

FINANCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE
SUBMISSION 2025 POLICY ADDRESS

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on 16 June 2025 launched a public consultation for the Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address. The Financial Dispute Resolution Centre (FDRC) provides this submission in response thereto.

2. The FDRC acknowledges the Government's initiatives to strengthen arbitration and mediation services. These efforts encompass legislative amendments and updates, as well as the promotion of mediation through initiatives such as the "Mediate First" Pledge and the introduction of a Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation. Furthermore, in collaboration with the legal departments of Guangdong and Macao, the Government has launched the Greater Bay Area (GBA) Mediation Platform to facilitate broader adoption of mediation within the GBA, and the joint issuance and implementation of the "Guidelines for the Panel of Arbitrators in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area".

2. The Government's commitment to a dynamic and inclusive dispute resolution system is commendable. On the other hand, with geopolitical and financial environments becoming more complex, there is a greater need for proactive policies to address intricate commercial and financial interactions across diverse legal and cultural contexts. Facilitating participation into dispute resolution process from international stakeholders remains a vital component of this background, ensuring that Hong Kong's alternative dispute resolution (ADR) infrastructure remains agile and inclusive.

3. Under the *Immigration Facilitation Scheme for Persons Participating in Arbitral Proceedings in Hong Kong*, eligible individuals are provided with immigration

facilitation to participate in arbitral proceedings in Hong Kong on a short-term basis. This scheme is conducive to maintaining Hong Kong's competitiveness as an international legal and dispute resolution center. We support extending similar immigration facilitation to mediation proceedings, allowing relevant parties to participate without the need to obtain employment visas. This proposal mirrors the abovementioned immigration scheme for arbitration. It is also in line with the policy objectives of the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

4. By broadening immigration facilitation to encompass mediation, Hong Kong would send a clear signal of its commitment to ADR beyond arbitration, further harmonizing its legal landscape with international best practices. This would not only build upon the momentum arising from the headquartering of the International Organization for Mediation in Hong Kong but would also attract a wider array of global professionals and disputants. Collectively, the above helps foster a more robust, user-friendly environment for resolving commercial and financial disagreements.

5. With a view to strengthening its arbitration and alternative dispute resolution services, the FDRC is to continue to work with the Government, the regulators and the broader community to refine policy frameworks, champion best practices, and contribute to Hong Kong's ADR infrastructure so that it continues to serve as a model for innovation, inclusivity, and global relevance.

FDRC

25 August 2025