

# ABU DHABI SETS OUT TO ESTABLISH ITS NEW INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE, *arbitrateAD*, AS THE ARBITRATION CENTRE OF CHOICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION

On 20 December 2023, it was publicly announced that Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has launched a new Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre, to be referred to as *arbitrateAD*.

Acting as an independent, neutral and impartial dispute resolution forum for government and commercial entities, *arbitrateAD* will introduce its own governance structure and arbitration rules, which will replace those of the Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration Centre (ADCCAC) as of 1 February 2024.

A simple handover process is envisaged. Ongoing cases currently governed by the ADCCAC Rules will continue to be administered by the existing ADCCAC team, in accordance with the prevailing ADCCAC Rules.

However, parties considering imminent referral of disputes to arbitration under the ADCCAC Rules should note that, as of 1 February 2024, any new disputes referred to ADCCAC for arbitration will be administered by Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre under the new *arbitrateAD* rules.

Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has appointed a highly experienced team of dispute resolution specialists to lead *arbitrateAD*.

They include His Excellency Abdulla Mohamed Al Mazrui, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who will serve as *arbitrateAD*'s Chairman of the Board, and Gary Born, one of the world's pre-eminent authorities on international commercial arbitration, who will serve as Vice Chairman of the Board.

The Board of Directors will supervise the implementation of *arbitrateAD*'s general policy and strategic plans required for the achievement of its objectives.

Also, a new Court of Arbitration is to be established. While details of the function of the new Court of Arbitration have not yet been publicised, it is likely that its function will be to provide assistance, supervision and direction in respect of the arbitration proceedings governed by the new *arbitrateAD* rules.

The stated aim of *arbitrateAD* is "to establish Abu Dhabi as a regional and global hub for efficient and expeditious dispute resolution, upholding the principles of impartiality, independence, transparency and efficiency."<sup>1</sup>

*arbitrateAD*'s website can be found at [www.arbitratead.ae](http://www.arbitratead.ae). Information such as the new *arbitrateAD* rules and Arbitrator's List are yet to be uploaded to the website.

However, it seems likely that *arbitrateAD*, and the effect it will have on the landscape of international commercial arbitration, will be the hot topic at GAR Live Abu Dhabi, which takes place on 30 January 2024, two days before the *arbitrateAD* rules come into practical effect.

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<sup>1</sup> Abu Dhabi Media Office Press Release dated 20 December 2023 – "Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry launches Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre".

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