



CHÉRINE SOPHIA FTOUKI

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATOR

INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION, PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW
MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

EXPERT CONSULTANT | ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) YAAF Representative for Algeria
2024-2026 Africa Mandate

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PROFILE

Chérine Sophia Ftouki is an *International Arbitrator, Expert Consultant* in Energy and Environmental Policy, and *Academic Researcher* specialising in International Dispute Resolution and Public International Law. She has taught Investor-State Dispute Settlement at *California State Polytechnic University-Pomona* and recently served as a *Global International Arbitration Specialist (Consultant)* at a leading international law firm, where she built a reputation as a trusted adviser in arbitration.

Chérine Sophia holds an LL.M. in International Dispute Resolution from *King's College London* and a Master's in International Law from *La Sorbonne-Panthéon Paris I*. With dual legal education in both civil and common law, she possesses diverse expertise spanning Investor-State Arbitration, International Commercial Arbitration, Public International Law, and International Energy Trade Law. She is well-equipped to handle high-value, complex cross-border disputes across a wide range of sectors, including energy and natural resources, construction, engineering, infrastructure, telecommunications, IP, and banking.

Before founding *Almatutura & Partners*, Chérine Sophia's career began at a London boutique firm, where she collaborated closely with the arbitration team on contentious matters involving the US and Latin America, particularly in energy projects, offshore drilling, and maritime transactions. She then joined the Energy & Infrastructure group of a prominent American firm in the UK, working with clients in the MENA region. There, she contributed to major projects disputes in the construction and shipping sectors, working with governments, NGOs, and corporations.

Chérine Sophia also brings extensive experience in cross-border energy negotiations, specialising in upstream and downstream operations, energy transition, green energy incentives, and market access issues related to LNG, solar, hydrogen, infrastructure, and mining disputes. She honed her skills in handling disputes across Africa, Latin America, and the MENA region, contributing to high-profile international arbitrations under ICSID, ICC, LCIA, and ad hoc proceedings. Fluent in English, French, Arabic, and Spanish, she actively participates in proceedings in these languages and has a working knowledge of Russian.

A specialist in Energy Transition Law, Climate Change, and Environmental Governance, she leads research in Environmental and Natural Resources Dispute Resolution. Her work includes contributions to projects related to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), model agreements developed by non-governmental organisations to facilitate treaty negotiations in the environmental sector, and arbitration involving sovereign immunity considerations.

CONSULTING IN ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

In addition to her work as an Arbitrator and Academic Lecturer, Chérine Sophia serves as a consultant specialising in Energy and Environmental Policy. In this capacity, she collaborates with a diverse range of partners to foster international cooperation and tackle global sustainability challenges. Her focus is on helping clients advance their climate and sustainability initiatives by identifying and implementing innovative solutions. She provides advisory services to governments, organisations, and businesses on sustainability and environmental issues, working with institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and other international bodies. Recently, she was nominated as an Expert for the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, set for release in 2025.

EXPERIENCE*¹

COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

- **A global design, engineering and management consulting company with a branch office in Qatar — ICC Arbitration against an unincorporated joint venture of companies carrying out construction works of a Qatari complex project:** advice on a dispute related to consultancy agreement for Architectural Finishes Design Service.
- **A global engineering and construction company:** advice in connection to a prospective arbitration seated at Qatar Chamber of Commerce Arbitration under ICC rule, arising from an investor-state dispute involving high profile and complex construction projects in Qatar in readiness for the FIFA 2022 World Cup.

INVESTOR-STATE DISPUTES

- **A province of Pakistan (part of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) — ICSID Arbitration, subsequent ICC Arbitration:** advice on subsequent English proceedings to assist a Pakistani province (part of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) in Commercial Court proceedings concerning an underlying ICC arbitration arising from a US \$6billion gold and copper mining dispute in Pakistan with Tethyan Copper Company Pty Limited (an Australian joint venture company owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and Antofagasta Plc). *Province of Balochistan v Tethyan Copper Company Pty Limited [2021] EWHC 1884 (Comm)*.
- **A Venezuelan state-owned oil and natural gas company, dispute related to the Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) global fraud investigation:** advice in connection to a dispute consequent to an arbitral award rendered for the non-payment of offshore drilling invoices. Advising on application to the French courts to have an UNCITRAL award set aside on the basis that the drilling contract was tainted by “*money-laundering, bribery and corruption*”. Subsequent legal advice on seeking the lift of a freezing injunction on an escrow account holding \$340 million caught up in the sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) global fraud investigation.
- **A Latin-American state-owned oil and natural gas company:** advice in a dispute with a Jamaican state-owned entity involving legal expertise on an ICC arbitration claim linked to a Joint Venture Agreement and subsequent advice on tax issues, public law policy considerations due to a change of regulations. Assisted to recover compensation in line with client's legitimate expectations.

* Experiences acquired as part of training and consulting in law firms.

- **A major state-owned oil and natural gas company:** advice in connection with 10 interrelated ad hoc arbitrations conducted in accordance with LMAA Rules, disputes in respect to maritime and offshore support - charterers' obligation.
- **A renowned state-owned entity commercialising hydrocarbons, both oil and gas refined products:** advising on all types of trading and on a dispute linked to joint venture banking arrangements impact due to US Sanction against Venezuela. The case involved high-level considerations of US Trump Administration Embargo and Sanctions Regulations.
- **A Georgian state-owned oil entity:** advice in connection with a dispute linked to a Joint Venture Agreement made to ensure the westward transit of oil via the territory of Georgia, the reconstruction and operation of an existing pipeline, and construction of new westward pipelines project in Georgia with other state-owned enterprise.

MEDIATION

- **An English football club:** mediation under the Swiss Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

LITIGATION

- **Advising a Swiss NGO foundation in petitioning the District Court of Harris County, Texas, US:** for the families of some of the victims of Beirut's deadly 2020 port blast to file a \$250 million lawsuit against an American-Norwegian firm.
- **An international law claim in the High Court of Justice of England and Wales regarding the funding of an Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist and jihadist organisation during the Syrian civil war by a State entity:** assisting with drafting a memorandum on state Immunity and government entities funding of terrorist activities and armed conflicts through financial fraud.

NOMINATIONS AS ARBITRATOR

- **Party-appointed arbitrator in a dispute under the ICC Rules applying Algerian Law.**
- **Party-appointed arbitrator in ad hoc proceedings between an Egyptian investor and a West African State applying English law.**
- **Ad Hoc arbitration in Algeria relating to a shareholders' agreement applying the laws of Algeria.**
- **Ad Hoc arbitration in London relating to a charterparty dispute applying French law.**

ARBITRATION CASE SECRETARY

- **An arbitration under the ICC Rules between a Moroccan Investor and an African State.**

EDUCATION

- **UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER, GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LAW (GDL)**
- **KING'S COLLEGE LONDON, LLM, INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION**
Master's Director Prof. Holger Hestermeyer
- **LA SORBONNE-PANTHÉON PARIS I, MASTER OF LAWS "MAÎTRISE"**
Master of International Law, Master's Director Prof. Sylvain Bollée
- **UNIVERSITÉ TOULOUSE CAPITOLE UT1 & THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, FRENCH LLB "LICENCE DE DROIT",**
SPECIALITY BUSINESS & CONTRACT LAW – EXCHANGE PROGRAM

LANGUAGES

- French
- English
- Spanish
- Arabic
- Russian

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- ArabArb Hub Leader for London, 2025-2026 mandate
- ICC YAAF Representative, Africa 2024-2026 mandate
- FDI Moot Arbitrator, Saint Petersburg FDI Pre-moot, 2024
- Visiting Lecturer, Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) module, Undergraduate International Business Law Course, *California State Polytechnic University-Pomona*
- Member of the *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators* (CiArb)
- Member of the Young International Arbitration Group (YIAG) at the *London Court of International Arbitration* (LCIA)
- Young ICSID Member - *International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes* (ICSID)
- Member of *AfricArb*
- Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot 2019 - 2021

PUBLICATIONS

- "Global International Arbitration Update: Edition 18, Public International Law Key Insights", Legal Update, June 2023 - November 2024.
- "A New Era for African Investment: Assessing the Impact of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol", Legal Update, September 14, 2023.
- "Hydrogen Insights Hydrogen Basics: Fuelling Tomorrow's World?", Newsletter, Series I — H2 At A Glance , Issue 1, September 2023.
- "Nigeria's New Arbitration Act: A Gateway to Business Opportunities", MoneyCentral, Nigeria Magazine, August 23, 2023.
- "Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration Unveils Modernised Draft Rules for 2023", Legal Update, August 08, 2023.
- "International Arbitration Update: Edition 17", Legal Update, December 2022 - May 2023.
- "Arbitration in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Part 3 - The SCCA Arbitration Rules 2023", Legal Update, June 22, 2023.
- "UK to Sign Singapore Convention on Mediation, Boosting Enforceability of Settlement Agreements", Legal Update, April 24, 2023.
- "Resolving Space Conflicts Through Arbitration: A Path to Profitable Investment in the Stars", Financier Worldwide Corporate Disputes E-magazine, April-June 2023.

EVENTS

- Speaker, MAMC(U), Muslim Arbitration and Mediation Centre Uganda, *"Fostering Arbitration in Uganda: Building Africa's Future in Dispute Resolution."*, February 13, 2025.
- Guest Lecturer, Formation *"International Maritime Arbitration"*, Oran, Algeria, 2025.
- Guest Lecturer at the *Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACI)* for specialised seminars (Formation 2025) *"Arbitrage des ressources énergétiques : enjeux pétroliers et perspectives élargies"* and *"Les principes fondamentaux de l'arbitrage international"*, Algiers, Algeria, 2025.
- Under the Haut Patronage of the *Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies (M.E.E.R)* - Algeria, WORLD TRADE CENTER-ALGER and THE ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS FOR A PLURAL BAR - PARIS
 - **Speaker**, Panel *"Le rayonnement du droit de l'environnement"* (*"The Influence of Environmental Law"*) at the international conference in Algeria, under the theme *"Environment and Diversity of Legal Approaches"*, December 2024. Key topics in Environmental Law and Arbitration, including discussions on environmental offenses, emerging issues in environmental arbitration litigation, and the integration of climate sciences in arbitration processes, alongside panellists Me. Rabah HACHED, Prof. J-B. RACINE, and Me. Coralie DARRIGADE.
 - **Moderator**, Panel *"Nouvelles problématiques posées par le droit de l'environnement"* (*"New Challenges in Environmental Law"*) at the international conference in Algeria, under the theme *"Environment and Diversity of Legal Approaches"*, December 2024. Discussions on coastal protection, the interface between environmental law and market dynamics, and the intersection of environment and investment law, with panellists including Mrs. Clotilde FORTIER-JOURDAIN, Mrs. Samia BOUROUBA, and Mr. Sébastien MANCIAUX.
- [ICC North African Arbitration and ADR Days - Emerging Arbitration Hubs in North Africa](#), December 12, 2024.
- LCICA | 5th International Arbitration Conference in Libya, addressing the topic of *"Mediation in Europe: Legal Frameworks, Political Dynamics, and Strategic Benefits in Commercial and State Disputes"*, November 26, 2024.
- [Paris Arbitration Week](#), SOAS, University of London, [International dispute resolution & climate change: regional perspectives from Africa, LATAM, Middle East & Asia](#), Pr. Emilia Onyema, Pr. Amel Makhoulf, Jonathan RIPLEY-EVANS, Joaquin TERCENO, Rômulo SILVEIRA DA ROCHA SAMPAIO, Chérine Sophia FTOUKI, March 20, 2024.
- The Center for American and International Law, Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA), [Energy Transitions in MENA: Navigating Dynamics and Arbitration in the Region amidst Global Sustainability Goals](#), Pr. Mohamed S. ABDEL WAHAB, Jalal EL AHDAB, Chérine FTOUKI, Jessica BEESS UND CHROSTIN, Ibrahim ATI, February 29, 2024.
- ArabArb & Arbitration Academia, [Arabs in Arbitration](#), Nawal HEND, Chérine FTOUKI, Nour NICOLAS Liliane KHOURY, June 07, 2023.
- IARBS, International Arbitration School, [Future of ECT: European States' Rush to Exit ECT](#), Pr. Crina BALTAG, Pr. Mustafa ERKAN, Chérine FTOUKI, February 14, 2023.

NEWS

- *"ECT at a crossroads,"* Interview, CDR Magazine, Richard POWER & Chérine FTOUKI, May 09, 2023.
- *"16 Africans appointed regional representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)"*, August 07, 2024, African Shapers, Patrick Ndungidi.