Convention
on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards

New York, 10 July-31 December 1958

[The United Kingdom instrument of accession was deposited on 24 September 1975 and the Convention entered into force for the United Kingdom on 23 December 1975]

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Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards

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CONVENTION
ON THE RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF
FOREIGN ARBITRAL AWARDS

ARTICLE I

1. This Convention shall apply to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made in the territory of a State other than the State where the recognition and enforcement of such awards are sought, and arising out of differences between persons, whether physical or legal. It shall also apply to arbitral awards not considered as domestic awards in the State where their recognition and enforcement are sought.

2. The term “arbitral awards” shall include not only awards made by arbitrators appointed for each case but also those made by permanent arbitral bodies to which the parties have submitted.

3. When signing, ratifying or acceding to this Convention, or notifying extension under article X hereof, any State may on the basis of reciprocity declare that it will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State. It may also declare that it will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under the national law of the State making such declaration.

ARTICLE II

1. Each Contracting State shall recognize an agreement in writing under which the parties undertake to submit to arbitration all or any differences which have arisen or which may arise between them in respect of a defined legal relationship, whether contractual or not, concerning a subject matter capable of settlement by arbitration.

2. The term “agreement in writing” shall include an arbitral clause in a contract or an arbitration agreement, signed by the parties or contained in an exchange of letters or telegrams.

3. The court of a Contracting State, when seized of an action in a matter in respect of which the parties have made an agreement within the meaning of this article, shall, at the request of one of the parties, refer the parties to arbitration, unless it finds that the said agreement is null and void, inoperative or incapable of being performed.

ARTICLE III

Each Contracting State shall recognize arbitral awards as binding and enforce them in accordance with the rules of procedure of the territory where the award is relied upon, under the conditions laid down in the following articles. There shall not be imposed substantially more onerous conditions or higher fees or charges on the recognition or enforcement of arbitral awards to which this Convention applies than are imposed on the recognition or enforcement of domestic arbitral awards.
ARTICLE IV

1. To obtain the recognition and enforcement mentioned in the preceding article, the party applying for recognition and enforcement shall, at the time of the application, supply:
   
   (a) The duly authenticated original award or a duly certified copy thereof;
   
   (b) The original agreement referred to in article II or a duly certified copy thereof.

2. If the said award or agreement is not made in an official language of the country in which the award is relied upon, the party applying for recognition and enforcement of the award shall produce a translation of these documents into such language. The translation shall be certified by an official or sworn translator or by a diplomatic or consular agent.

ARTICLE V

1. Recognition and enforcement of the award may be refused, at the request of the party against whom it is invoked, only if that party furnishes to the competent authority where the recognition and enforcement is sought, proof that:
   
   (a) The parties to the agreement referred to in article II were, under the law applicable to them, under some incapacity, or the said agreement is not valid under the law to which the parties have subjected it or, failing any indication thereon, under the law of the country where the award was made; or
   
   (b) The party against whom the award is invoked was not given proper notice of the appointment of the arbitrator or of the arbitration proceedings or was otherwise unable to present his case; or
   
   (c) The award deals with a difference not contemplated by or not falling within the terms of the submission to arbitration, or it contains decisions on matters beyond the scope of the submission to arbitration, provided that, if the decisions on matters submitted to arbitration can be separated from those not so submitted, that part of the award which contains decisions on matters submitted to arbitration may be recognized and enforced; or
   
   (d) The composition of the arbitral authority or the arbitral procedure was not in accordance with the agreement of the parties, or, failing such agreement, was not in accordance with the law of the country where the arbitration took place; or
   
   (e) The award has not yet become binding on the parties, or has been set aside or suspended by a competent authority of the country in which, or under the law of which, that award was made.

2. Recognition and enforcement of an arbitral award may also be refused if the competent authority in the country where recognition and enforcement is sought finds that:
   
   (a) The subject-matter of the difference is not capable of settlement by arbitration under the law of that country; or
   
   (b) The recognition or enforcement of the award would be contrary to the public policy of that country.
ARTICLE VI

If an application for the setting aside or suspension of the award has been made to a competent authority referred to in article V(1)(e), the authority before which the award is sought to be relied upon may, if it considers it proper, adjourn the decision on the enforcement of the award and may also, on the application of the party claiming enforcement of the award, order the other party to give suitable security.

ARTICLE VII

1. The provisions of the present Convention shall not affect the validity of multilateral or bilateral agreements concerning the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards entered into by the Contracting States nor deprive any interested party of any right he may have to avail himself of an arbitral award in the manner and to the extent allowed by the law or the treaties of the country where such award is sought to be relied upon.

2. The Geneva Protocol on Arbitration Clauses of 1923(1) and the Geneva Convention on the Execution of Foreign Arbitral Awards of 1927(2) shall cease to have effect between Contracting States on their becoming bound and to the extent that they become bound, by this Convention.

ARTICLE VIII

1. This Convention shall be open until 31 December 1958 for signature on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and also on behalf of any other State which is or hereafter becomes a member of any specialized agency of the United Nations, or which is or hereafter becomes a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice,(3) or any other State to which an invitation has been addressed by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

2. This Convention shall be ratified and the instrument of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ARTICLE IX

1. This Convention shall be open for accession to all States referred to in article VIII.

2. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ARTICLE X

1. Any State may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that this Convention shall extend to all or any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible. Such a declaration shall take effect when the Convention enters into force for the State concerned.

(1) Treaty Series No. 4 (1925), Cmd. 2312.
(2) Treaty Series No. 28 (1930), Cmd. 3655.
(3) Treaty Series No. 67 (1946), Cmd. 7015.
2. At any time thereafter any such extension shall be made by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and shall take effect as from the ninetieth day after the day of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of this notification, or as from the date of entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned, whichever is the later.

3. With respect to those territories to which this Convention is not extended at the time of signature, ratification or accession, each State concerned shall consider the possibility of taking the necessary steps in order to extend the application of this Convention to such territories, subject, where necessary for constitutional reasons, to the consent of the Governments of such territories.

ARTICLE XI

In the case of a federal or non-unitary State, the following provisions shall apply:

(a) With respect to those articles of this Convention that come within the legislative jurisdiction of the federal authority, the obligations of the federal Government shall to this extent be the same as those of Contracting States which are not federal States;

(b) With respect to those articles of this Convention that come within the legislative jurisdiction of constituent states or provinces which are not, under the constitutional system of the federation, bound to take legislative action, the federal Government shall bring such articles with a favourable recommendation to the notice of the appropriate authorities of constituent states or provinces at the earliest possible moment;

(c) A federal State Party to this Convention shall, at the request of any other Contracting State transmitted through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, supply a statement of the law and practice of the federation and its constituent units in regard to any particular provision of this Convention, showing the extent to which effect has been given to that provision by legislative or other action.

ARTICLE XII

1. This Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification or accession. (*)

2. For each State ratifying or acceding to this Convention after the deposit of the third instrument of ratification or accession, this Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

ARTICLE XIII

1. Any Contracting State may denounce this Convention by a written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

(*) The Convention entered into force on 7 June 1959.
2. Any State which has made a declaration or notification under article X may, at any time thereafter, by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, declare that this Convention shall cease to extend to the territory concerned one year after the date of the receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

3. This Convention shall continue to be applicable to arbitral awards in respect of which recognition or enforcement proceedings have been instituted before the denunciation takes effect.

ARTICLE XIV

A Contracting State shall not be entitled to avail itself of the present Convention against other Contracting States except to the extent that it is itself bound to apply the Convention.

ARTICLE XV

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify the States contemplated in article VIII of the following:

(a) Signatures and ratifications in accordance with article VIII;
(b) Accessions in accordance with article IX;
(c) Declarations and notifications under articles I, X and XI;
(d) The date upon which this Convention enters into force in accordance with article XII;
(e) Denunciations and notifications in accordance with article XIII.

ARTICLE XVI

1. This Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts shall be equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy of this Convention to the States contemplated in article VIII.
SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

<table>
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(6) For declarations and reservations, see pages 10-15.
(5) Applies to all the territories of the French Republic.
(7) Applies to Land Berlin.
(8) Applies to the Kingdom in Europe, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Vatican City</td>
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</table>

(9) Applies to all external territories for the international relations of which Australia is responsible except Papua New Guinea.

(19) Applies to Gibraltar.
DECLARATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

The Government of the Argentine Republic signed the Convention subject to the declaration contained in the Final Act:

"If another Contracting Party extends the application of the Convention to territories which fall within the sovereignty of the Argentine Republic, the rights of the Argentine Republic shall in no way be affected by that extension."

AUSTRIA

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Austria contained the following reservation:

[Translation]

The Republic of Austria will apply the Convention, in accordance with the first sentence of Article I (3) thereof, only to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made in the territory of another Contracting State.

BELGIUM

On depositing an instrument of ratification the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium made the following declaration:

[Translation]

In accordance with Article I, paragraph 3, the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium declares that it will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made only in the territory of a Contracting State.

BOTSWANA

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Botswana contained the following declaration:

"The Republic of Botswana will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationship, whether contractual or not, which are considered commercial under Botswana law.

The Republic of Botswana will apply the Convention to the Recognition and Enforcement of Awards made in the territory of another Contracting State."

BULGARIA

On signing the Convention the Government of Bulgaria made the following declaration which was re-affirmed on ratification:

[Translation]

Bulgaria will apply the Convention to recognition and enforcement of awards made in the territory of a Contracting State. With regard to awards made in the territory of non-contracting States, it will apply the Convention only to the extent to which these States grant reciprocal treatment.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

The instrument of ratification deposited by the Government of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic contained the following declaration:

[Translation]

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic will apply the provisions of this Convention in respect to arbitral awards made in the territories of non-contracting States only to the extent to which they grant reciprocal treatment.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the Central African Republic contained the following declaration:

[Translation]

Referring to the possibility offered by paragraph 3 of Article I of the Convention, the Central African Republic declares that it will apply the Convention on the basis of reciprocity, to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State; it further declares that it will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under its national laws.
CUBA

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the Republic of Cuba contained the following declaration:

[Translation]

The Republic of Cuba will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made in the territory of another contracting State. With respect to arbitral awards made by other non-contracting States, it will apply the Convention only in so far as those States grant reciprocal treatment as established by mutual agreement between the parties. Moreover, it will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under Cuban legislation.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On signing the Convention the Government of Czechoslovakia made the following declaration which was re-affirmed on ratification:

"Czechoslovakia will apply the Convention to recognition and enforcement of awards made in the territory of another Contracting State. With regard to awards made in the territory of non-contracting States it will apply the Convention only to the extent to which these States grant reciprocal treatment."

DENMARK

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark contained the following declaration:

[Translation]

... that the said Convention, in accordance with terms of Article X, paragraph 1, shall not for the time being be applicable to the Faroe Islands and Greenland, that in accordance with the terms of Article I, paragraph 3, it shall have effect only as regards the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made by another Contracting State and that it shall be valid only with respect to commercial relationships.

ECUADOR

On signing the Convention the Government of Ecuador made the following declaration:

[Translation]

Ecuador, on a basis of reciprocity, will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made in the territory of another Contracting State only if such awards have been made with respect to differences arising out of legal relationships which are regarded as commercial under Ecuadorian law.

FRANCE

On depositing their instrument of ratification the Government of the French Republic made the following declaration:

[Translation]

Referring to the possibility offered by paragraph 3 of Article I of the Convention, France declares that it will apply the Convention on the basis of reciprocity, to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State; it further declares that it will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under its national law.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

On depositing their instrument of ratification, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany made the following declaration:

"With respect to paragraph 1 of Article I, and in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article I of the Convention, the Federal Republic of Germany will apply the Convention only to the recognition and enforcement of awards made in the territory of another Contracting State."

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the German Democratic Republic contained the following declarations:

In respect of Article I:

[Translation]

The German Democratic Republic will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made in the territory of another Contracting State. To arbitral awards made in the territories of non-contracting States, the Convention will be
applied only to such extent as those States grant reciprocity. Furthermore, the German Democratic Republic will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of contractual or non-contractual legal relationships which are considered as commercial under the national law of the German Democratic Republic.

In respect of Articles VIII and IX:

[Translation]

The German Democratic Republic considers that the provisions of Articles VIII and IX of the Convention are inconsistent with the principle that all States pursuing their policies in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations shall have the right to become parties to conventions affecting the interests of all States.

In respect of Article X:

[Translation]

The position of the German Democratic Republic on Article X of the Convention, as far as the application of the Convention to colonial and other dependent territories is concerned, is governed by the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Res. 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) proclaiming the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

HUNGARY

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Hungary contained the following declaration:

"... the Hungarian People's Republic shall apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of such awards only as have been made in the territory of one of the other Contracting States and are dealing with differences arising in respect of a legal relationship considered by the Hungarian law as a commercial relationship."

INDIA

The instrument of ratification deposited by the Government of India contained the following declaration:

"In accordance with Article I of the Convention, the Government of India declare that they will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of a State, party to this Convention. They further declare that they will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under the Law of India."

JAPAN

On depositing their instrument of accession the Government of Japan made the following declaration:

"... it will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State."

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the Republic of Korea contained the following declaration:

"By virtue of paragraph 3 of Article I of the present Convention, the Government of the Republic of Korea declares that it will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State. It further declares that it will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under its national law."

MALAGASY REPUBLIC

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the Malagasy Republic contained the following reservation:

[Translation]

The Malagasy Republic declares that it will apply the Convention on the basis of reciprocity, to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State; it further declares that it will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under its national law.
MOROCCO
The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Morocco contained the following declaration:

[Translation]
The Government of His Majesty the King of Morocco will only apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State.

NETHERLANDS
The instrument of ratification deposited by the Government of the Netherlands contained the following declaration:

[Translation]
Referring to paragraph 3 of Article I of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, the Government of the Kingdom declares that it will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State.

NIGERIA
The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Nigeria contained the following declaration:

“In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article I of the Convention, the Federal Military Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria declares that it will apply the Convention on the basis of reciprocity to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of a State party to this Convention and to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under the Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.”

NORWAY
The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Norway contained the following declaration:

“1. We will apply the Convention only to the recognition and enforcement of awards made in the territory of one of the Contracting States.

2. We will not apply the Convention to differences where the subject matter of the proceedings is immovable property situated in Norway, or a right in or to such property.”

PHILIPPINES
The Government of the Philippines signed the Convention ad referendum with the reservation that it does so on the basis of reciprocity and declares that the Philippines will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State pursuant to Article I, paragraph 3.

On depositing their instrument of ratification the Government of the Philippines declared:

“... the Philippines, on the basis of reciprocity, will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State and only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under the national law of the State making such declaration.”

POLAND
On signing the Convention the Government of Poland made the following declaration as mentioned in Article I, paragraph (3):

“When signing, ratifying or acceding to this Convention, or notifying extension under Article X hereof, any State may on the basis of reciprocity declare that it will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State. It may also declare that it will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under the national law of the State making such declaration.”

ROMANIA
The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Romania stipulated that the accession was subject to the following reservation:

[Translation]
The Romanian People's Republic will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under its legislation.
The Romanian People's Republic will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made in the territory of another Contracting State. As regards awards made in the territory of certain non-contracting States, the Romanian People's Republic will apply the Convention only on the basis of reciprocity established by joint agreement between the parties.

SWITZERLAND

The instrument of ratification deposited by the Government of Switzerland contained the following declaration:

[Translation]

Referring to the possibility offered by paragraph 3 of Article I, Switzerland will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The instrument of accession by the Government of Tanganyika and Zanzibar contained the declaration, made in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article I, of the Convention, that the Government of the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar would apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago contained the following declaration:

"In accordance with Article I of the Convention, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago declares that it will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago further declares that it will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contracted or not, which are considered as commercial under the Law of Trinidad and Tobago."

TUNISIA

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Tunisia contained the following reservations:

[Translation]

... with the reservations provided for in Article I, paragraph 3, of the Convention, that is to say, the Tunisian State will apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State and only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under Tunisian law.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

The instrument of ratification deposited by the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic contained the following declaration:

[Translation]

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic will apply the provisions of this Convention, as regards arbitral awards made in the territory of States not parties to the Convention, only on the basis of reciprocity.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The instrument of ratification deposited by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics contained the following declaration:

[Translation]

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will apply the provisions of this Convention in respect to arbitral awards made in the territories of non-contracting States only to the extent to which they grant reciprocal treatment.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the United States of America contained the following declaration:

"The United States of America will apply the Convention, on the basis of reciprocity, to the recognition and enforcement of only those awards made in the territory of another Contracting State.

The United States of America will apply the Convention only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under the national law of the United States."

VATICAN CITY

The instrument of accession deposited by the State of Vatican City contained a declaration pursuant to article 1, paragraph 3, to the effect that the State of Vatican City will apply the said Convention on the basis of reciprocity, on one hand, to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State, and on the other hand, only to differences arising out of legal relationships, whether contractual or not, which are considered as commercial under Vatican law.