

PCA Case No. 2025-45

**IN THE MATTER OF AN ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO THE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND FOR THE PROVISION OF AN ASYLUM PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN
SHARED INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS ON THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES
AND MIGRANTS**

- and -

THE PCA ARBITRATION RULES 2012

- between -

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

- and -

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1

Tribunal

Judge Peter Tomka (Chairperson)
Professor Dr. Mohamed Abdel Wahab
Judge Joan Donoghue

Registry

The Permanent Court of Arbitration

19 January 2026

WHEREAS the Republic of Rwanda (“**Rwanda**”) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the “**United Kingdom**” and with Rwanda, the “**Parties**”) are parties to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Rwanda and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the Provision of an Asylum Partnership to Strengthen Shared International Commitments on the Protection of Refugees and Migrants concluded on 5 December 2023 (the “**Agreement**”);

WHEREAS Article 22 of the Agreement provides that a dispute arising out of or relating to the Agreement “not settled by consultation [...] shall be referred and finally resolved by arbitration in accordance with the Permanent Court of Arbitration Rules 2012”;

WHEREAS on 24 November 2025, Rwanda commenced arbitral proceedings against the United Kingdom by way of its Notice of Arbitration;

WHEREAS on 12 December 2025, the United Kingdom submitted its Response to the Notice of Arbitration;

WHEREAS on 6 January 2026, the Tribunal was fully constituted with the appointment of the Chairperson;

WHEREAS on 7 January 2026, the Tribunal invited the Parties to provide their joint or separate views on the procedural timetable for this arbitration, including deadlines for written submissions and the number of rounds of written submissions that would be necessary;

WHEREAS on 8 January 2026, the Tribunal transmitted to the Parties draft Terms of Appointment, Procedural Order No. 1, and Supplementary Rules of Procedure and Procedural Timetable for this arbitration and invited the Parties to confer and provide any comments in respect of these drafts;

WHEREAS on 12 January 2026, the Parties submitted their agreed Procedural Timetable for the proceedings;

WHEREAS on 13 January 2026, the Tribunal indicated to the Parties its availability for an in-person hearing from 18 to 20 March 2026, and invited the Parties to provide any comments on the amended draft Procedural Timetable;

WHEREAS by Rwanda’s correspondence dated 14 January 2026 and the United Kingdom’s correspondence dated 15 January 2026, the Parties agreed, pursuant to Article 22(5) of the Agreement, for the Tribunal to issue the award no later than 15 May 2026;

WHEREAS on 14 January 2026, the Parties submitted their comments on the draft Terms of Appointment, Procedural Order No. 1, and Supplementary Rules of Procedure and Procedural Timetable;

WHEREAS on 15 January 2026, the United Kingdom submitted further comments on the draft Supplementary Rules of Procedure and Procedural Timetable;

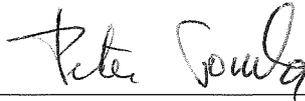
WHEREAS on 15 January 2026, the Tribunal invited the Parties to provide additional comments on certain aspects of the Supplementary Rules of Procedure and Procedural Timetable;

WHEREAS on 16 January 2026, the Parties submitted additional comments on the Supplementary Rules of Procedure and Procedural Timetable;

THE TRIBUNAL HEREBY ISSUES THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURAL ORDER:

The Arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the PCA Arbitration Rules 2012 and the Supplementary Rules of Procedure and Procedural Timetable appended to this order.

On behalf of the Tribunal



Judge Peter Tomka
Chairperson

Dated: 19 January 2026

PCA Case No. 2025-45

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- and -

THE PCA ARBITRATION RULES 2012

- between -

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

- and -

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

**SUPPLEMENTARY RULES OF PROCEDURE AND
PROCEDURAL TIMETABLE**

Tribunal

Judge Peter Tomka (Chairperson)
Professor Dr. Mohamed Abdel Wahab
Judge Joan Donoghue

Registry

The Permanent Court of Arbitration

19 January 2026

SECTION I. INTRODUCTORY RULES

Scope of Application

Article 1

1. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Rwanda and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the Provision of an Asylum Partnership to Strengthen Shared International Commitments on the Protection of Refugees and Migrants (the “**Agreement**”), the PCA Arbitration Rules 2012 (the “**PCA Rules**”), the Terms of Appointment, and these Supplementary Rules of Procedure and Procedural Timetable.
2. These Supplementary Rules of Procedure and Procedural Timetable may be modified or further supplemented as the arbitral tribunal (the “**Tribunal**”) determines appropriate after inviting the views of the Parties.
3. To the extent a matter of procedure has not been addressed by the Agreement, the PCA Rules, or these Supplementary Rules of Procedure and Procedural Timetable, the Tribunal shall decide the matter after inviting the views of the Parties.

Registry

Article 2

The International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration shall serve as the registry (the “**Registry**”) and shall provide administrative support in the arbitration proceedings.

Calculation of Periods of Time

Article 3

Unless otherwise provided, all time limits expire at midnight in The Hague on the relevant date.

SECTION III. ARBITRAL PROCEEDINGS

Language

Article 4

1. The language of the arbitration shall be English in accordance with Article 22(4)(a) of the Agreement.
2. Any decision by the Tribunal, including any award or procedural order, and any correspondence sent on the Tribunal’s behalf by the Registry shall be communicated to the Parties in English only.
3. Any submissions or correspondence from the Parties shall be communicated in English.
4. Any documents accompanying submissions or correspondence from the Parties, including witness statements, expert reports, exhibits, and legal authorities, originally written in any language other than English shall be submitted in their original language, together with a translation into English.

5. Certified translations shall not be required unless requested by the Tribunal or there is a dispute over the accuracy of the translation.
6. When a Party considers that the content of a document is not relevant in its entirety, any translation may be limited to the relevant passages and such other portions of the document that are necessary to put such passages in context. A full translation shall be provided if the Tribunal so requests, on its own initiative or on application by the other Party.
7. Hearings shall be conducted in English. Where a language other than English is to be used by a witness, the necessary arrangements for interpretation into English shall be made by the Registry.

Written Submissions

Article 5

1. There shall be a statement of claim and statement of defence, and such other written submissions as the Tribunal shall determine after inviting the views of the Parties.
2. The deadlines for the submission of written submissions shall be fixed by the Tribunal after inviting the views of the Parties.

Form and Transmission of Written Submissions

Article 6

1. The Parties' written submissions shall be organised in consecutively numbered paragraphs, and each page shall be numbered. All written submissions shall contain a hyperlinked table of contents.
2. The Parties shall submit together with any written submission all factual exhibits, witness statements, expert reports, and legal authorities upon which they intend to rely in support of that submission. All written submissions shall be accompanied by numerical indices of all factual exhibits, witness statements, expert reports, and legal authorities submitted by that Party to date, separated by document type, and describing each document by document number, date, title, author, and recipient (as applicable).
3. Documents submitted to the Tribunal shall be numbered consecutively throughout the arbitration and shall clearly distinguish between different types of documents (e.g., exhibits, witness statements, expert reports, legal authorities). The Parties shall adopt a method of numbering and labelling of documents that is consistent between them. The Parties shall endeavour to minimise duplication (for example, not submitting the same exhibit or authority again with a new number, unless the version or translation varies materially).
4. If the Parties submit a second or subsequent round of written submissions, absent leave of the Tribunal for good cause shown, those submissions shall be strictly responsive to the submission submitted by the other Party in the immediately prior round of written submissions, unless new facts have arisen or become known after the first exchange of submissions that could not reasonably have been known prior to the first exchange of submissions. New legal arguments may be raised in response to allegations of fact and legal arguments made by the other Party in the preceding submission. Together with second or subsequent rounds of written submissions, the Parties may only file: (i) additional evidence, including witness statements and expert reports, intended to answer or refute evidence or facts first alleged by the other Party in the submission filed in the immediately prior round of submissions as well as new facts that have arisen or become known after the first exchange of submissions and that could not reasonably have been

known prior to the first exchange of submissions; and (ii) factual exhibits obtained by a Party after the filing of its first written submission and not reasonably available previously.

5. All written submissions and accompanying documents, including all factual exhibits, witness statements, expert reports, and legal authorities shall be provided as searchable Adobe Portable Document Format (“PDF”) files where possible. Excel spreadsheets or other calculations performed by expert witnesses shall be provided in their native electronic format (i.e., in Excel format rather than searchable PDF).
6. The Parties’ written submissions shall be transmitted in the following manner:
 - (a) On or before the day of the deadline fixed by the Tribunal, the submitting Party shall transmit an electronic copy of its submission (without supporting evidence or legal authorities) by e-mail to the other Party and to the Registry for onward transmission to the Tribunal.
 - (b) By the end of the first working day following any submission, the submitting Party shall upload to a designated platform accessible by both Parties, the Registry, and the Tribunal all documentary exhibits, evidence, and legal authorities accompanying it, and send an e-mail notification that it has done so.
 - (c) For any simultaneous submissions, each Party will submit electronic copies of all documents only to the Registry. The Registry shall then distribute such copies to the Tribunal and to the Parties once submissions from both Parties have been received.
 - (d) In addition to the electronic transmissions indicated above, the Parties shall transmit hard copies in A5 format, spiral bound, of all submissions, including exhibits, witness statements and expert reports (but not including legal authorities),
 - i. To Judge Tomka at: International Court of Justice, Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, The Netherlands; and
 - ii. To Judge Donoghue at: 23 Trumpington Road, Cambridge CB2 8AJ, United Kingdom.

Unless any other Member of the Tribunal requests otherwise, no further hard copy submissions are required.

7. Any Reply and Rejoinder shall each be limited to 20 pages. For the avoidance of doubt, page limits do not apply to documentary exhibits, evidence, and legal authorities accompanying the submissions.

Evidence

Article 7

1. With respect to matters of evidence not addressed in the PCA Rules or these Rules, the Tribunal shall be guided, but not constrained, by the *IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence (2020)*.
2. Consistent with their obligation to arbitrate in good faith, the Parties shall not destroy or alter documentary or other evidence in their custody, possession, or control relevant to the matters at issue in the arbitration, or intimidate witnesses.

Hearings

Article 8

1. There shall be hearings at which the Parties may make their oral submissions and for the presentation of evidence by witnesses, including expert witnesses. All members of the Tribunal may pose any questions they wish, at any stage, during and/or at the conclusion of oral submissions. The same shall apply in respect of the evidence of witnesses, including expert witnesses.
2. After inviting the views of the Parties, the Tribunal shall decide on the modalities for any hearing. The Tribunal may decide to hold hearings in person, by videoconference, or by other appropriate means. Any in person hearing shall be held in facilities provided by the PCA at the Peace Palace in The Hague.
3. Before any hearing, a Party may be called upon by the Tribunal or the other Party to present at the hearing for examination and cross-examination any witness whose written testimony has been advanced with the written submissions. A Party may also call its own witnesses for examination at the hearing. Each Party shall notify the Registry and the other Party of the names of the witnesses it wishes to call to testify at the hearing, and the languages in which such witnesses will give their testimony, no later than two (2) days after the receipt of the final written submission. Cross-examination of any witness, including an expert witness, may address matters relevant to the dispute concerning which the witness has knowledge, even if it is not addressed in the written testimony of that witness.
4. After inviting the views of the Parties, the Tribunal shall determine the manner in which witnesses are to be examined.
5. Except with leave of the Tribunal, no witness, including an expert witness, may be heard unless he or she has provided a signed written witness statement or expert report.
6. The Tribunal may require the retirement of any witness during the testimony of other witnesses. In principle and subject to potential exceptions for good cause shown, fact witnesses will not attend the hearing until after they have completed their testimony, while expert witnesses may attend all sessions.
7. No new evidence may be presented at the hearing except with leave of the Tribunal. Should the Tribunal grant leave to a Party to present new evidence in the course of the hearing, it will grant the other Party the opportunity to introduce new evidence to rebut it.
8. The Registry shall make arrangements for a verbatim record (transcript) of each hearing to be produced.

Participation of Third Parties

Article 9

1. Pursuant to Article 22(3) of the Agreement, “by agreement of the Parties, third parties with an appropriate interest would be invited to participate in the arbitration”.
2. The Parties agree that in respect of the present dispute there are no such third parties.

Waiver of Right to Object

Article 10

A failure by any party to object promptly to any non-compliance with these Rules shall be deemed to be a waiver of the right of such party to make such an objection, unless such party can show that, under the circumstances, its failure to object was justified.

SECTION IV. CONFIDENTIALITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Article 11

1. The existence of the arbitration shall be public. The Registry shall identify on the PCA website the Parties to the arbitration, the members of the Arbitral Tribunal, and the Parties' agents, representatives and counsel.
2. Hearings shall be public. The Tribunal will determine in due course the modalities for any members of the public wishing to follow the hearing to do so. Verbatim transcripts of hearings shall be published following the hearing in accordance with a procedure to be established by the Tribunal in due course. All written submissions shall be confidential until two working days before the opening of the hearing whereupon the Registry will publish them on the PCA website, save that any information identified as confidential by either Party will be redacted. The annexes to the written submissions, any witness statements and any expert reports shall not be published.
3. Within five (5) days after the receipt of any order or ten (10) days after the receipt of any award, either Party, with notice to the other Party, may apply to the Tribunal for redactions to the order or award. After considering the views of the Parties, the Tribunal shall decide on the requested redactions.
4. Subject to any redactions ordered by the Tribunal upon the application of either Party, any order or award of the Tribunal shall be published on the PCA website.
5. Pending publication of an order or award in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4, it shall remain confidential. Any unredacted order or award shall remain confidential unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.
6. The Parties shall refrain from publishing any documents from the arbitration prior to their publication by the Registry.
7. The Tribunal will direct the Registry to issue periodic press releases concerning the status of the proceedings. This will include upon issuance of the first procedural order, seven days before the start of the hearing, and on issuance of the award. The views of the Parties will be invited on the text of any press release and on the need for any press release that the Tribunal may wish to have issued in addition to those three.

SECTION V. THE AWARD

Date of the Award

Article 12

1. Pursuant to Article 22(5) of the Agreement, the Parties agree that the Tribunal shall render the award no later than 15 May 2026.

Interpretation of the Award

Article 13

1. Within ten (10) days after the receipt of an award, either Party, with notice to the other Party and the Registry, may request that the Tribunal give an interpretation of the award.
2. The interpretation shall be given in writing within thirty (30) days after the receipt of the request.

Correction of the Award

Article 14

1. Within ten (10) days after the receipt of an award, either Party, with notice to the other Party and the Registry, may request the Tribunal to correct in the award any error in computation, any clerical or typographical error, or any error or omission of a similar nature. If the Tribunal considers that the request is justified, it shall make the correction within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request.
2. The Tribunal may within thirty (30) days after the communication of the award make such corrections on its own initiative and communicate the correction to the Parties.

Additional Award

Article 15

1. Within ten (10) days after the receipt of a termination order or award, either Party, with notice to the other Party and the Registry, may request the Tribunal to make an award or an additional award as to claims presented in the arbitral proceedings but not decided by the Tribunal.
2. If the Tribunal considers the request for an award or additional award to be justified, it shall render or complete its award within thirty (30) days after the receipt of the request. The Tribunal may extend, if necessary, the period of time within which it shall make the award.

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PROCEDURAL TIMETABLE

EVENT	DATE	ENTITY
Rwanda's Notice of Arbitration	24 November 2025	Rwanda
United Kingdom's Response to Notice of Arbitration	12 December 2025	United Kingdom
Constitution of the Tribunal	6 January 2026	Tribunal
Rwanda's Statement of Claim	27 January 2026	Rwanda
United Kingdom's Statement of Defence	27 February 2026	United Kingdom
Rwanda's Reply	5 March 2026	Rwanda
United Kingdom's Rejoinder (if requested by the United Kingdom)	11 March 2026	United Kingdom
Notification of witnesses	13 March 2026	Parties
Pre-Hearing videoconference (if requested by Tribunal or Parties jointly)	To be determined by the Tribunal in due course after inviting the views of the Parties	All
Hearing (in person)	18–20 March 2026 (reserved, precise allocation of time to be determined by the Tribunal in due course after inviting the views of the Parties)	All
Issuance of Award	No later than 15 May 2026	Tribunal