



Sir Robert Neill MP
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

17 May 2023

Dear Sir Robert,

THE UK SIGNS THE SINGAPORE CONVENTION ON MEDIATION

I am writing to you, as Chair of the Justice Select Committee, to inform you that the UK has now signed the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (New York, 2018) (the "Singapore Convention on Mediation"). I am aware that the Justice Select Committee takes a keen interest in developments in the field of Private International Law (PIL) and therefore I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you to share this important news with members of the Committee.

I wrote to the Committee on 1 March 2023, to inform members that the Government was preparing to publish the response to its public consultation on whether the UK should become a party to the Convention and therein indicate that it is the right time for the UK to become a party. This response was published on 2 March 2023.

The UK signed the Singapore Convention at the UN Treaty Section offices in New York on 3 May 2023. The UK is the 56th country to sign the Convention, which provides a framework for the recognition and enforcement of international commercial settlement agreements reached via mediation, and 11 countries have now ratified (Singapore, Fiji, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Belarus, Ecuador, Honduras, Turkey, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Uruguay), with Uruguay having ratified since I last wrote to you.

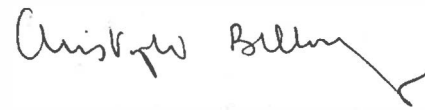
Next Steps

As I indicated in my letter of 1 March, the Government will now work to ratify the Convention, subject to appropriate parliamentary scrutiny and once all necessary implementing legislation and rules are in place with respect of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Ratification is planned for next year and the Convention will then come into force for the UK six months after the UK has deposited its instrument of ratification.

I have enclosed a copy of the press statement on the signing of the Convention, which has been shared with UK legal press outlets for your information.

If you would like to discuss any of this in further detail then please do get in touch.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Bellamy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

LORD BELLAMY KC