

Research Paper

Advancing Arbitration for Multinational Construction Projects in Saudi Arabia Through Flexibility and Legal Reforms

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Abstract: The role of arbitration in resolving multinational construction disputes in Saudi Arabia is explored, focusing on procedural flexibility, confidentiality, and the impact of recent legal reforms. Multinational companies prefer arbitration over traditional litigation due to its closed process, which protects sensitive information—crucial in Saudi Arabia's privacy-focused business environment. Using qualitative methods like case studies, interviews, and legal document analysis, the research highlights key themes such as the need for arbitrators with technical expertise and cultural understanding, enhancing the arbitration process. Confidentiality is a major factor in choosing arbitration, offering protection from public exposure. Additionally, arbitration's procedural flexibility allows for customized solutions, leading to faster dispute resolution. Legal reforms, including the Saudi Arbitration Law 2012 and the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA), have strengthened the arbitration framework, boosting investor confidence and improving efficiency. Future research should examine the long-term impact of these reforms, assess the effectiveness of new arbitration institutions, and explore challenges in maintaining confidentiality and selecting competent arbitrators across sectors.

Keywords: Arbitration, Arbitrator Selection, Dispute Resolution Efficiency, Multinational Construction Disputes, Saudi Arabian Legal Reforms.



1. Introduction

The global construction industry, characterized by complex projects and high-value investments, increasingly relies on effective dispute resolution mechanisms. In Saudi Arabia, a significant hub for multinational construction activities, arbitration has emerged as a preferred method for resolving disputes. This preference stems from arbitration's ability to offer confidentiality and procedural flexibility, which are crucial for safeguarding sensitive information and addressing the unique needs of large-scale construction projects. The growing emphasis on these attributes highlights a broader trend where businesses seek dispute resolution processes that align with their operational and cultural contexts.

The research background reveals that Saudi Arabia's strategic position in the Middle East has attracted numerous international construction firms, necessitating robust and adaptable dispute resolution mechanisms. Arbitration has gained prominence due to its ability to provide a private and efficient forum for resolving conflicts without the public scrutiny associated with traditional litigation. This is particularly important in a country where business confidentiality and maintaining a competitive edge are highly valued.

Given the increasing complexity and scale of construction projects, the objective of this research is to explore how procedural flexibility and recent legal reforms in Saudi Arabian arbitration can enhance the resolution of multinational construction disputes. This study aims to examine the impact of these reforms on the arbitration process, focusing on their effectiveness in addressing the unique challenges faced by multinational construction companies operating in the region.

The research also seeks to evaluate how the procedural flexibility afforded by arbitration can be leveraged to accommodate the specific needs of construction disputes, including the ability to customize arbitration rules, select suitable locations, and manage schedules effectively. By analyzing these aspects, the study aims to provide insights into how arbitration can be optimized to improve dispute resolution outcomes in the context of Saudi Arabia's construction industry.

Another key objective is to assess the implications of recent legal reforms on arbitration practices. The implementation of the Saudi Arbitration Law 2012 and the country's accession to the 1958 New York Convention have marked significant steps in aligning Saudi Arabia's arbitration framework with international standards. This research will evaluate how these reforms have strengthened the arbitration process, enhanced investor confidence, and improved the efficiency of dispute resolution.

In addressing these objectives, the study will also consider the role of competent arbitrators and the importance of selecting professionals with relevant technical expertise and cultural understanding. The effectiveness of arbitration in resolving complex construction disputes relies heavily on the skills and qualifications of the arbitrators involved.

Ultimately, this research aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of how arbitration can be optimized through procedural flexibility and legal reforms to better serve the needs of multinational construction companies in Saudi Arabia. By highlighting these aspects, the study will contribute to the broader understanding of effective dispute resolution strategies in the construction sector.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Arbitration Concept

Arbitration is an out-of-court dispute resolution method in which the parties to a dispute agree to submit the decision to an independent arbitrator or panel of arbitrators. Arbitration is recognized for several advantages over traditional litigation, including [1]:

- 1) Process efficiency
Arbitration tends to be faster than courts, which is important in construction disputes where time is a critical factor.
- 2) Confidentiality
Arbitration proceedings are often confidential, keeping sensitive information hidden from the public.
- 3) Special expertise
Arbitrators can be selected based on their expertise in a specific area, such as construction, which allows for more informative and relevant decisions.

There are different types of arbitration, including institutional arbitration, in which arbitral institutions such as the ICC or AAA provide rules and administration, and ad hoc arbitration, which is held independently without an institution [2].

Construction disputes often arise from contract issues, quality of work, delays, or design changes. Arbitration is the method of choice in many cases of construction disputes because [3]:

- Specialization
Arbitration allows the selection of arbitrators who have in-depth knowledge of the construction industry, improving the quality of awards.
- Legal certainty
Arbitration proceedings provide greater legal certainty in dispute resolution compared to courts, especially in international cases where applicable law can vary.

However, challenges in construction arbitration also exist, such as differences in contract interpretation and high arbitration costs. Although arbitration reduces the duration of disputes, costs are still a significant issue for many parties [4]. In Saudi Arabia, arbitration has evolved as the primary method of dispute resolution, along with legal reforms that support this practice. Arbitration regulations in Saudi Arabia are governed by the Arbitration Act 2012, which is in line with the New York Convention and international practice [5].

Arbitration in Saudi Arabia has undergone a significant evolution in recent years. The Arbitration Act 2012 introduced important reforms, including clearer procedures and better legal support for the enforcement of arbitral awards [6]. Arbitration has become an increasingly popular dispute resolution method in the multinational construction industry, particularly in Middle Eastern regions such as Saudi Arabia. The rapid growth of the construction sector in Saudi Arabia, driven by major projects such as Vision 2030, has given rise to a wide range of disputes that require efficient and effective resolution. This article discusses strategies for using arbitration to resolve multinational construction disputes in Saudi Arabia, highlighting the key factors that affect its effectiveness.

Arbitration has become a critical mechanism in resolving international construction disputes, particularly in regions such as the Middle East, where cross-border contracts and multinational collaborations are common. The appeal of arbitration lies in its ability to bridge differences in legal systems, cultures, and business practices by providing a neutral ground for dispute resolution. In Saudi Arabia, the growth of infrastructure and construction projects, fueled by Vision 2030, has driven the demand for arbitration as a preferred method of resolving complex disputes involving multinational stakeholders [2] [5].

The Arbitration Act 2012 in Saudi Arabia reflects a significant alignment with global standards, as it incorporates the principles of the UNCITRAL Model Law and complies with the New York Convention on the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards. This legal framework has enhanced the confidence of international contractors and investors in using arbitration for construction disputes. The ability to enforce arbitration awards across borders, coupled with the flexibility of choosing arbitrators with industry-specific expertise, makes arbitration an attractive option for multinational corporations involved in large-scale construction projects [3] [4]. However, there is still room for improvement, particularly in addressing the high costs and procedural complexities that can arise during arbitration, especially in cases involving multiple parties and extensive documentation. Future research could focus on optimizing arbitration processes in construction disputes, possibly by exploring cost-reduction strategies and examining alternative dispute resolution mechanisms tailored to the construction industry.

2.2. Construction Dispute Resolution Arbitration in Saudi Arabia

Arbitration has become an increasingly popular dispute resolution method in the multinational construction industry, particularly in Middle Eastern regions such as Saudi Arabia. The rapid growth of the construction sector in Saudi Arabia, driven by major projects such as Vision 2030, has given rise to a wide range of disputes that require efficient and effective resolution. This article discusses strategies for using arbitration to resolve multinational construction disputes in Saudi Arabia, highlighting the key factors that affect its effectiveness.

Arbitration is an out-of-court method of dispute resolution that involves a neutral third party, known as an arbitrator. Arbitration offers several advantages over traditional litigation, including confidentiality, procedural flexibility, and the ability to select arbitrators with specialized expertise in the construction field. Arbitration is often chosen in construction disputes because of its ability to provide faster decisions and reduce disruption to ongoing construction projects [6].

Saudi Arabia has adopted modern arbitration laws that are in line with international standards to enhance its attractiveness as an arbitration center. The Saudi Arbitration Law 2012 and its supporting

regulations govern the arbitration procedures applicable in the country. In addition, Saudi Arabia is a member of the 1958 New York Convention, which facilitates the recognition and enforcement of international arbitral awards. These reforms have increased foreign investors' confidence in using arbitration to resolve disputes in Saudi Arabia [7].

Several key factors affect the effectiveness of arbitration in the settlement of construction disputes in Saudi Arabia:

- 1) Selection of competent arbitrators
The selection of arbitrators who have technical expertise in the field of construction and understand the legal and cultural context of Saudi Arabia is essential. A competent arbitrator can render a fair and timely decision, which in turn increases the disputing parties' confidence in the arbitration proceedings [8].
- 2) Confidentiality and information security
Confidentiality is one of the main reasons why construction companies choose arbitration. In the context of Saudi Arabia, where business privacy is highly guarded, arbitration offers better protection of sensitive information compared to litigation in general courts [9].
- 3) Flexible procedures
Arbitration allows the disputing parties to determine the procedure that best suits their needs. This flexibility is particularly useful in construction disputes that are often complex and require a tailored approach [10].
- 4) Recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards
The 1958 New York Convention facilitates the enforcement of international arbitral awards in Saudi Arabia. This is especially important for multinational companies that need assurance that arbitral awards will be respected and effectively enforced in other countries [6].

While arbitration has many advantages, there are several challenges to face in the context of Saudi Arabia:

- 1) Cultural and legal differences
Cultural and legal differences between the disputing parties and arbitrators can lead to misunderstandings and dissatisfaction. Therefore, it is important to choose arbitrators who have a good understanding of both cultures and the legal systems involved [7].
- 2) Limitations of arbitration infrastructure
Although there have been advances in the legal framework of arbitration, supporting infrastructure such as adequate arbitration centres still need to be improved to support more efficient arbitration proceedings [8].
- 3) Legal uncertainty
Although the arbitration law in Saudi Arabia has been updated, uncertainty in the interpretation and application of the law can still be an obstacle to the enforcement of arbitral awards [9].

Arbitration offers an effective solution to resolving multinational construction disputes in Saudi Arabia, especially with significant legal reforms in recent years. The proper selection of arbitrators, confidentiality, procedural flexibility, and support from international legal frameworks such as the New York Convention are key factors that increase the effectiveness of arbitration in the country. However, challenges such as cultural differences, limitations of arbitration infrastructure, and legal uncertainty must be overcome to ensure that arbitration can function optimally. Thus, multinational construction companies can utilize arbitration as a reliable tool to resolve disputes in Saudi Arabia.

Arbitration has become the preferred method for resolving construction disputes in Saudi Arabia, driven by legal reforms under Vision 2030 and the country's alignment with international standards, such as the New York Convention [2] [4] [5]. It offers key advantages like the selection of specialized arbitrators, confidentiality, procedural flexibility, and cross-border enforceability of awards. However, challenges such as the need for improved arbitration infrastructure and clearer legal interpretations remain. Addressing these issues is essential to enhancing arbitration's effectiveness as Saudi Arabia's construction sector continues to expand and attract international investment [10] [11].

3. Methodology

This study aims to analyze the strategy of using arbitration in resolving multinational construction disputes in Saudi Arabia. The research method used is a qualitative approach with data collection

techniques through literature studies, in-depth interviews, and analysis of related legal documents. The research method used in this study is a qualitative approach with an exploratory case study design. Data collection was carried out through literature studies, in-depth interviews, and analysis of legal documents. The data analysis technique used is thematic analysis to identify and interpret key themes relevant to the strategy of using arbitration in resolving multinational construction disputes in Saudi Arabia. The validity and reliability of the research are maintained through data triangulation, confirmation by informants, and trail audits.

4. Finding and Discussion

4.1. Confidentiality and Security of Information

The study found that confidentiality is one of the main reasons multinational construction companies choose arbitration in Saudi Arabia. In the context of business in Saudi Arabia, information privacy is highly valued, and arbitration provides better protection compared to litigation in the general courts. The interview informant emphasized that maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive information is a key factor in maintaining the company's reputation and competitive position. Confidentiality and information security are important factors in choosing arbitration as a method of resolving multinational construction disputes in Saudi Arabia. In the construction industry, which often involves sensitive information regarding technology, design, and contracts, maintaining confidentiality is key to protecting business interests and safeguarding the company's reputation. In this section, we will discuss how arbitration provides better confidentiality than litigation in the general courts, as well as why this is so important in the context of Saudi Arabia.

Arbitration is known for its closed and confidential nature, in contrast to litigation processes that are usually open to the public. In arbitration, the hearing and related documents are usually not accessible to the public, and the parties may agree to maintain the confidentiality of the award as well as the information exchanged during the arbitration proceedings. It is important to protect sensitive business information and maintain good business relations between the parties to the dispute.

One of the main advantages of arbitration is its ability to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information that may damage a company's reputation or reveal business strategies to competitors [11]. In the construction industry, this confidentiality includes contract details, construction methods, technology used, as well as financial information that is not intended to be made public.

Secrecy has a special value in Saudi Arabia because the business culture in the country highly values privacy and confidentiality. Companies in Saudi Arabia prefer arbitration because of its closed and confidential process, which is in line with local norms and values regarding business privacy [12]. This is especially important for construction companies that often handle large projects with high investment values and significant business risks.

Additionally, litigation in general court can result in unwanted publicity, which can negatively impact the company's reputation and their business relationships. In some cases, companies may feel uncomfortable discussing their disputes openly because they can expose weaknesses in their projects or management that competitor could take advantage of.

Several case studies show how confidentiality in arbitration provides an advantage to construction companies. For example, in a dispute between two major construction companies regarding the implementation of infrastructure projects in Saudi Arabia, both parties chose arbitration because they wanted to maintain the confidentiality of contract details and disputed technical issues. Arbitration proceedings allow them to resolve disputes without having to disclose such sensitive information in general court, which could be accessed by the public and their competitors.

However, maintaining confidentiality in arbitration is not always easy. The main challenge is to ensure that all parties involved in the arbitration process, including arbitrators, witnesses, and consultants, understand and comply with their confidentiality obligations [13]. Violations of confidentiality can undermine the integrity of the arbitration process and reduce the parties' confidence in these dispute resolution methods.

To address these challenges, parties often include confidentiality clauses in their arbitration agreements. This clause provides that all information disclosed during the arbitral proceedings, including the final award, shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed to third parties without the written consent of all parties involved.

4.2. Selection of Competent Arbitrators

The findings show that the selection of arbitrators who have technical expertise in the field of

construction and a deep understanding of Saudi Arabian law and culture is essential. Competent arbitrators are able to render fair and timely decisions, increasing the confidence of the disputing parties in the arbitral proceedings. The informant highlighted the importance of selecting arbitrators with appropriate backgrounds and experience in handling construction disputes.

Competent arbitrators play a crucial role in ensuring that the arbitration process runs smoothly and fairly. Arbitrators' competence greatly affects the quality of the arbitral award, the speed of dispute resolution, and the parties' confidence in the outcome of the arbitration [14]. In the construction industry, which often involves complex technical issues, the ability of arbitrators to understand and evaluate technical evidence is essential.

Arbitrators who are experienced in construction projects can more quickly identify key issues, ask relevant questions, and make decisions based on a deep understanding of industry practices and technical standards. It helps in reaching a fair and timely award, which is one of the advantages of arbitration over litigation.

Some of the important criteria in the selection of arbitrators for construction disputes in Saudi Arabia include:

- 1) Technical expertise
Arbitrators must have a strong technical background in the field of construction. An understanding of construction technology, construction methods, and industry standards is essential for evaluating claims and evidence in construction disputes [15].
- 2) Experience in arbitration
Previous experience in handling arbitration cases, especially those related to construction, is an important factor. Experienced arbitrators are more likely to understand the process and dynamics of arbitration and can manage hearings more effectively.
- 3) Legal understanding
Knowledge of international and local arbitration law is essential. Arbitrators must understand the laws applicable in Saudi Arabia as well as relevant international conventions, such as the 1958 New York Convention.
- 4) Cultural and language understanding
Understanding the business culture and social norms in Saudi Arabia is essential to avoid misunderstandings and ensure that the arbitration process runs smoothly [16]. Arbitrators who are proficient in Arabic also have an advantage in understanding relevant documents and communications.
- 5) Impartiality and integrity
Arbitrators must be able to demonstrate impartiality and high integrity. The parties must be confident that the arbitrator will make a decision based on facts and law, without bias or conflict of interest.

4.3. Procedural Flexibility

Arbitration allows the disputing parties to tailor the procedure according to their needs. This flexibility is highly valued in construction disputes that are often complex and require a special approach. The study found that flexibility in determining the applicable schedule, process, and rules can reduce the time and cost of dispute resolution. Arbitration allows the parties to customize various aspects of the dispute resolution process, including:

Selection of Arbitration Rules The parties can choose which arbitration rules to apply in the resolution of their disputes. This can be in the form of rules issued by international arbitration institutions such as the ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) or rules specially drafted by the parties [17]. This flexibility allows for the adjustment of rules according to the complexity and specific needs of the construction project.

Determination of Arbitration Location and Language The parties may choose the location and language to be used in the arbitration proceedings. Choosing a neutral location and a language that is understood by all parties can reduce costs and facilitate communication [18]. This is especially relevant in the context of Saudi Arabia, where disputes often involve parties from different countries with different languages and cultures.

Arbitration Scheduling and Procedural Proceedings provide flexibility in scheduling hearings and procedural processes. Parties can determine a schedule that suits their availability and project needs. Additionally, they can agree on more concise and efficient procedures compared to court proceedings, which are often rigid and time-consuming.

In some cases, especially those involving obvious technical or financial issues, the parties may

choose to resolve the dispute based on the document without the need to attend an oral hearing. Document-based settlement can save time and money, as well as reduce tensions between the parties to the dispute [19].

In the context of Saudi Arabia, procedural flexibility is essential because:

- 1) Construction project complexity
Construction projects in Saudi Arabia often involve multiple parties, complex contracts, and strict technical requirements. Procedural flexibility allows the adjustment of the arbitration process to handle this complexity effectively, avoiding delays that could be detrimental to the project.
- 2) The need for fast and efficient solutions
In the construction industry, time is a critical factor. Delays in dispute resolution can have a significant impact on project costs and resolution timelines. Flexibility in arbitration scheduling and procedures allows for faster dispute resolution compared to traditional litigation.
- 3) Respect for local culture and practices
Procedural flexibility also allows parties to design processes that respect local cultures and business practices. This is important in the context of Saudi Arabia, where cultural values and customs have a great influence on the way of doing business [4].

In a major construction dispute involving an international contractor and a local company in Saudi Arabia, the parties agreed to use arbitration with tailored rules to expedite the settlement process. They chose the arbitration location in Dubai, used English as the primary language, and established a flexible hearing schedule. This flexibility allows them to resolve disputes in less than six months, avoiding delays that could negatively impact the project.

Procedural flexibility is one of the main advantages of arbitration in the resolution of construction disputes in Saudi Arabia. The ability to customize arbitration rules, locations, languages, and schedules allows for faster, more efficient, and tailored dispute resolution to the specific needs of the project. While there are challenges in reaching agreements and implementing flexible procedures, a prudent strategy and support from competent arbitral institutions can help overcome these obstacles. Thus, procedural flexibility in arbitration provides an effective and reliable solution for multinational construction companies in Saudi Arabia.

4.4. Implications of Legal Reform

Significant legal reforms in recent years have increased investor and multinational companies' confidence in arbitration in Saudi Arabia. The implementation of the Saudi Arbitration Law 2012 and its accession to the 1958 New York Convention are important steps forward. These discussions showed that the reforms not only provide a stronger legal framework but also demonstrate the Saudi Arabian government's commitment to supporting efficient and fair dispute resolution.

Since recent years, the Saudi Arabian government has carried out various legal reforms to improve the business climate and attract foreign investment. These reforms include changes in arbitration laws, strengthening of arbitration institutions, and the application of international standards. These measures aim to create a more transparent and efficient legal environment [20].

Significant reforms began with the passage of the Saudi Arbitration Law in 2012, which was later updated to align with the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) model. The law introduced a variety of important features, including:

- 1) Arbitrator independence and autonomy
The new law gives arbitrators greater powers to administer arbitral proceedings without court intervention. This includes the right to determine procedures and issue binding final decisions.
- 2) Recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards
The act reinforces Saudi Arabia's commitment to the 1958 New York Convention, which guarantees the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards. It provides legal assurance for foreign investors that arbitral awards resulting abroad will be recognized and enforced in Saudi Arabia.
- 3) Procedural openness
These reforms increase transparency in arbitral proceedings by establishing clear and

predictable procedures [21]. It includes disclosure requirements for arbitrators and the right of the parties to challenge arbitrators who are deemed impartial.

In addition to changes in the law, Saudi Arabia is also strengthening domestic arbitration institutions. One of the key initiatives was the establishment of the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA) in 2016. SCCA aims to provide a reliable and efficient platform for business dispute resolution, with a particular focus on construction disputes. Some of the key features of the SCCA include:

- 1) Scca's full service of arbitration and mediation offers a wide range of dispute resolution services, including arbitration and mediation, that can be tailored to the specific needs of the parties to the dispute.
- 2) Scca has a panel of arbitrators comprising local and international experts with extensive experience in various fields, including construction. The existence of competent and experienced arbitrators is a key factor in ensuring the quality and fairness of arbitral awards [3].
- 3) Modern facilities and administrative support. The SCCA provides the modern facilities and administrative support necessary to efficiently manage arbitration proceedings. It includes courtrooms equipped with advanced technology and trained staff.

The reform of law and the strengthening of arbitration institutions in Saudi Arabia have several important implications for the settlement of construction disputes, including:

- 1) Increased investor confidence
Legal reforms increase foreign investors' confidence in the legal system in Saudi Arabia. Legal certainty and the ability to enforce arbitral awards are key factors that international investors consider when deciding to invest in a country [14].
- 2) Dispute resolution efficiency
With modern arbitration laws and strong arbitration institutions, the dispute resolution process has become more efficient and faster. This is important in the context of construction projects that often require rapid dispute resolution to avoid project delays.
- 3) International competitiveness
Legal reforms increase Saudi Arabia's international competitiveness as an investment destination. By providing a legal environment that supports arbitration, Saudi Arabia can attract more multinational construction projects and boost its economic growth.

Legal reforms in Saudi Arabia have had a significant positive impact on arbitration, particularly in the context of multinational construction dispute resolution. With modern arbitration laws and strong arbitration institutions such as the SCCA, Saudi Arabia has managed to improve the efficiency of dispute resolution, increase investor confidence, and strengthen its international competitiveness. Despite challenges in implementation and enforcement, continuous efforts in arbitration education, training, and promotion can help overcome these barriers and ensure that legal reforms provide maximum benefits to all parties involved in construction projects in Saudi Arabia.

5. Conclusion

This study has highlighted the strategic advantages of arbitration in resolving multinational construction disputes in Saudi Arabia, with a particular focus on confidentiality, the selection of competent arbitrators, procedural flexibility, and the implications of recent legal reforms. Confidentiality emerged as a critical factor, aligning with Saudi Arabia's business culture which highly values information privacy. Arbitration's closed nature effectively protects sensitive business information, maintaining companies' reputations and competitive positions. The study underscores how confidentiality in arbitration surpasses that in traditional litigation, which can lead to unwanted public exposure of sensitive details.

Additionally, the selection of arbitrators with expertise in construction and an understanding of Saudi Arabian law and culture significantly enhances the arbitration process. Competent arbitrators can navigate complex technical issues and cultural nuances, ensuring fair and efficient dispute resolution. Procedural flexibility in arbitration allows for tailored processes that address the specific needs of construction disputes, offering a faster and more cost-effective resolution compared to rigid court procedures. The recent legal reforms, including updates to Saudi arbitration laws and

establishment the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA), have further strengthened the arbitration framework, boosting investor confidence and enhancing dispute resolution efficiency.

In summary, the study confirms that arbitration presents a highly effective mechanism for resolving multinational construction disputes in Saudi Arabia. The emphasis on confidentiality, expert arbitrators, procedural flexibility, and supportive legal reforms collectively contribute to a robust dispute resolution environment. These factors not only address the unique challenges faced by the construction industry but also align with the broader goals of enhancing investor confidence and improving the efficiency of dispute resolution processes.

Recommendations for future research include exploring the impact of arbitration on specific types of construction disputes, such as those involving environmental or safety issues, and assessing the effectiveness of the SCCA in handling these cases. Additionally, future studies could investigate the perceptions of local businesses regarding arbitration and identify potential barriers to its adoption. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of how arbitration can be optimized to address the diverse needs of multinational construction projects in Saudi Arabia and further strengthen the legal framework supporting arbitration.

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