

ANNEX 9

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL

First Written Submissions

1. The complaining Party is proposed to deliver its first written submission no later than 20 days after the last arbitrator is appointed. The Party complained against is proposed to deliver its first written submission no later than 30 days after the date of delivery of the complaining Party's first written submission, unless the Arbitral Tribunal otherwise decides.
2. A Party shall provide a copy of its first written submission to each of the arbitrators and to the other Party. A copy of the document shall also be provided in electronic format.

Hearings

3. The Chair of the Arbitral Tribunal shall fix the date and time of the hearing in consultation with the Parties to the dispute and the other members of the Arbitral Tribunal. The Chair of the Arbitral Tribunal shall notify in writing to the Parties to the dispute of the date, time and location of the hearing. Unless one of the Parties disagrees, the Arbitral Tribunal may decide not to convene a hearing.
4. The Arbitral Tribunal may convene additional hearings.
5. All arbitrators shall be present at hearings.
6. The hearings of the Arbitral Tribunal shall be held in closed session.

Supplementary Written Submissions

7. Within 20 days after the date of the hearing, each Party may deliver a supplementary written submission responding to any matter that arose during the hearing. The supplementary written submissions shall be delivered in accordance with paragraph 2 of these Rules.

Questions in Writing

8. The Arbitral Tribunal may at any time during the proceedings put questions in writing to the Parties to the dispute.
9. A Party shall deliver the written reply to the Arbitral Tribunal and the other Party. Each Party shall be given the opportunity to provide written comments on the reply of the other Party.

Confidentiality

10. The Arbitral Tribunal's hearings and the documents submitted to it shall be kept confidential. Nothing in this Chapter shall preclude a Party to a dispute from disclosing statements of its own positions to the public. The information submitted by the other Party to the Arbitral Tribunal which that Party has designated as confidential shall be treated as confidential.

***Ex parte* Contacts**

11. The Arbitral Tribunal shall not meet or contact a Party in the absence of the other Party.
12. No Party may contact any arbitrator in relation to the dispute in the absence of the other Party or any other arbitrator.
13. No arbitrator may discuss any aspect of the subject matter of the proceeding with a Party or both Parties to the dispute in the absence of any other arbitrator.

Role of Experts

14. Upon request of a Party or on its own initiative, the Arbitral Tribunal may seek information and technical advice from any individual or body that it deems appropriate. Any information so obtained shall be provided to the Parties to the dispute for comments.

Working Language

15. The working language of the dispute settlement proceedings shall be English.