PRESS RELEASE

PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION ENTERS INTO HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT WITH DJIBOUTI

THE HAGUE, 6 JUNE 2017

On Wednesday, 24 May 2017, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Djibouti in Djibouti City, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti, Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, and the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”), Mr. Hugo Siblesz, signed a Host Country Agreement that will facilitate the conduct of PCA proceedings within the country.

Mr. Siblesz was also received at the Presidential Palace in Djibouti City by Mr. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, President of Djibouti. Avenues of cooperation between the PCA and Djibouti were discussed, including the implementation of the new Djiboutian arbitration code which is expected to enter into force shortly.

Under the terms of the Host Country Agreement, Djibouti will provide facilities and services required for PCA-administered proceedings such as office and meeting space and secretarial services, which may be offered at no cost to the disputing parties. The Agreement also grants privileges and immunities to arbitrators and participants in PCA-administered cases.

Since the 1990s, the PCA has adopted a policy of concluding Host Country Agreements with its Member States with the goal of making its dispute resolution services more widely accessible throughout the world, not just at its headquarters at the Peace Palace in The Hague. Through such agreements, the host country and the PCA establish a legal framework within which PCA-administered proceedings (including arbitration, conciliation, mediation, and fact-finding commissions of inquiry) can be conducted in the territory of the host country on an ad hoc basis under conditions similar to those guaranteed by the PCA’s Headquarters Agreement with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Other countries with which the PCA has concluded Host Country Agreements include Argentina, Chile, China, Costa Rica, India, Mauritius, Singapore, South Africa, and Viet Nam.

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Photographs of the Signing of the Host Country Agreement between the Permanent Court of Arbitration and Djibouti