

**PRESS RELEASE****ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION AND THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

THE HAGUE, 22 MAY 2026

The Host Country Agreement signed between the Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”) and the Kingdom of Bahrain on 17 June 2025 (the “Agreement”) has entered into force. During a ceremony held at the headquarters of the PCA, the Peace Palace, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ali Bahzad, presented the Secretary-General of the PCA, H.E. Dr. Hab. Marcin Czepelak, with the Instrument of Ratification notifying the PCA of the fulfillment of the internal requirements for the entry into force of the Host Country Agreement. Pursuant to its Article 16(1), the Agreement entered into force on 21 May 2026.

The Agreement will facilitate the conduct of PCA proceedings in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the Kingdom of Bahrain will make available 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 other participants in PCA-administered cases.



Pictured (from l. to r.): H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ali Bahzad, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and H.E. Dr. Hab. Marcin Czepelak, Secretary-General of the PCA.

Since the 1990s, the PCA has adopted a policy of concluding Host Country Agreements with its Contracting Parties 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, Austria, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Mauritius, Paraguay, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Uruguay, and Viet Nam.

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Background on the Permanent Court of Arbitration

The Permanent Court of Arbitration is an intergovernmental organization established by the 1899 Hague Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. The PCA has 128 Contracting Parties. Headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the PCA facilitates arbitration, conciliation, fact-finding, and other dispute resolution proceedings among various combinations of States, State entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. The PCA's International Bureau is currently administering seven inter-state arbitrations, one other inter-state proceeding, 90 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment laws, 101 arbitrations arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and 11 other proceedings. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

Contact: Permanent Court of Arbitration
E-mail: bureau@pca-cpa.org