

**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, 27 MARCH 2026

Tribunal Concludes Hearing

On 20 March 2026, the Tribunal constituted under 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 ("Asylum Partnership Agreement") and the PCA Arbitration Rules 2012, concluded a Hearing.

The Hearing took place from 18 to 20 March 2026 at the Peace Palace, The Hague, the headquarters of the Permanent Court of Arbitration ("PCA").

In accordance with Article 11(2) of the Supplementary Rules of Procedure, the Parties' written pleadings have been published on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/370/>). In accordance with the procedure established by the Tribunal, a recording of the Hearing, and copies of the Hearing transcripts, will also be published on the PCA Case Repository in due course.

The delegation of Rwanda was led by its designated Agent, Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Republic of Rwanda. The United Kingdom was led by its designated Agent, Dr. Tamsin Stubbing, Deputy Director, Resettlement & International Strategy, Home Office Legal Advisers.

Pursuant to Article 22(5) of the Asylum Partnership Agreement, subject to an extension agreed by the Parties, the Tribunal is expected to issue its Award in these proceedings by no later than 15 May 2026.

Background to the Dispute

The arbitral proceedings were instituted on 24 November 2025 when Rwanda served on the United Kingdom a Notice of Arbitration pursuant to Article 22 of the Asylum Partnership Agreement and Article 3 of the PCA Arbitration Rules 2012. The Notice of Arbitration refers to the "[United Kingdom]'s compliance with certain obligations under the [Asylum Partnership Agreement]".

The three-member Tribunal is chaired by H.E. Judge Peter Tomka (a national of the Slovak Republic). The other members are Professor Dr. Mohamed Abdel Wahab (a national of Egypt) and Judge Joan Donoghue (a national of the United States of America). The PCA acts as Registry for the proceedings.

Further information about the proceedings is available on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/370/>). The PCA, following consultation with the Parties, will issue periodic press releases concerning the status of the proceedings. Any orders and awards of the Tribunal will also be made publicly available on the PCA Case Repository, subject to any redactions of confidential information authorised by the Tribunal.

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 127 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, 90 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 six other proceedings. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

Contact: Permanent Court of Arbitration
E-mail: bureau@pca-cpa.org

PHOTOGRAPHS ACCOMPANYING PRESS RELEASE



Tribunal in Session



Arbitral Tribunal with Staff Members of the PCA



Delegation of Rwanda



Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, Agent for Rwanda



Dr Tamsin Stubbing, Agent for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Lord Verdirame KC, Counsel for Rwanda



Mr Ben Juratowitch KC, Counsel for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Ms Belinda McRae, Counsel for Rwanda



Ms Naomi Hart, Counsel for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland