

CIArb - Presidential Candidate
Prof. Dr. Mohamed S. Abdel Wahab C.Arb, FCIArb

Candidate Statement

After 20+ years being affiliated with the CIArb, first as a member of the North West Branch (UK) and then the Cairo Branch (Egypt), and after having served the CIArb community in various capacities across the Institute's educational, professional and management activities, I believe that I am qualified and fit to stand for the presidential elections, in hope that I can continue to serve the CIArb in such important ambassadorial role.

I actively served on the CIArb's Practice & Standards Committee (*which issued several guidelines that remain of great importance to the dispute resolution world*). I also served as Chair of the Institute's Technology Sub-Committee, Vice-Chair and then Chair of the Cairo Branch, and then became a member of the Institute's Board of Management before being elected as a Trustee. All-throughout my years at the Institute I very actively participated in numerous trainings, educational activities and flagship events by the CIArb (as trainer, speaker, keynote speaker or task force member). In 2015, I co-directed (together with Professor Nayla Comair-Obeid, a past President of the CIArb) the first ever Islamic Finance and Arbitration Course in Malaysia, and, in 2019, I was privileged and honoured to serve as Director of the Institute's International Commercial Arbitration Diploma Course; a role which I still hold till-date. More specifically, regarding the Diploma Course, I am doing my best to follow the glistening path set by all past illustrious directors, whose stature, work, wisdom and commitment will forever inspire innovation and excellence in our hearts and minds. Following COVID-19, we managed to give the Diploma Course a bright new face, with an unprecedented number of world-renowned diverse faculty members and tutors, and an evolving programme that is always updated with new lectures on topics that are of great interest to the CIArb Community and the world of dispute resolution at large. Moreover, being mindful of the CIArb's stature and role in mediation and adjudication, I also organised and participated in several mediation and adjudication events when I served as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Cairo Branch.

Given my years at the CIArb, I have come to deepen my knowledge and understanding of the Institute's governance, management, operations, dynamics and diverse activities, which is of great value to any person who stands to be elected as President. I should also mention that the Institute's commitment to diversity and inclusion has motivated me to stand for the Presidential elections, in hope that my background, skills, credentials and years of service, will enable me to build on all the great work undertaken by all past presidents.

I also believe that my familiarity with the challenges facing the wider membership of the CIArb, my in-depth involvement in the dispute resolution world, my experience with many other prominent organisations regionally and internationally, and my good connections

with colleagues and friends from various jurisdictions across the globe will undoubtedly enable me to continue to positively contribute to the Institute's work in a new ambassadorial role as President.

To that effect, I intend, if elected, to maintain close contact with all branches across the globe, and to do my best to further raise the Institute's profile and increase its footprint in the dispute resolution world. Given the CI Arb's unique and leading position as a learned society for dispute resolution, it is important to recall that that the contributions of the Institute are of great relevance to all other organisations. After all, as Nelson Mandela once said "*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world*", and the CI Arb has such great potential and role to make our dispute resolution world a better place with more qualified, credible, ethical and seasoned neutrals, whether as adjudicators, arbitrators and/or mediators.

Involvement in the CI Arb's activities remain a prime directive for me, and a means to give back to the global community of dispute resolution. Given the Institute's global standing and its strong relations with leading dispute resolution organisations and institutions, I believe that I can still offer a lot more in my role as President, if deemed fit to take on that role. The CI Arb has a lot more to do and offer to the world of dispute resolution at large, and I believe that, as a President of the Institute, I can significantly contribute to boosting the Institute's footprint globally in accordance with the Institute's vision, objectives and policies.

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Prof. Dr. Abdel Wahab is Founding Partner and Head of International Arbitration, Construction and Energy Groups at Zulficar & Partners Law Firm; Professor of International Arbitration, Private International law and English Contract Law at Cairo University; Treasurer & Member of the ICCA Governing Board; Dean and Member of the Advisory Council of the Africa Arbitration Academy; Chair of the International Expert Advisory Committee of the Permanent Forum on China Construction Law; Co-Chair, IBA Arab Regional Forum; Vice Chair of the ICC governing body for Dispute Resolution Services; Vice-Chair of the CRCICA Advisory Committee; Member of the Advisory Board, Mauritius International Arbitration Centre (MIAC); Court Member of the Casablanca International Mediation and Arbitration Centre (CIMAC);



Member of the Court at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA); Member of the Court, Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre (LACIAC); Associate Fellow of the Centres for Private International Law and Commercial Law at Aberdeen University; Member of Hong Kong Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform on Online Dispute Resolution (iGLIP on ODR); Member of the Academic Council, Institute of Transnational Arbitration (ITA); and Member of the Advisory Board, Indonesia International Arbitration Center (INIAC). He is also former Vice Chair, Academic Forum for Investor-State Dispute Settlement (2018 -2020); former Court Member of the LCIA (2014-2019); former President of LCIA's Arab Users' Council (2016-2018); former Vice President of the IBA Arbitration Committee (2015-2018); former President of the Egypt Branch, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) (2018); former Member of the CIArb's Board of Management (2018); former Chair of the CIArb's Technology Sub-Committee (2012–2014); former Member of the CIArb's Practice and Standards Committee (2012–2018); former Committee Member of the IBA Investment Arbitration Sub-Committee (2016–2017). He is an Accredited Mediator of the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (“CEDR”), and the Director of the CIArb Diploma in International Arbitration since 2019.

Prof. Dr. Mohamed S. Abdel Wahab served as ‘Sole Arbitrator’, ‘Presiding Arbitrator’, ‘Party Appointed Arbitrator’, ‘Legal Expert’ or ‘Counsel’ in more than 245 cases involving parties from Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. He featured in cases under the auspices of the AAA, BCDR (Bahrain), ADCCAC (UAE), CRCICA (Egypt), DIAC (UAE), DIFC-LCIA (UAE), ICC (France), ICSID (USA), KIAC (Rwanda), LCIA (UK), LMAA (UK), QICCA (Qatar), RCICAL (Nigeria), SCC (Sweden), SIAC (Singapore), TIAC (Uzbekistan), as well as *ad hoc* UNCITRAL proceedings, involving mega multi-hundred million dollars disputes involving private parties, investors, States and State-owned entities. He is recognized as a world-leading arbitrator and arbitration practitioner on international investment and international commercial arbitration, Arab and African laws, Islamic Shari'a, and online dispute resolution. His expertise in cross border multi-jurisdictional and highly complex

transactions and disputes is broad where he featured in proceedings governed by *Afghanistani, Angolan, Bahraini, Californian, Egyptian, English, French, Ghanaian, Iraqi, Italian, Japanese, Jordanian, Kenyan, Kuwaiti, Libyan, Moroccan, New York, Nigerian, Omani, Pakistani, Qatari, Rwandan, Saudi, Spanish, Swiss, Syrian, United Arab Emirates law(s) and Uzbekistani* as well as *the general principles of law*.

Professor Dr Abdel Wahab is listed on the rosters of many institutions including the ADCCAC (Abu Dhabi), ADGM (Abu Dhabi); AIAC (Malaysia), BCDR (Bahrain), CIETAC (China), CRCICA (Egypt), DIAC (Dubai), EDAC (Turkey), EMAC (Dubai); EODID (Athens Mediation and Arbitration Organization), KCAB (South Korea), SCIA (Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration); the Arbitration Center of the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration (Russia); TIAC (Uzbekistan); MARC (Mauritius); the Hague Court of Arbitration for Aviation (CAA) list of neutrals; the LACIAC (Nigeria); the OAC (Oman); SHIAC (Shanghai International Arbitration Center, China); SHAC (Shanghai Arbitration Commission, China); ASA (Swiss Arbitration Association, Switzerland); VIAC (Vienna International Arbitration Centre, Austria); eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre, (Hong Kong – China)

Prof. Dr. Mohamed S. Abdel Wahab is extensively published on issues of international law, international investment and commercial arbitration, conflict of laws, construction law, oil & gas, corporate and law and project finance. He is a world-renowned authority on Online Dispute Resolution and is co-editor (with Ethan Katsh and Daniel Rainey) of the leading treatise “*Online Dispute Resolution Theory & Practice*” (2012) which received the CPR Award for best dispute resolution work in 2013. A new edition of this leading treatise was published in 2021. He is also co-editor (with Maxi Scherer and Niuscha Bassiri) of “*International Arbitration and the COVID-19 Revolution*” (2020), and is the author of the *Abdel Wahab Pandemic Pathway to Virtual Hearings*, which was published by the *Global Arbitration Review* on 6 May 2020 (and translated into other languages including Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese and published in the *Beijing International Arbitration Quarterly Vol.112 (2020, No.2)*.

He also delivered more than 400 conference presentations, trainings, webinars and keynote speeches on conflict of laws, international law, comparative law, construction law & practice, international investment arbitration, international commercial arbitration, oil & gas, project finance and public-private partnerships, cultural globalisation, online dispute resolution, international commercial transactions, insurance law and practice, telecommunications law and Islamic finance and *Shari'a*.

Prof. Dr. Abdel Wahab featured in the first issue of *Who's Who Legal Thought Leaders: International Arbitration (2017)*, and has since been consistently listed in it (2017-2022). He also featured in *Who's Who Legal: International Arbitration – Global Elite Thought Leaders 2021-2022 (listing the top ranked 64 practitioners worldwide)*. He is also listed in all major legal directories as a star practitioner, including in ‘*Who's Who Legal: Arbitration*’, ‘*Who's Who Legal: Construction*’, the *GAR Global Guide for Future Leaders in International Arbitration (2017-2018)* and *Who's Who Legal Thought Leaders: Construction (2019 - 2020)*. He also features in *AFRICA's 100 list of leading African arbitration practitioners* by I-ARB (Africa), *Africa Arbitration Academy's 30 Arbitration Powerlist* of the top Arbitration Practitioners (2020), the *Legal 500 Africa Powerlist (2021)*, and was selected by Africa Arbitration as the *African Personality of June 2018* and by LACIAC as the *Arbitration Personality in May 2019*. He was voted the *Leading Egyptian Legal Practitioner of 2017 by the LAW Magazine*; received the *2018 ASA International Arbitration Advocacy Prize*; received the *2019 AYA Hall of Fame Award in London for the*

African Arbitrator of 2019; honoured by the Jordanian Minister of Justice, the Jordanian Arbitrators' Association and the Jordanian Construction Contractors Syndicate in August 2019; and received the Lexology's Client Choice International Award in 2020 and 2021.

Chambers & Partners Global (2022) says: “Mohamed Abdel Wahab is very highly respected for his international commercial and investment treaty practice. As an arbitrator, he frequently presides over disputes concerning construction, energy and infrastructure issues. He is a very well-known arbitrator who is very much involved in African work. He's a very impressive guy.” Who's Who Legal: Construction (2022) says: “Mohamed is an all time great of construction arbitration” “Mohamed is a very smooth operator who makes arbitration process work very well”. Who's Who Legal: Arbitration (2022) says: “His intellectual rigour and well-rounded experience make him a natural choice as an arbitrator”, “He is academically brilliant”, “One of the best minds on arbitration issues” and “Extremely impressive”. Who's Who Legal: Arbitration (2021) says: “He is at the top of the market”, “Outstanding engagement and pleasant to work with”, “He is a top-tier thought leader and in a league of his own” and “a very well-prepared and exceptional arbitrator”. Client Choice International (2020) says: “Mohamed outshines his competitors; he is world-class. He is really an outstanding and leading practitioner in the field: impressive, proactive, a very good speaker, and a very impartial and independent arbitrator”, “He is extremely efficient and reliable; he is one of the most brilliant legal minds of his generation”. The Legal 500 (2019) says Mohamed Abdel Wahab is ‘one of the best in the world’. Who's Who Legal Construction (2019) says: Mohamed Abdel Wahab is highlighted as “a leading heavyweight construction law specialist whose analytical skills are second to none”. Chambers & Partners Global (2019) states that ‘Mohamed Abdel Wahab is consistently described by clients as a “superstar in arbitration”’. The Legal 500 (2014-2016) stated that Mohamed Abdel Wahab is “one of the brightest of his generation, a strong thinker and excellent advocate who knows arbitration inside out”.

Prof. Dr. Abdel Wahab was nominated four times in (2013), (2014), (2018) and (2019) for the *Global Arbitration Review Award for the Best Arbitration Lecture/Speech*, and was also nominated in (2020) for the *GAR COVID-19 Pandemic Response Award*, and was shortlisted among the top five arbitrators for the *GAR award for the best prepared and responsive arbitrator* in (2021).

Prof. Dr. Abdel Wahab read law in Egypt and in the UK, and speaks Arabic (mother tongue), English (fluent) and French (very good working knowledge).

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