

**PRESS RELEASE****PCA CASE NO. 2025-45****ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO THE ASYLUM PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
(THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA V. THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND)**

THE HAGUE, 30 JANUARY 2026

Commencement of Arbitration pursuant to the Asylum Partnership Agreement; Issuance of Procedural Order No. 1

By Notice of Arbitration dated 24 November 2025, the Republic of Rwanda commenced arbitral proceedings against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland pursuant to Article 22 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 “**Asylum Partnership Agreement**”) and the PCA Arbitration Rules 2012.

On 19 January 2026, the Tribunal issued its Procedural Order No. 1, in which, *inter alia*, the procedural calendar for these proceedings was fixed.

The Tribunal in these proceedings is composed of Judge Peter Tomka (Chairperson), Professor Dr. Mohamed Abdel Wahab (who was appointed by the Republic of Rwanda), and Judge Joan Donoghue (who was appointed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The Permanent Court of Arbitration acts as Registry in this arbitration pursuant to Article 1(3) of the PCA Arbitration Rules 2012.

Further information about the proceedings is available on the PCA website at: <https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/370/>.

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Background on the Permanent Court of Arbitration

The Permanent Court of Arbitration is an intergovernmental organization established by the 1899 Hague Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. The PCA has 126 Contracting Parties. Headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the PCA facilitates arbitration, conciliation, fact-finding, and other dispute resolution proceedings among various combinations of States, State entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. The PCA’s International Bureau is currently administering eight inter-state arbitrations, one other inter-state proceeding, 92 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment law, 93 arbitrations arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and seven other proceedings. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

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