

**CONVENTION ON THE SETTLEMENT OF INVESTMENT DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES
AND NATIONALS OF OTHER STATES**

Foreword to the Georgian Translation

Tbilisi State University Moot Court Society (“the Society”) was founded by the alumni of law faculty in December 2018. During its establishment, our team actively cooperated with academician Levan Alexidze and professor Ketevan Khutsishvili. Without their support participation of many students in national or international moot court competitions would not have been possible. We discussed the future of our work together and set plans for several of our projects. Academician Alexidze, who always served as an exceptional mentor and role model for us by sharing his extensive professional and academic experiences, supported the new student initiative with his usual enthusiasm and interest.

The members of the Society were united around the common cause while we were representing our university in moot court competitions. We intended to transfer the knowledge and skills, that we gained as a result of opportunities we benefited from, to our peers and other students. For this, we are truly grateful to everyone who made our participation in moot court competitions possible. Moot court competitions allowed us to deepen our theoretical knowledge in different branches of public international law and gain the skills to use that knowledge in practice. In this process, we met many world-renowned experts and legal professionals, Judges of international tribunals, and students from wide variety of countries. Networking with these people set the fertile ground for many interesting projects, ideas, and professional opportunities. We apply the experience gained in international moot courts in our everyday professional activities.

Therefore, we decided to set the following overarching aims for the Society: increase awareness about and promote national and international moot court competitions, boost the practical skills of students selected to participate in moot courts, promote research activities, create educational opportunities for law students and students of related branches, assist students professionally by sharing career opportunities and providing networking opportunities in professional circles, and lastly, to promote the dialogue of moot court alumni in different countries in order to cooperate and exchange ideas.

We are very glad to have the opportunity to present one of our successful initiatives in the Levan Alexidze International Law Journal:

Translation of the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (“Convention”) is the Society’s latest project. The idea of the project belongs to one of the founders of the Society – Nino Goshkheteliani. While working on her academic thesis, she discovered that the official Georgian translation of the Convention was not available. This fact demonstrated that one of the key steps towards the development of international investment law in Georgia was the translation of the Convention into Georgian.

We believe that the readers will agree that foreign investment plays an indispensable role in the economic development of a country. Growth of foreign investment is largely dependent on the stable legal framework and effective dispute settlement mechanisms.

To this end, participation of the international investment law specialists is of vital importance. Regrettably, the field of international investment law is underdeveloped in Georgia. We think that the availability of the Georgian translation of the Convention will play an important role in fostering the development of this field of law.

The Convention was translated voluntarily by the Society team – Nino Goshkheteliani, Revaz Tkemaladze, Giorgi Baidze and Nana Kruashvili. We expected that the translation of the Convention would be a long and painstaking process. Therefore, we made a detailed work plan. As a result, we prepared the first draft quite soon. However, the next stage of the process was even more labor-intensive. All four members of the team critically reviewed the translation of each article and made amendments accordingly. Throughout this process, the team of translators was guided by the English and French versions of the Convention, the commentaries and the well-established terminology of arbitration law and Georgian law. Translation of the Convention was much easier with the help of Georgian legal literature published with the financial support of the United Nations Development Program, such as the Arbitration Glossary and Guide to Arbitration for the City Court Judges.

The Editors in Chief of the Convention are internationally acknowledged Georgian specialists of Investment Law – Rusudan Gergauli and David Khachvani. We are particularly grateful to them for the time and effort put by them into this project and the knowledge they shared with us. Successful completion of this project would not have been possible without the financial support of the United Nations Development Program and EU4Business. In this regard, Liana Kartsivadze's contribution was of particular significance.

The Georgian text of the Convention will be published and distributed to the libraries of law schools around the country. Additionally, the link to the document will be placed on the website of the World Bank Group. The Georgian text of the Convention, therefore, will be accessible to the wider public, which will accelerate harmonization of terms of the field of international investment law and incentivize academic activities.

We must note that with the increase of the investment disputes against Georgia, this field of law has become more topical. We trust that the translation of the Convention will assist with promoting this field and benefit students, practicing lawyers as well as other persons interested in international investment law, and have a significant educational value.

Translating the Convention and publishing it is one of the most important projects of the Society since the date of its inception.

The Society actively disseminates information in social media about the moot court competitions. On our Facebook page (Tbilisi State University Moot Court Society) we publish the result of each team, interviews with team-members and other success stories. At the initiative of the Society, an interview series with Jean Pictet Concours participants, coach, organizing committee members and the representative of delegation in Georgia of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We consider it our responsibility to share the knowledge, experience and skill-set gained through our professors' support with the new generation. This is why we, the members of the Society have coached a number of moot court competition teams.

At the initiative of the Society, for the first time in Georgia the Tbilisi State University team is participating in one of the prestigious international moot court competitions in the field of human rights – The Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition. The final rounds of this competition are held in Geneva, Switzerland at the United Nations Headquarters in December 2020.

From the very beginning, the Society has been actively cooperating with similar organizations established in various countries, including the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and the Baku State University (Azerbaijan).

Additionally, through electronic means, the Society is working on projects aimed at teaching students the skills of academic writing and public speaking techniques, which are important for successful participation in national or international competitions as well as useful for their professional development. The Society seeks to promote different fields of an independent system of law that is international law in Georgia by the means of the implementation of international moot court competitions and encouragement of Georgian students.

The founders of the Society are grateful to the Levan Alexidze Foundation for the opportunity to present the Convention in the Levan Alexidze Journal of International Law. We remain hopeful that by disseminating the text of the Convention to a wider audience and ensuring its availability to students and the interested general public, we contribute to the important cause of continuing the professional legacy of professor Levan Alexidze and the Georgian school of international law, founded by him.