

**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, 12 MARCH 2026

Tribunal Schedules Hearing

In its Procedural Order No. 1 dated 19 January 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 scheduled a hearing.

The hearing will be held from 18 to 20 March 2026 in the Administrative Council Chamber at the seat of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”) at the Peace Palace, The Hague, the Netherlands.

After ascertaining the views of the Parties, the Tribunal, in its Procedural Order No. 2, confirmed the dates for the hearing and determined the modalities for public access of the hearing.

The hearing schedule will be as follows:

MATTER	ALLOCATED TIME	TIME
Wednesday, 18 March 2026		
Rwanda’s opening submissions	1 hour 45 minutes	9:30–11:15
Morning break	15 minutes	11:15–11:30
Rwanda’s opening submissions	1 hour 30 minutes	11:30–13:00
Thursday, 19 March 2026		
United Kingdom’s opening submissions	1 hour 45 minutes	9:30–11:15
Morning break	15 minutes	11:15–11:30
United Kingdom’s opening submissions	1 hour 30 minutes	11:30–13:00
Friday, 20 March 2026		
Rwanda’s reply submissions	1 hour	9:30–10:30
Break		10:30–14:00
United Kingdom’s reply submissions	1 hour	14:00–15:00

Publication of the Parties’ Written Pleadings

In accordance with Article 11(2) of the Supplementary Rules of Procedure, the Parties’ written pleadings will be published on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/370/>) on 16 March 2026.

Public Access and Live Webcast of the Hearing

In accordance with the agreement of the Parties and pursuant to Article 11(2) of the Supplementary Rules of Procedure, the hearing will be open to the public.

During the hearing, members of the public will be able to follow the hearing in the following ways:

Attendance by Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Interested members of the diplomatic corps are welcome to follow the hearing in the Administrative Council Chamber.

The PCA requests members of the diplomatic corps who plan to attend the hearing to notify it accordingly by **16 March 2026**, by e-mail to 2025-45-registration@pca-cpa.org. Confirmation of attendance will be communicated by e-mail on 17 March 2026.

Attendance by Representatives of the Press

Representatives of the press may follow the hearing in a separate viewing room on the Peace Palace premises via live-stream. Representatives of the press are advised that there will be no possibility to connect to the video and audio stream in the viewing room.

On the first day of the hearing, press photographers and camera operators will be permitted in the hearing room before the hearing begins. No photography will be permitted in the hearing room once the hearing has begun, and photographers and camera operators will be asked to leave the hearing room prior to this. In addition, a selection of high-resolution pictures taken by a professional photographer on the PCA's behalf will be made available on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/370/>). These photographs may be freely downloaded and reproduced, with appropriate credit.

Interested representatives of the press are required to register by **16 March 2026**, by e-mail to 2025-45-registration@pca-cpa.org, enclosing the accreditation form attached to the present Press Release. Should the number of registrants exceed the number of available seats, the PCA will allocate seats on a first-come-first-served basis. Confirmation of attendance will be communicated by e-mail on 17 March 2026. Only those registrants who have received advance confirmation from the PCA will be granted access to the Peace Palace.

Representatives of the press are kindly asked to arrive at the Peace Palace no later than 9:00 on each day of the hearing, to allow the requisite security procedures to be completed. They are further requested to leave the Peace Palace premises by 13:30 on 18 and 19 March 2026, and by 15:30 on 20 March 2026.

Representatives of parties involved in PCA proceedings occasionally agree to provide interviews on the Peace Palace premises after sittings. Please note that the PCA does not facilitate or arrange such interview requests. Journalists are kindly asked to conduct such interviews on the entrance steps to the Palace or in the entry hall. It also remains open to the press to conduct any further interviews outside the Peace Palace gates.

Attendance by Members of the General Public

Members of the general public wishing to follow the hearing must notify the PCA accordingly by **16 March 2026**, by e-mail to 2025-45-registration@pca-cpa.org. Confirmation of attendance will be communicated by e-mail on 17 March 2026. Only those members of the general public who have received advance confirmation from the PCA will be granted access to the Peace Palace.

Upon prior registration and confirmation, members of the general public will be able to follow the hearing from the Administrative Council Chamber. Any seats available for the general public will be allocated in order of registration, on a first-come-first-served basis.

Those members of the general public who have received confirmation from the PCA are kindly asked to arrive at the Peace Palace no later than 9:00 on each day of the hearing, to allow the requisite security procedures to be completed. They are further requested to leave the Peace Palace premises as soon as the hearing has concluded for the day.

Live-streaming on the Internet

In addition to the above arrangements, the hearing will be transmitted to the public via live-stream. The live-stream may be accessed using the following [link](#).

Publication of recordings and hearing transcripts

Following the conclusion of the hearing, a recording of the webcast will be made available on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/370/>).

Hearing transcripts will likewise be published on the PCA Case Repository, in accordance with a procedure to be established by the Tribunal in due course.

Parking

No parking is allowed on the Peace Palace grounds, and all vehicles should be parked in the neighbouring streets.

Background to the Dispute

The arbitral proceedings were instituted on 24 November 2025 when the Republic of 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.

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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 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
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