

ICC Centenary Declaration

**on Dispute Prevention
and Resolution**



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The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) honours the Centenary of the International Court of Arbitration (ICC Court) with this declaration of guiding principles for the future.

- Since its establishment on 19 January 1923 by the ICC founders “Merchants of Peace” who sought to promote peace and prosperity through cross-border trade, the ICC Court has been unwavering in working to achieve its purpose – to provide access to justice and the rule of law to everyone, every day, everywhere.
- ICC has forged and continues to safeguard the legitimacy of arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms with a truly international, independent and neutral ecosystem to resolve disputes, grounded in the ICC Court’s unique role of scrutinising draft awards and managing cases through its Secretariat, combined with thought leadership and capacity building.
- ICC has played a seminal role in making arbitration the preferred method for resolving disputes between parties from any country or jurisdiction and creating the legal architecture for the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards, including the 1958 United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the New York Convention).
- ICC has provided a wide range of businesses (including small- and medium-sized enterprises and multinational corporations) as well as states and state-owned enterprises with trusted tools to effectively prevent and resolve their disputes.
- ICC’s innovating track record positions us to continue leading dispute prevention and resolution into the future, as business relationships and disputes evolve in an ever-changing world.

Looking to the next 100 years we pledge:

1. Access to justice and the rule of law

to ensure access to justice and the rule of law by providing accessible, affordable, predictable and efficient dispute prevention and resolution services to everyone, every day, everywhere,

2. Independence and neutrality

to hold fast to its founding belief that an independent and neutral dispute prevention and resolution process, free from influence and political dynamics, is key to enabling business and investment, and the legitimacy of that process,

3. Thought leadership

to drive thought leadership in dispute prevention and resolution through innovative services, best practices and standards that meet the evolving needs of an ever-wider range of businesses and markets, to enable the requisite legal frameworks, including the enforceability of arbitral awards,

4. Global community and local engagement

to increase the reach of arbitration and ADR, by building a global community through local engagement and forging long-lasting connections,

5. Transparency

to improve transparency in the dispute prevention and resolution process, enabling the democratisation of information, consistency and a greater understanding and trust in the process, while respecting legitimate expectations of confidentiality,

6. Training and capacity building

to provide training and capacity building to strengthen disputes infrastructure globally, investing in the legal and business communities to maximise the potential of all,

7. Technology

to lead the transformation of dispute prevention and resolution, by amplifying the benefit of the digitalised economy, and leveraging technology to deliver efficient and pioneering solutions,

8. Diversity, equity and inclusion

to build on our ground-breaking work on diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of dispute prevention and resolution, including all stakeholders in the process,

9. Sustainability

to adopt sustainability measures to minimise our own environmental footprint by reducing energy consumption and waste, and supporting bold action to tackle climate change, and

10. Cooperation

to work across ICC and in partnership with like-minded purpose-driven organisations and individuals globally, guided by our belief that access to justice and the rule of law enables peace and prosperity.

In committing to these ambitious principles, we proudly embrace our renewed purpose to enable access to justice and the rule of law by providing innovative and trusted dispute prevention and resolution services. It is our hope that future generations will reflect on our contemporary achievements with the same reverence that we have for our predecessors.

Dated 19 January 2023