

6. If, the investor fails to take any steps in the proceeding during 18 consecutive months following the submission of a claim to arbitration under this Section, except in cases of force majeure and subject to both disputing parties agreeing otherwise, the investor shall be deemed to have withdrawn its claim and to have discontinued the proceedings. The claim of the investor shall be deemed not to have been filed under this Section and the authority of any tribunal established to hear the claim has lapsed.

ARTICLE 24

Consent to Arbitration

1. Each Party consents to the submission of a claim to arbitration in accordance with the procedures set out in this Agreement. Failure to meet a condition precedent listed in Article 21 (Conditions Precedent to Submission of a Claim to Arbitration) nullifies that consent.
2. The consent given in paragraph 1 and the submission by an investor of a claim to arbitration satisfies the requirement of:
 - (a) Chapter II of the ICSID Convention (Jurisdiction of the Centre) and the ICSID Additional Facility Rules for written consent of the disputing parties; and
 - (b) Article II of the New York Convention for an agreement in writing.

ARTICLE 25

Arbitrators

1. Except in respect of a Tribunal established under Article 27 (Consolidation), and unless the disputing parties agree otherwise, the Tribunal shall be composed of three arbitrators. One arbitrator shall be appointed by each of the disputing parties and the third, who will be the presiding arbitrator, shall be appointed by agreement of the disputing parties.
2. Arbitrators shall have expertise or experience in public international law, international investment or international trade rules, or the resolution of disputes arising under international investment or international trade agreements. Arbitrators shall be independent of, and not be affiliated with or take instructions from, the disputing parties.
3. If the disputing parties do not agree on the remuneration of the arbitrators before the Tribunal is constituted, the prevailing ICSID rate for arbitrators shall apply.