafted arbitration clause can undermine the smooth progress of proceedings and lead to disputes. Parties should always include a well-drafted arbitration clause in their contract. We encourage the use of the following recommended clauses, but independent legal advice should always be sought on the choice of a suitable clause and the applicable law.

Future disputes

For contracting parties who wish to have future disputes referred to mediation and/or arbitration under the auspices of DIAC, the following clauses are recommended. Words/blanks in square brackets should be deleted/completed as appropriate.

Mediation only

"In the event of a dispute arising out of or relating to this contract, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, the parties shall seek settlement of that dispute by mediation in accordance with the Mediation Rules of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, which Rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference into this clause."

Arbitration only

"Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this contract, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration under the Arbitration Rules of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, which Rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference into this clause.

The number of arbitrators shall be [one/three].
The seat of arbitration shall be [City and/or Country*].
The language to be used in the arbitration shall be [language].
The governing law of the contract shall be the substantive law of [State or Country]."

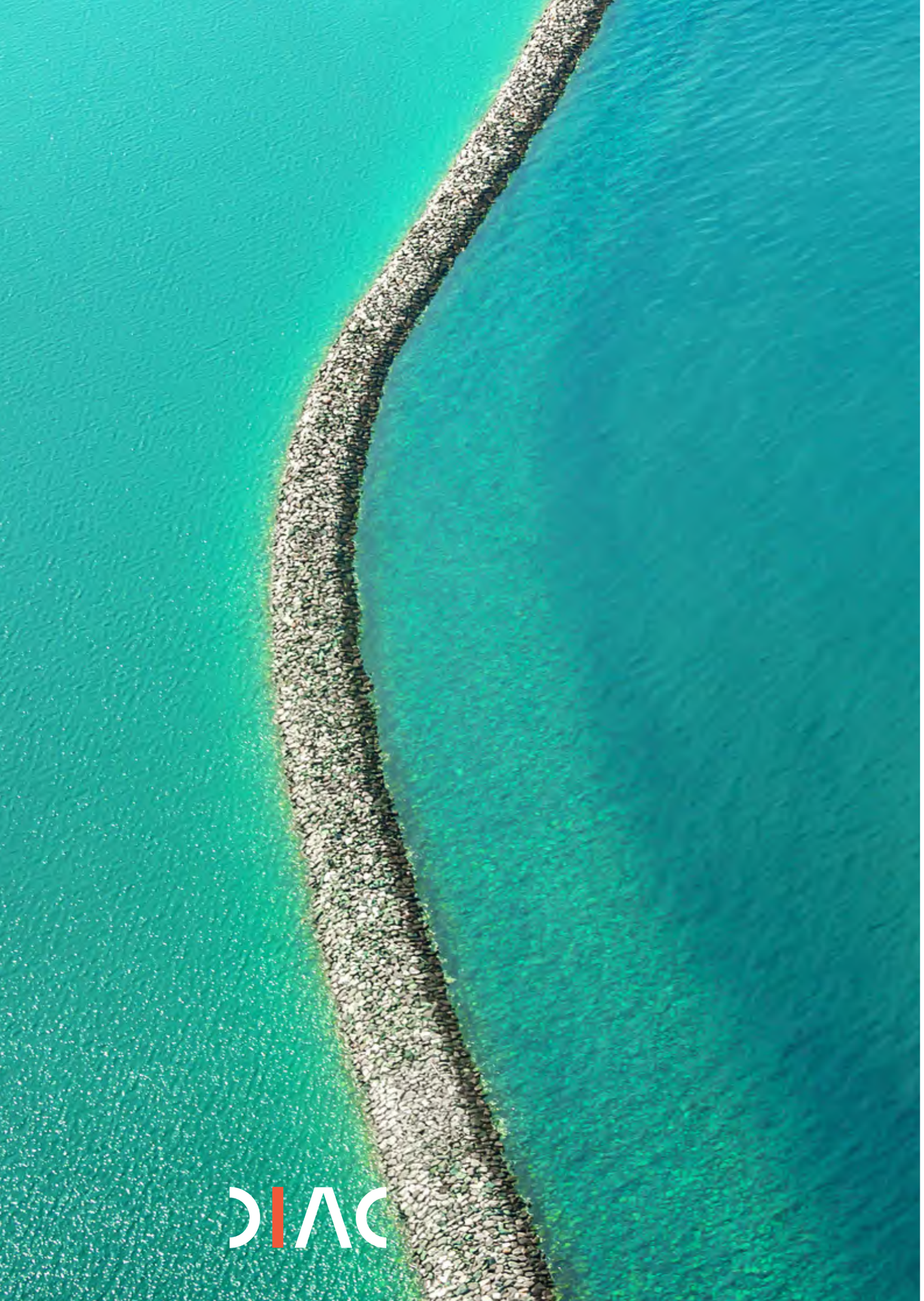
Mediation and arbitration

"In the event of a dispute arising out of or relating to this contract, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, the parties shall first seek settlement of that dispute by mediation in accordance with the Mediation Rules of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, which Rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference into this clause.

If the dispute is not settled by mediation within [number] days of the commencement of the mediation, or such further period as the parties shall agree in writing, the dispute shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration under the Arbitration Rules of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, which Rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference into this clause.

The language to be used in the mediation and in the arbitration shall be [language].
The governing law of the contract shall be the substantive law of [State or Country].
In any arbitration commenced pursuant to this clause,
(i) the number of arbitrators shall be [one/three]; and
(ii) the seat of arbitration shall be [City and/or Country*]."





Ad hoc arbitration administered by DIAC under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules

"Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this contract, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, which Rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference into this clause. The arbitration shall be administered by Dubai International Arbitration Centre.

The number of arbitrators shall be [one/three].
The seat of arbitration shall be [City and/or Country*].
The language to be used in the arbitration shall be [language].
The governing law of the contract shall be the substantive law of [State or Country]."

Ad hoc arbitration under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules with DIAC acting as appointing authority

"Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this contract, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, which Rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference into this clause.
The appointing authority shall be Dubai International Arbitration Centre.

The number of arbitrators shall be [one/three].
The seat of arbitration shall be [City and/or Country*].
The language to be used in the arbitration shall be [language].
The governing law of the contract shall be the substantive law of [State or Country]."

Existing disputes

If a dispute has already arisen, but there is no agreement between the parties to mediate and/or to arbitrate, the parties may enter into an agreement for those purposes. In such cases, please contact the Centre if recommended wording is required.

Modifications to recommended clauses

The Centre will be pleased to discuss any modifications to our recommended clauses (for example, to provide for party nomination of arbitrators or for expedited procedures).

Expert determination, adjudication and other forms of ADR

Recommended clauses and procedures for expert determination, for adjudication and other forms of ADR to be administered by DIAC, or in which DIAC is to act as appointing authority, are available on request from the Centre.

Reduction of environmental impact and waste

As a signatory of The Green Pledge and supporter of the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations, DIAC is committed to protecting the environment and tackling climate change.

The following recommended clause has been prepared by the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations and is intended to help parties to reduce the carbon emissions and other environmental impact associated with managing and resolving disputes. It can be incorporated in part or in its entirety in company guidelines or policies relating to external counsel, or for inclusion in counsel engagement letters, or adapted for inclusion in commercial contracts. Words/blanks in square brackets should be deleted/completed as appropriate.

"[Company's name] is seeking to reduce carbon emissions and other environmental impacts associated with a number of activities, including resolving disputes.
[Company's name] [has adopted/adhered to/agrees with] the principles expressed in the Green Pledge and the Green Protocol for Law Firms, available at the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations' website.
Outside counsel will make efforts, consistent with [company's name]'s objectives, to minimise the impact of the resolution of disputes on the environment, including, by way of example:

Travel

- Consider and question the need to fly or the number of people who will fly, and consider instead the use of virtual meeting and hearing technology, including for document review, witness interviews, client meetings, and hearing participation.
- Make reasonable efforts to offset the carbon emissions of any flights taken on [company's name] matters.
- Where available and appropriate, consider the use of train travel as a lower-carbon emitting alternative to flying.

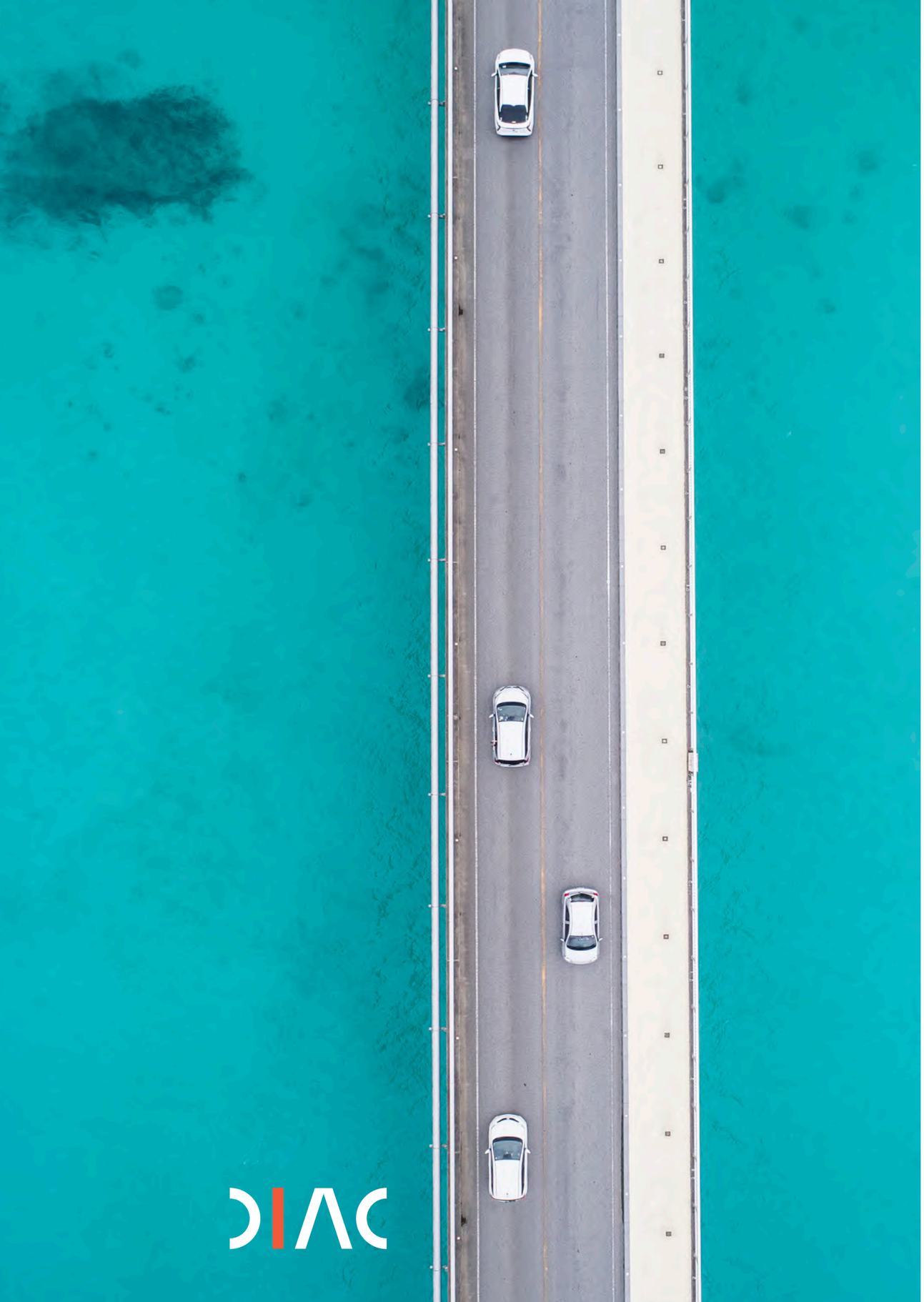
Documents

- Whenever reasonably possible, conduct correspondence through electronic means unless hard copy documents are expressly required under the circumstances.

Hearings

- Consider whether certain issues genuinely require a hearing of any type (virtual or physical presence) to advance [company's name]'s interests in the dispute or whether one or more issues may be decided on the basis of documents and written submissions only.
- Where a hearing is considered necessary or advantageous for [company's name]'s interests, consider whether it genuinely requires the physical, in-person attendance of all participants, or whether some or all of the participants, including witnesses and experts, may participate through virtual hearing technology rather than by travelling to a hearing location.
- Whenever possible, discourage the use of hard copies of documents in arbitrations and instead encourage the use of electronic documents."

*** If the intention is to choose Dubai International Financial Centre/DIFC as the seat of the arbitration, insert "Dubai International Financial Centre" or "DIFC".**



Contact

The Dubai International Arbitration Centre has over three decades of experience of providing dispute resolution services to parties doing business in or through the MEASA region. As an institution, we are independent and impartial, and committed to excellence, efficiency, and diversity.

For further information about DIAC and the work that we do, please visit **www.diac.com**.

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