

The draft Mediation Law has been published by the Ministry of Justice for public consultation, to which Z&Co. will be contributing, with the 30 day consultation period ending on 16 March 2023.



There has been a substantial recent drive to improve access to mediation in KSA, as an alternative to traditional court resolution.

Major steps in the move towards mediation as a credible dispute-resolution mechanism were made in the issuance of the recent Commercial Courts Law, in force from June 2020. These included:



- 1.giving mandatory effect to contractually agreed conciliation and mediation provisions. Prior to this move, parties were not always held to their contractually agreed conciliation and mediation provisions, and could simply proceed to file claims in court.
- 2.obliging pre-claim mediation for certain disputes, including disputes that do not exceed **SAR1million** arising from commercial contracts or between commercial parties.



More recently has been the roll-out of the new **Taradhi** platform under the remit of the Ministry of Justice, to enable virtual conciliation concluding with a binding settlement agreement. In parallel, the **Saudi Centre for Commercial Arbitration** has championed the provision of mediation services, providing a regulated structure for the conciliation and mediation of disputes in KSA.



The issuance of a draft Mediation Law further emphasizes the Kingdom's commitment to regulating mediation as an enforceable and effective means to settle disputes.