

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF IRAN
AND THE
ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ARBITRATION IN
TEHRAN**

In the Name of God the Compassionate the Merciful

WHEREAS the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee"), in its Twenty-Sixth Session in Bangkok (Thailand) in January 1987, has adopted the proposed establishment of a Regional Centre for Arbitration in Tehran (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre") under the auspices of the Committee and in cooperation and with the Assistance of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereinafter referred to as "the Government");

WHEREAS the Government has agreed in principle with the establishment of the Centre and to provide all necessary facilities for the activities of the Centre;

WHEREAS the Government and the Committee are now willing to enter into an agreement with respect to the establishment of the Centre, miles governing its activities and its privileges;

IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:

**ARTICLE I
DUTIES OF THE CENTRE**

1 - The Centre shall have the following duties:

- a - promotion of international commercial arbitration in the region;
- b - coordination of activities and assistance to existing arbitration institutions in the region;
- c - assistance to *ad hoc* arbitrations specially in cases where they are taking place in accordance with UNCITRAL Rules;
- d - assistance to enforcement of arbitral awards;
- e - conducting arbitrations under the auspices of the Centre.

2 - Administrative Rules and Rules of Arbitration to be followed by the Centre shall be prepared at a later stage by the Parties is Annex to this Agreement.

**ARTICLE II
INDEPENDENCE OF THE CENTRE**

1. The Centre shall function under the auspices of the Committee only and on the basis of co-operation, mutual understanding and goodwill.
2. The Government shall respect the independent functioning of the Centre.

**ARTICLE III
JURIDICAL PERSONALITY**

The Centre shall possess juridical personality and shall have the capacity to contract and dispose of immovable and movable

Property and to institute legal proceedings in its name in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Iranian Law.

**ARTICLE IV
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF
THE CENTRE AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

1. The Centre shall enjoy, such, privileges and immunities as may be necessary for the purpose of executing its functions.
2. The Government shall take necessary steps to ensure that the premises of the Centre, its property, assets, and archives and all documents belonging to it or held by it shall be inviolable.
3. The Government shall take the, necessary, steps ensure that:
 - a - the Centre be exempted; from customs duties in respect of equipment used by it for its, official, purposes; and
 - b - the Centre, its assets., funds, income and other property whether owned or occupied shall be exempted from tax.
4. Foreign professional staff of the Centre shall be immune from legal process in respecter words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official, capacity.
5. Foreign professional staff of the Centre shall be exempted from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by tile Centre.

**ARTICLE V
ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRE**

1. The Centre shall be administered by a Director who shall be ional of the Islamic Republic of Iran and shall be appointed by the Government in consultation with the Secretary General of the Committee.
2. Until such time that the Centre shall become financially independent, the Government shall make available premises and make an annual grant for the purposes of the functioning of the Centre including the following:
 - a- Operating costs of the Centre;
 - b -purchase of office furniture, equipment, stationary, telephone, faxes etc;
 - c -costs of seminars and conferences which are to be conducted in the Islamic Republic of Iran under the auspices of the Centre.
3. The Committee shall make an annual contribution towards the operating costs of Centre as determined by the Liaison Officers of the Member States of the Committee.
4. The Director shall send annual reports on the Centre's activities to the Secretary General of the Committee and the appropriate department of the Government.

**ARTICLE VI
INTERPRETATION**

This Agreement shall be interpreted in the light of its primary objective of enabling the centre to fully and efficiently discharge its duties and fulfil its purposes and functions as an independent arbitral institution of an international character.

**ARTICLE VII
SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Government and the Committee may enter into such supplementary arrangement (s) as may be necessary to fulfil the purposes of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE VIII
DURATION OF AGREEMENT**

This Agreement shall be valid, initially for a period of five years as from the date of its entry into force. At the end of initial period and subsequent, periods, if any, it shall stand automatically renewed for a further period of five years unless notified in writing to the contrary by any of the Parties.

**ARTICLE IX
ENTRY INTO FORCE**

This Agreement shall come into force upon the completion of the legal procedures applicable in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This Agreement is prepared in two originals in the Persian and English languages both texts being equally authentic.

In witness whereof the Respective Representatives have signed the Agreement in Tehran on 3 May 1997.

For the Government of
the Islamic Republic of Iran

For the Asian-African Legal
Consultative Committee

Goudarz Eftekhar-Jahromi
Legal Adviser to the President
Of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Tang:Chengyuan
Secretary General