

# **Ireland - Arbitration Act, 1980 (Number 7 of 1980)**

Ireland

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1 **Ireland - Arbitration Act, 1980 (Number 7 of 1980)**

*[Pre]*

2 An Act to enable effect to be given to the Convention on the  
Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards done  
at New York on the 10th day of June, 1958, and to certain pro-  
visions of the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Dis-  
putes between States and Nationals of Other States opened for  
signature in Washington on the 18th day of March, 1965, and  
otherwise to amend the Arbitration Act, 1954. [ 4th June, 1980  
]

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

4 **Part I - Preliminary and General**

5 **1. Short Title and Collective Citation**

6 (1) -This Act may be cited as the Arbitration Act, 1980.

7 (2) The Arbitration Act, 1954, and this Act may be cited together  
as the Arbitration Acts, 1954 and 1980.

8 **2. Definitions**

9 -In this Act-

10 "arbitration agreement" means an agreement in writing (includ-  
ing an agreement contained in an exchange of letters or tele-  
grams) to submit to arbitration present or future differences ca-  
pable of settlement by arbitration;

11 "the Principal Act" means the Arbitration Act, 1954.

12 **3. Commencement**

- Parts III and IV of this Act shall come into operation on 13  
such day or days as the Minister for Justice may by order  
appoint.

**4. Repeal** 14

-Section 12 of the Principal Act is hereby repealed. 15

**Part II - Effect of Arbitration Agreement on Court 16  
Proceedings**

**5. Staying Court Proceedings where Party Proves 17  
Arbitration Agreement**

(1) -If any party to an arbitration agreement, or any person 18  
claiming through or under him, commences any proceedings  
in any court against any other party to such agreement, or any  
person claiming through or under him, in respect of any matter  
agreed to be referred to arbitration, any party to the proceed-  
ings may at any time after an appearance has been entered,  
and before delivery any pleadings or taking any other steps in  
the proceedings, apply to the court to stay the proceedings, and  
the court, unless it is satisfied that the arbitration agreement is  
null and void, inoperative or incapable of being performed or  
that there is not in fact any dispute between the parties with re-  
gard to the matter agreed to be referred, shall make an order  
staying the proceedings.

(2) Nothing in this Section shall be construed as limiting or oth- 19  
erwise affecting the power conferred on the High Court pur-  
suant to section 39 (3) of the Principal Act to refuse to stay any  
action brought in breach of an arbitration agreement.

20 **Part III - Enforcement of New York Convention Awards**

21 **6. Interpretation (Part III)**

22 (1) -In this Part of this Act-

23 "award" means an award (other than an award within the meaning of Part IV of this Act) made in pursuance of an arbitration agreement in the territory of a state, other than the State, which is a party to the New York Convention

24 "the New York Convention" means the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards done at New York on the 10th day of June, 1958, which Convention is set out in the First Schedule to this Act.

25 (2) The Minister for Foreign Affairs may by order declare that any state specified in the order is a party to the New York Convention and, while such order is in force, the order shall be evidence that such state is a party to that Convention.

26 (3) The Minister for Foreign Affairs may by order revoke or amend an order under this section, including an order under this subsection.

27 **7. Effect of Awards**

28 (1) -An award shall, subject to the subsequent provisions of this Part, be enforceable either by action or in the same manner as the award of an arbitrator is enforceable by virtue of section 41 of the Principal Act.

29 (2) An award that would be enforceable under this Part shall be treated as binding for all purposes on the persons between whom it was made, and may accordingly be relied on by any of those persons by way of defence, set off or otherwise in any

legal proceedings in the State, and any reference in this Part to the enforcement of an award shall be construed as including a reference to the reliance on such an award.

**8. Evidence**

-Any person who seeks to enforce an award shall produce-

(a) the duly authenticated original award or a duly certified copy of that award, and

(b) the original arbitration agreement or a duly certified copy of that agreement, and

(c) in any case where the award or the arbitration agreement is in a language other than one of the official languages of the State, a translation of the award or the agreement, as the case may be, certified by an official or sworn translator or by a diplomatic or consular agent.

**9. Refusal of Enforcement**

(1) -Enforcement of an award shall not be refused otherwise than pursuant to the subsequent provisions of this section.

(2) Enforcement of an award may be refused if the person against whom it is invoked proves that-

(a) a party to the arbitration agreement was (under the law applicable to him) under some incapacity, or

(b) the arbitration agreement was not valid under the law of the country to which the parties subjected it or, failing any indication thereon, under the law of the country where the award was made, or

(c) he 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

41 (d) subject to subsection (4) of this section, the award deals with a difference not contemplated by or not falling within the terms of the submission to arbitration or contains decisions on matters beyond the scope of the submission to arbitration, or

42 (e) the composition of the arbitral authority or the arbitral procedure was not in accordance with the agreement of the parties or, failing such agreement, with the law of the country where the arbitration took place, or

43 (f) 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, the award was made.

44 (3) Enforcement of an award may also be refused if the award is in respect of a matter which is not capable of settlement by arbitration under the law of the State, or if it would be contrary to public policy to enforce the award.

45 (4) An award which contains decisions on matters not submitted to arbitration may be enforced to the extent that it contains decisions on matters submitted to arbitration which can be separated from any decisions on matters not so submitted.

46 (5) In any case where an application for the setting aside or suspension of an award has been made to such a competent authority as is mentioned in subsection (2) ( f ) of this section, a court before which enforcement of the award is sought may, if it thinks fit, adjourn the proceedings and may, on the application of the party seeking to enforce the award, order the other party to give such security as the court may think fit.

## 10. Non-Application of Part V of Principal Act

-In any case where an award is also a foreign award within the meaning of Part V of the Principal Act, that Part shall not apply to such award. 48

## 11. Saving for other Rights 49

-Nothing in this Part shall prejudice the right of any person to enforce or to rely on an award otherwise than under this Part or under part V of the Principal Act. 50

## Part IV - Enforcement of Washington Convention Awards 51

### 12. Interpretation (Part IV) 52

-In this Part- 53

“award” means an award rendered pursuant to the Washington Convention and includes any decision made- 54

(a) pursuant to Article 49 (2) of that Convention in relation to any question which the Tribunal referred to in that Article had omitted to decide in the award, or in relation to the rectification of any clerical, arithmetical or similar error in the award, 55

(b) pursuant to Articles 50, 51 and 52 of that Convention, interpreting, revising or annulling the award, and 56

(c) pursuant to Article 61 (2) of that Convention in relation to costs; 57

“the Washington Convention” means the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States opened for signature in Washington on the 18th day of March, 1965, which Convention is set out in the Second Schedule to this Act. 58

59 **13. Approval of Acceptance**

60 -Acceptance by the State of the Washington Convention is  
hereby approved.

61 **14. Government Contribution Under Washington  
Convention and Expenses**

62 (1) The Minister for Finance may discharge any obligations  
of the Government arising under Article 17 of the Washington  
Convention (which obliges for Contracting States to meet any  
deficit of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment  
Disputes established under that Convention).

63 (2) Any sums required for the purposes of subsection (1) of this  
Section and any administrative expenses incurred by the Min-  
ister for Finance as a result of acceptance by the State of the  
Washington Convention shall be paid out of moneys provided  
by the Oireachtas.

64 **15. Application of Principal Act and other  
Enactments**

65 (1) -The Minister for Justice may by order direct that any of the  
provisions contained in-

66 (a) Sections 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Principal Act (which re-  
late to attendance of witnesses, security for costs, discovery of  
documents, etc.), and

67 (b) the Foreign Evidence Act, 1856 (which relates to taking of  
evidence for the purpose of proceedings before a foreign tri-  
bunal), shall apply to such proceedings pursuant to the Wash-  
ington Convention as are specified in the order, and the order  
may contain such modifications or exceptions as may appear

to the Minister for Justice to be expedient for the purposes of  
the order.

(2) Subject to subsection (1) of this section, the Principal Act 68  
shall not apply to proceedings pursuant to the Washington Con-  
vention.

(3) The Minister for Justice may by order revoke or amend an 69  
order under this section, including an order under this subsec-  
tion.

**16. Enforcement of Pecuniary Obligations Imposed by  
Award** 70

(1) -The pecuniary obligations imposed by an award shall, by 71  
leave of the High Court, be enforceable in the same manner  
as a judgment or order of the High Court to the same effect  
and, where leave is so given, judgment may be entered for the  
amount due or, as the case may be, the balance outstanding  
under the award.

(2) Any person who applies to the High Court pursuant to sub- 72  
section (1) of this Section for leave to enforce the pecuniary  
obligations imposed by an award shall lodge with his applica-  
tion a copy of the award certified in accordance with Article 54  
(2) of the Washington Convention.

**17. Power of High Court to Stay Enforcement** 73

-Where an application is made to the High Court pursuant to 74  
section 16 of this Act, the High Court shall, in any case where  
enforcement of an award has been stayed, whether provision-  
ally or otherwise, in accordance with Article 50, Article 51 or  
Article 52 of the Washington Convention, stay enforcement of  
the pecuniary obligations imposed by the award and may, in  
any case where an application has been made in accordance

with any of those Articles which, if granted, might result in a stay on the enforcement of the award, stay enforcement of the pecuniary obligations imposed by the award.

<sup>75</sup> Code Of Civil Procedure Book Four, Title VIII Royal Decree N. 1443 Of 28 October 1940 \* as amended by Law No. 25 of 5 January 1994



## Metadata

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