

GETTING THE
DEAL THROUGH 

Mediation 2015

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Business
Research**



Published by
Law Business Research Ltd
87 Lancaster Road
London, W11 1QQ, UK
Tel: +44 20 7908 1188
Fax: +44 20 7229 6910

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First published 2012
Third edition
ISSN 2051-4697

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Printed and distributed by
Encompass Print Solutions
Tel: 0844 2480 112



CONTENTS

Introduction	5	Nigeria	63
Jonathan Lux Stone Chambers		Kentuadei Adefe, Seifa Amgbare and Folorunsho Babatunde Kentuadei Adefe, Legal Practitioners, Mediators & Arbitrators	
Austria	7	Pakistan	68
Christoph Leon Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte		Jawad Sarwana Abraham & Sarwana	
Bahrain	13	Philippines	72
Paula Boast Trowers & Hamlins		Ricardo Ma P G Ongkiko and Jon Edmarc R Castillo SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan	
Belgium	17	Qatar	79
Johan Billiet and Tatiana Proshkina Billiet & Co / Association for International Arbitration		Domitille Baizeau, Catherine A Kunz, Ramy Saleh and Marie-Anne Roberty-Jabbour Lalive in Qatar LLC	
Bermuda	23	Romania	84
Delroy B Duncan Trott & Duncan Limited		Sanda Elena Lungu and Constantin Adi Gavrilă Craiova Mediation Center	
Brazil	27	Scotland	90
Diego Faleck Faleck & Associados		Patricia Barclay Bonaccord	
England & Wales	32	Singapore	94
Donald Lambert and Noel McMichael Penningtons Manches LLP		Loong Seng Onn and Deborah Koh Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC)	
Germany	38	Sweden	100
Renate Dendorfer-Ditges Heussen Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft mbH		Christer Holm MedlingsKammaren	
Hong Kong	44	Switzerland	104
Norris HC Yang ADR International Limited		Domitille Baizeau and Catherine A Kunz Lalive	
India	50	United States	111
Sriram Panchu and Avni Rastogi Indian Centre for Mediation and Dispute Resolution		Mark A Brand and Rodney L Lewis Polsinelli	
Italy	56		
Alessandro Bruni and Michela Sitzia Concilia LLC			

Qatar

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Law and institutions

1 Treaties

Is your country a signatory to any treaties that refer to mediation? Is your domestic mediation law based on a treaty?

Qatar is not a signatory to any treaty concerning mediation. In 2011, however, Qatar ratified the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States, which makes provision for conciliation proceedings.

Qatari law generally does not distinguish between mediation and conciliation. There are very few provisions of Qatari domestic law relating to domestic or foreign mediation or conciliation and such provisions are not based on any treaty such as the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Conciliation (2002) (the UNCITRAL Model Law). However, in May 2012, the Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) issued the Rules of Conciliation and Arbitration (the QICCA Rules) which adopt the model rules prepared by the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as revised in 2010.

In the context of the ongoing reform of the provisions governing arbitration, as contained in the Commercial and Civil Procedure Code (Law No. 13 of 1990), the latest bill dated 13 June 2012 (the Bill) contains provisions concerning 'conciliation', which are, to a large extent, inspired by the UNCITRAL Model Law. The term 'conciliation' covers any proceedings in which the parties are assisted by a neutral to settle their dispute, including mediation. The date on which the Bill will be enacted into law is not yet known.

2 Domestic mediation law

What are the primary domestic sources of law relating to domestic and foreign mediation? Are there any differences for the mediation of international cases?

There are two separate legal jurisdictions in Qatar: the State of Qatar and the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC).

Laws of the State of Qatar

The legal system of the State of Qatar combines aspects of Islamic shariah law and codified civil law. The judiciary is divided into two corresponding court systems: on the one hand, the shariah courts and on the other, the civil, commercial and criminal courts. While shariah law governs family law, inheritance matters and certain criminal offences, other matters of a civil or commercial nature are primarily governed by Qatari civil law. Although shariah law finds its way into the law applicable in the state of Qatar, only the codified civil law is, in principle, applicable to mediation proceedings unless the parties specifically agree that shariah law must be taken into account. The present chapter focuses on the applicable provisions of civil law to the exclusion of shariah law.

To date, there are no general provisions of Qatari law concerning mediation, whether domestic or foreign, and mediation is first and foremost governed by the contractual provisions agreed by the parties.

However, the Civil Code (Law No. 22 of 2004) acknowledges the principle of freedom of contract and grants the parties the absolute right to agree on the terms and conditions of their agreement as long as they are not contrary to public policy or bonos mores.

This position may change as a result of the ongoing legislative reform, since the Bill contains a whole section dedicated to 'conciliation' in civil and commercial matters, whether local or international.

Statutory provisions referring to mediation can, however, be found in certain laws governing specific matters, for example in the Labour Law (Law No. 14 of 2004) (see question 6). The possibility for the parties to refer their dispute to mediation has also been introduced in respect of disputes concerning exchange related transactions by the Ministerial Decree No. 4 of 2010, which reflects the encouragement of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms discussed as part of the reform of the Commercial and Civil Procedure Code.

QFC laws

The QFC was established by the government of Qatar as a free zone for financial services operating according to international business and legal standards (Law No. 7 of 2005); it was formally opened in 2005. The QFC is a separate jurisdiction with its own laws and dispute resolution mechanisms within the State of Qatar.

The Qatar Financial Centre Civil and Commercial Court (the QFC Court) Regulations and Procedural Rules (the QFC Court Rules) include a mechanism for alternative dispute resolution. Pursuant to the QFC Court Rules, the QFC Court will encourage the parties to resolve their dispute by resorting to mediation or other forms of alternative dispute resolution when appropriate (article 5.1) and may offer its assistance for the parties to do so (article 25.2). The QFC Court may also require the parties to take steps to settle their dispute by means of an alternative dispute resolution process (article 10.2.2). The QFC Court may at any time adjourn or stay the proceedings so that the parties can attempt to settle their differences by mediation or another form of dispute resolution (article 25.1). Mediation services are available prior to and after the commencement of proceedings before the QFC Court.

3 Mandatory provisions

Are there provisions of domestic mediation law that must be considered in mediation proceedings?

There are no mandatory provisions of Qatari substantive law that must be considered in mediation proceedings.

4 Obligation to mediate

Is mediation in your country obligatory? Can mediation be ordered by courts in your country?

As mediation is a voluntary process, there is, in principle, no obligation to mediate under Qatari laws. This principle can also be found in the Bill, which expressly provides that the conciliation proceedings shall start on the date on which both parties to the dispute agree to take part in such proceedings.

The QFC Court Rules include a provision under which the QFC Court may require the parties to use an alternative dispute resolution process (article 10.2.2). These Rules, however, do not set out the criteria for the exercise of this power.

5 Court-annexed mediation

Does the law of your country provide for court-annexed mediation? If so, is court-annexed mediation mandatory?

Neither the laws of the State of Qatar nor the QFC laws provide for court-annexed mediation. Recourse to mediation is, however, expressly encouraged under the QFC Court Rules (see questions 2 and 4).

6 Mediation-arbitration and other forms of mediation-related ADR

Is mediation combined with arbitral proceedings? May a mediator act later in the same dispute as an arbitrator, conciliator or judge? Are arbitrators aware of mediation, and if yes, are they willing to transfer arbitration cases to mediation? Which other proceedings are available and used in your country that are related to mediation?

There is some evidence of the use of multi-tiered dispute clauses providing that the parties must first seek to settle their dispute through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as negotiation, mediation or conciliation, prior to commencing arbitration, especially in infrastructure and construction contracts in Qatar. Since mediation as an alternative dispute resolution process remains in a development phase, there is no established practice yet of combining mediation with arbitral proceedings. For the same reasons, there is little evidence on the use of hybrid clauses such as med-arb or arb-med clauses, where the same neutral would typically act as both mediator and arbitrator.

However, a multi-tiered dispute resolution mechanism is expressly provided for in the Labour Law (Law No. 14 of 2004) for collective labour disputes between an employer and all or some of its workers or between a group of employers and their workers in relation to a subject matter that is of common interest to a group of workers or a specific professional sector (article 129 et seq). The dispute resolution mechanism adopted for such disputes is: negotiation followed by mediation, and where no settlement agreement is reached through mediation the dispute is subject to conciliation before a conciliation committee, whose decision is only binding if the parties agreed in writing to refer their dispute to the conciliation committee; in the absence of such an agreement, the dispute is finally referred to mandatory arbitration before a committee composed of a representative of the Ministry, a representative of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (the Qatar Chamber) and a representative of the workers nominated by the General Union of the Workers of Qatar.

The Conciliation Rules contained in the QICCA Rules (the QICCA Conciliation Rules) specifically provide that a conciliator cannot act as arbitrator in a dispute that was or is the subject of the conciliation or in respect of another dispute that has arisen from the same or a related contract or legal relationship, unless the parties expressly agree otherwise (article 19). It should be noted that under the QICCA Conciliation Rules, as under the UNCITRAL Model Law, the term 'conciliation' refers to a process whereby parties request a neutral to assist them in their attempt to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute, including mediation.

In most arbitration disputes in Qatar, parties tend to adopt international arbitration rules, such as ICC rules or UNCITRAL rules and to appoint international arbitrators to whom mediation is a well-known process and who are willing to transfer the dispute to mediation when a settlement of the dispute seems an option.

The Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Center (the QICDRC) is encouraging parties to resort to mediation. To that end, it is currently providing a fully supported mediation facility in partnership with the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR); through providing access to a worldwide directory of CEDR trained and accredited mediators across all commercial specialist areas.

Current legislative proposals will, once they have been enacted, allow the QICDRC to cater for a number of adjudication schemes in addition to the arbitration and mediation services already provided.

For one such adjudication scheme, Q-Construct, the regulations underpinning the scheme have already been drafted and a specialist construction judge of the QICDRC has been appointed to oversee the scheme. It is expected to be fully operational shortly, once the corresponding legislation has been implemented.

Furthermore, The QICDRC is currently developing a fast track scheme for resolving construction disputes, using specialist construction adjudicators or mediators. The QICDRC will also soon launch a service providing

expert legal determination to ensure that critical disputes are resolved within a few weeks only.

Although Qatari law does not make express provision for dispute review boards or dispute adjudication boards, parties are free to agree on those ADR mechanisms.

7 Online dispute resolution (ODR)

Have there been any developments regarding online dispute resolution in your country? Is your country participating in any international ODR project? Is online mediation available in your country?

Online dispute resolution and online mediation are not available in Qatar and the authors are not aware of any developments in this respect.

8 Confidentiality and disclosure

Is mediation a confidential proceeding in your country? In which cases can disclosure of confidential information by the mediator or the parties be permitted or compelled? Are there any sanctions for breach of confidentiality?

There is no statutory provision dealing with the confidentiality of mediation; hence, under Qatari law, mediation proceedings can only be confidential by agreement of the parties. Such an agreement can be made by reference to mediation rules that provide for the confidentiality of the mediation, such as the QICCA Conciliation Rules, or international rules such as the ICC ADR rules or the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules.

Pursuant to the QICCA Conciliation Rules, all matters relating to the conciliation (thus including mediation) proceedings must be kept confidential by the conciliator (or mediator) and by the parties (article 16). This confidentiality obligation also extends to the settlement agreement that may be reached, unless its disclosure is required for its implementation or enforcement. Moreover, the QICCA Conciliation Rules expressly provide that it is prohibited for the parties to rely on or introduce as evidence in any subsequent judicial or arbitral proceedings the following:

- the invitation sent by a party to participate in conciliation/mediation proceedings;
- the views expressed or suggestions made by the other party in respect of a possible settlement of the dispute;
- any admissions made by the other party during the course of the conciliation/mediation proceedings;
- proposals made by the conciliator or the other party's indication of its willingness to accept such proposals; and
- any document prepared for the conciliation/mediation purposes (article 18).

Similar provisions regarding confidentiality have been included in the Bill. The Bill also specifies that no arbitral tribunal, court or competent authority can order the disclosure of such confidential information and that if such information is submitted as evidence it must be considered inadmissible, unless it is used for the purposes of the implementation or enforcement of the settlement agreement reached.

The parties and conciliator/mediator can be held contractually liable in the event of breach of their confidentiality obligations.

9 Limitation period

Does a mediation proceeding suspend the limitation period for a court claim?

Under Qatari law, mediation does not suspend any statutory limitation period, unless the parties agree otherwise. Therefore, absent such an agreement and any other specific step, claims may become time-barred during the mediation process.

The Bill, however, introduces a provision pursuant to which conciliation proceedings shall suspend the period of statutory limitation until such time as they are concluded without any settlement agreement having been reached.

10 Settlement

What is the legal character of the final (settlement) agreement? What are the legal requirements for the enforceability or the content of the agreement? Is it possible to revise, withdraw or challenge the final settlement agreement?

In Qatar, the final settlement agreement reached through mediation typically takes the form of a binding contract, which can be a detailed agreement settling all issues in dispute, an agreement in principle on the main issues or even a promise to enter into a contract if it covers the essential points of the contemplated contract (in which case, under Qatari law, a promise to contract is binding on the parties). Although the written form is not required under Qatari law, the QICCA Conciliation Rules for instance provide that settlement agreements must be in writing and signed by the parties, which reflects the common practice.

If one of the parties is in breach of its obligations of the settlement agreement, the other party may seek remedies for breach of contract before the competent court or arbitral tribunal.

Pursuant to the Arbitration Rules contained in the QICCA Rules (the QICCA Arbitration Rules), in cases where the mediation was conducted in relation to a dispute pending arbitration or following arbitration, the parties may request that the arbitral tribunal record the settlement agreement reached through mediation in the form of an arbitral award on agreed terms (article 37.1).

The Bill introduces an important provision: under the new law, the parties will be able to submit their agreement in writing to the chief judge of the Court of Appeal or to the delegated judge for ratification within 90 days of the date of the settlement; the settlement agreement so ratified will have the same binding effect and legal force as an arbitral award for enforcement purposes.

11 Mediation institutions

What are the most prominent mediation institutions in your country?

There are two main Qatari institutions offering alternative dispute resolution services:

- the QICCA, a non-governmental institution established in 2006 under the auspices of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (www.qatarchamber.com). It offers arbitration and conciliation services, which it seeks to organise according to the most recent trends (eg, through the adoption of the 2010 UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules); and
- the QICDRC (<http://qicdrc.com.qa>), part of the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC). It offers a full range of dispute resolution services such as a civil and commercial court (referred to as the Qatar International Court), which hears disputes between parties from anywhere around the world if they have referred their dispute to its jurisdiction, and has mandatory jurisdiction to hear disputes between QFC entities and alternative dispute resolution services such as early neutral evaluation, mediation and arbitration. Since 2010, the QICDRC has provided mediation services in partnership with the CEDR, which is a non-profit organisation providing alternative dispute resolution services based in the United Kingdom. The QICDRC provides hearing rooms free of charge.

Foreign institutions offering mediation services with a presence in Qatar include:

- the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), ICC Qatar National Committee; and
- the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Dispute Resolution Centre (TAG-Resolution, www.tagresolution.org).

Mediation procedure

12 Background

Describe the development of mediation in your country.

Qatar has acted as a mediator of political conflicts and controversies in other Arab nations, such as between the various parties in Lebanon in 2008, between the two main Palestinian factions, Hamas and Fatah, in 2006 and in 2012, in relation to the release of the imprisoned Bulgarian nurses in Libya in 2007 and to the peace agreement between the Yemeni government and rebels in 2007.

Mediation as an alternative process for the resolution of civil and commercial disputes is still in its infancy. The QFC Court, which also offers mediation services, in partnership with the CEDR, was only established in 2009. Mediation is used more and more frequently in relation to public sector contracts.

However, new developments in the field of mediation are to be expected in the context of the reform of the Commercial and Civil Procedure Code and the enactment of the Bill, which specifically provides for mediation of commercial disputes (see question 1).

13 Areas of disputes for mediation

In which areas of disputes is mediation preliminarily applied? Are there any disputes that cannot be mediated?

'Institutionalised' mediation is not yet commonly used in Qatar as an alternative dispute resolution process for commercial disputes, although its use has increased in recent years in relation to disputes involving large infrastructure and construction projects in Qatar (with contractual provisions included to that effect). For instance, several mediations have been conducted or are still ongoing in relation to the construction of the New Doha International Airport. It is also contemplated as a possible dispute resolution mechanism for the major infrastructure and construction projects envisaged for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Mediation is also used in the context of collective labour disputes (see question 6).

There is no Qatari statutory provision specifically prohibiting the use of mediation in specific areas.

14 Procedural requirements

Are there procedural requirements for mediation proceedings in your country? Must the parties prepare for the mediation?

There are no procedural requirements for mediation proceedings in Qatar and the parties are as a rule free to agree on the mediation procedure.

In mediations conducted under QICCA Conciliation Rules, the mediation is generally commenced by the filing of a 'conciliation request' by the party wishing to have recourse to conciliation/mediation, which shall include a summary of the dispute. However, the conciliation/mediation shall only commence upon receipt by the QICCA of the other party's written acceptance to participate in the conciliation/mediation. The conciliator may request the parties to provide evidence, but there are no other specific provisions in the rules regarding the procedure.

15 Structure and process of mediation

Describe the most common steps for the mediator's preparation of a mediation proceeding. Describe the most common structure of mediation proceedings. What is the typical time frame for a mediation proceeding? Are there any special considerations for international mediation proceedings?

The parties are, in principle, free to choose the structure, process and time frame of the mediation, as well as the language of the proceedings, although for practical reasons (eg, the choice of the mediator) they will most often be conducted in English.

Mediation typically starts with the parties' agreement to mediate. The parties then exchange written submissions setting out their respective position, which are usually limited to a given number of pages. A meeting is then organised between the parties and the mediator, at which the mediator first introduces the parties, the parties then make their opening statements and the relevant issues are discussed. In the course of the mediation, the mediator may organise joint or private sessions and present his or her views. Finally, possible solutions are discussed.

16 Mediation style

What is the primary mediation style in your country for commercial mediation: facilitative mediation, evaluative mediation or transformative mediation? Are private sessions (caucuses) or joined sessions, or both, commonly used in mediation?

There is no specific local practice in Qatar regarding mediation style. Private sessions, in addition to joint sessions, may be used in the mediation.

The QICCA Conciliation Rules expressly provide for the possibility for the conciliator to meet or communicate with the parties jointly or with each of them separately (article 10.2). The same principle is provided for in the Bill.

Both the QICCA Conciliation Rules and the Bill also allow the conciliator to make proposals for a settlement of the dispute (article 9.3 of the QICCA Conciliation Rules).

17 Co-mediation

What form does team mediation typically take in your country? Is co-mediation regularly used in your country? In which kind of cases?

There is no local practice in Qatar regarding the use of co-mediation, but the QICCA Conciliation Rules expressly provide for the possibility of the parties to bring their dispute before several conciliators (or mediators) (article 5). The Bill also provides for such a possibility.

18 Party representatives and third parties

What is the practice in your country with respect to the inclusion of party representatives in mediation proceedings? What is the practice with respect to experts and witnesses?

There is no typical practice in Qatar regarding the inclusion of party representatives or the use of experts and witnesses in the mediation proceedings, but the QICCA Conciliation Rules expressly provide for the possibility of the parties being represented or assisted by one or more persons (article 7).

19 Specific mediation procedures / conflict or dispute management systems

Have companies set up their own dispute management systems in your country? Are there any special routes for consumers to use mediation for small claims? Are there any institutions that offer mediation for their customers, users, etc? Is there any reported or published information regarding dispute management systems of companies for conflicts in employment matters?

There is no evidence available of companies that have set up their own dispute management systems in Qatar or of institutions that offer mediation for their customers or users except for the specific dispute resolution centres referred to above (see question 11).

To the best of the authors' knowledge, there are, to date, no online mediation platforms based in Qatar and there is no reported or published information regarding dispute management systems of companies for conflicts in employment matters except those referred to above (see question 6).

Mediation clauses and mediation agreement

20 Mediation clauses

Are mediation clauses commonly considered in the course of contract drafting? Are there special requirements for mediation clauses? Are there any relevant court decisions referring to such escalation clauses?

Yes, mediation clauses have started to be commonly considered in the course of contract drafting in Qatar, especially in the context of public sector contracts and infrastructure and construction projects, the parties of which often informally meet to discuss points of contention or any issues affecting the project and try to finally settle disputes out of court or arbitration.

There are, however, no special requirements for mediation clauses imposed by the law and, to the best of the authors' knowledge, there are no court decisions referring to escalation process or clauses. The QICCA Rules provide for a basic model clause of conciliation and arbitration, according to which, disputes are first resolved amicably through conciliation and if conciliation fails, through arbitration.

In practice, in Qatar, contracts concerning large infrastructure and construction projects of a significant value often contain escalation clauses for dispute resolution with negotiation, as a first step, followed by mediation or conciliation as a second step and then arbitration or litigation if the parties fail to settle their dispute through mediation.

21 Conclusion and content

Is there any obligation to conclude an agreement between the mediator and the parties or between the parties before or at the beginning of the proceeding? Are there any legal requirements regarding the content of the agreement between the mediator and the parties? What are the common provisions for such mediation agreement? Must the agreement be in writing?

As mediation is a voluntary process all of the parties involved must agree to mediate their dispute. There is no statutory requirement for the mediation agreement to be in writing. The written form is, however, required for mediations conducted under the QICCA Conciliation Rules.

There is no requirement under Qatari law regarding the content of the mediation agreement between the parties or the agreement between the parties and the mediator, and there is no established practice in this regard.

22 Costs for mediation

Are there any legal provisions on mediators' fees? What is the average mediator's fee in mediations involving companies? Is there any legal aid or other financial support for mediation proceedings if parties cannot afford to pay the mediator?

There are no statutory provisions governing mediators' fees in Qatar.

In mediation proceedings conducted under the QCCIA Conciliation Rules, the administrative fees and fees of the conciliator (or mediator) are calculated on the basis of the fees applied in arbitrations conducted under the QCCIA Arbitration Rules and are calculated as a percentage of the amount in dispute according to the scale annexed to the QCCIA Arbitration Rules (article 20 of the QCCIA Conciliation Rules). Specifically, as at August 2013, the conciliator's fees are calculated as one-third of an arbitrator's fee and range from 5,000 Qatari riyals (for an amount in dispute up to 500,000 riyals) to 89,167 riyals (for an amount in dispute equal to or in excess of 50,000,001 riyals). The administrative fees are calculated as one-quarter of the fees applicable in arbitration proceedings and range from 1,250 riyals (for an amount in dispute up to 500,000 riyals) to 93,750 riyals (for an amount in dispute equal or in excess of 50,000,001 riyals). In addition, a registration fee of 1,000 riyals must be paid by each party.

The mediator's fees are as a rule borne by the parties in equal shares (see, for example, mediations conducted pursuant to the QCCIA Conciliation Rules, article 20(e)).

There is, to the best of the authors' knowledge, no legal aid or financial support for mediation proceedings available in Qatar.

Professional matters for mediators

23 Regulation

Is there any specific regulation of mediators in your jurisdiction? Give details. Are there any regulations on immigration or tax issues or regarding the right to work for foreign mediators?

The professional title 'mediator' is not legally protected in Qatar and there is no specific regulation of mediators.

Foreign mediators require a business visa to provide mediation services in Qatar.

The fees paid to foreign mediators in consideration for their services are generally subject to a 5 per cent withholding tax, whereas local mediators established in Qatar are taxed on their net profits at a flat rate of 10 per cent.

24 Training

Are there any requirements regarding training for mediators?

There are no statutory requirements regarding the training of mediators in Qatar.

Since 2010 the QICDRC has been working closely with the CEDR for training accredited mediators (CEDR mediator accreditation) in English, and recently also in Arabic, and for the time being only recommends mediators who are accredited by the CEDR. The CEDR training consists in a five-day programme of comprehensive tuition in mediation, which also addresses practical aspects of the mediation process, followed by an assessment of the participants for CEDR mediator accreditation.

Update and trends

As detailed above, the following changes are expected in the area of mediation in Qatar:

- ongoing legislative reform of the provisions governing arbitration contained in the Commercial and Civil Procedure Code, the corresponding Bill containing provisions on 'conciliation' which are to a large extent inspired by the UNCITRAL Model Law;
- current legislative proposals will, when enacted, bring about a number of important changes to the way in which the QICDRC operates, the most important of which being its ability to create and supervise adjudication schemes; and
- the QICDRC is currently developing a fast-track scheme for resolving construction disputes, using specialist construction adjudicators or mediators and is soon expected to launch a service providing expert legal determination to ensure that critical disputes are resolved within a few weeks only.

25 Continued education

Must mediators undertake continued professional education? Is there a credit point system for the continued education of mediators?

There is no requirement regarding the continued professional education of mediators.

26 Accreditation of mediators

Outline the system for certification of mediators.

There are no official registers of mediators.

It is envisaged that a list of suitably qualified mediators in Qatar will be established by the QFC Court in the future. At present, the QICDRC only recommends mediators who are accredited by the CEDR.

27 Mediator liability and sanctions

What are the duties of mediators in a mediation procedure? What liability do mediators face when offering their services and conducting mediation proceedings? Is professional indemnity insurance for mediators available or obligatory? Are there any further sanctions or other disciplinary measures for mediators in cases of misconduct, poor performance, etc? Are there any regulations referring to the dismissal of mediators?

There are no sanctions or disciplinary measures for mediators, nor are there regulations on the dismissal of mediators under Qatari law. There is no compulsory indemnity insurance for mediators.

The duties of mediators are defined by general contract law. Thus, mediators are required to act in the best interest of the parties and perform their duties in accordance with best practice standards. Mediators may be held liable in the event of a breach of their duties under the mediation agreement.

The QICCA Conciliation Rules expressly exclude any liability of the conciliator 'based on any act or omission in connection with the conciliation', except for intentional wrongdoing (article 17).

28 Appointment

Is there any regulation regarding the appointment of mediators? Is it common in your country to seek assistance by institutions or official bodies for the appointment of mediators? Are mediators obliged to inform about conflicts of interest in the course of appointment?

There is no regulation regarding the appointment of mediators in Qatar; the appointment is left to the parties.

Under the QICCA Conciliation Rules, if the parties fail to reach an agreement regarding the appointment of a conciliator, the parties may request the QICCA to recommend suitable conciliators or to appoint directly one or more conciliators (article 5). A similar rule is provided for in the Bill.

Pursuant to the principle of good faith in contractual relations and so as to ensure the integrity of the mediation process, mediators are under a general obligation to disclose any conflict of interest before accepting the mandate.

The Conduct of Business Rulebook issued by the QFC Regulatory Authority (version No. 10, effective from 1 July 2013) also contains disclosure obligations for firms authorised within the QFC and requirements to have internal systems and controls in place for the proper management of conflicts of interest.

The QICCA Conciliation Rules expressly provide for the obligation of the conciliator to 'disclose any circumstance likely to give rise to justifiable doubts as to his neutrality or independence' (article 6). A similar rule is provided for in the Bill.

Cases**29 Notable cases**

Briefly give details of any significant recent mediation cases or disputes or judgments involving mediation that have been published in your country.

To the best of the authors' knowledge, there are no known published mediation cases, disputes or judgments involving mediation in civil or commercial disputes in Qatar.

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