



THE CAIRO REGIONAL CENTRE FOR
INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

*“ The Role and Activities of the Cairo
Centre in the Afro-Asian Region “*

Presented by

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I - Introduction

The Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (hereinafter the Cairo Centre) is an independent non-profit international organization. Its leading principle aims at contributing to, and enriching the progress of economic development in both Asian and African Countries. In this regard, specialized services are being constantly and consistently provided to prevent or help settle international trade and investment disputes, through fair operations of expeditious and economical procedures. This constitutes a wholly integral dispute-resolution mechanism which employs various effective processes of arbitration. It implies also alternative dispute resolution techniques (ADR) such as conciliation, mediation and Technical Expertise .

The scope of services offered by the Cairo Centre encompasses the following:

1. Encouraging resort to arbitration to settle investment and trade disputes in the region.
2. Encouraging resort to arbitration according to the rules of United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).
3. Providing advice to parties to international commercial and investment contracts, with regard to drafting these contracts and in the field of dispute prevention activities.
4. The promotion of arbitration and other ADR techniques in the region, through the organization of international conferences and seminars as well as the publication of researches serving both the business and legal communities.
5. The preparation of international arbitrators and legal scholars from the region by organizing training programs and seminars through the Cairo Centre's Institute for Arbitration and Investment.
6. Coordination with, and provision of, assistance to existing arbitral institutions particularly those within the region.
7. Providing *Ad Hoc* arbitration with necessary technical and administrative assistance.
8. Rendering assistance for the enforcement of arbitral awards.
9. Developing a comprehensive library and data bank in Arabic, English and French addressing matters of trade, investment and commercial dispute resolution laws, rules and techniques.

It is fairly clear from the aforementioned that the most important role of the Cairo Centre is to provide all the facilities required to conduct the arbitral process under the Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law or under whatever rules agreed upon by the parties to settle their disputes. This is all achieved through fair,

inexpensive and expeditious procedures which make the resort to arbitration centres outside the Afro-Asian Region unnecessary .

Furthermore, the Cairo Centre offers its services and facilities for *Ad Hoc* arbitration, or for arbitration conducted under the rules of any other international organization, as well as to commercial arbitration in local disputes.

The Cairo Centre applies the UNCITRAL Rules in the arbitration cases conducted under its auspices whenever the parties fail to apply the arbitration rules of any other arbitral organization, or whatever rules they agreed upon .

The UNCITRAL Rules which are applied by the Cairo Centre, are distinguished by their flexibility in the arbitration procedures as they provide the parties the freedom to choose the arbitrators, the arbitration location, the arbitration language, the rules of procedures and the applicable law.

II - A Brief History of the Cairo Centre

January 1978: The decision of the 19th Session of the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC), which includes 44 Asian and African States¹, to establish several arbitration Centres within the Afro-Asian Countries, where Cairo being one of the selected locations.

January 1979: The signing of an agreement between the Committee and the Egyptian Government for the establishment of the Cairo Centre for an experimental period of three years.

November 1983: The conclusion of an agreement between the AALCC and the Egyptian Government for the permanent functioning of the Cairo Centre.

March 1986: The agreement between the AALCC and the Egyptian Government to make temporary financial and administrative arrangements for the Cairo Centre.

December 1987: The issuance of the headquarters agreement between the AALCC and the Egyptian Government which guarantee for the Cairo Centre all the privileges and immunities of independent international organizations in Egypt. The Egyptian People's Assembly ratified the agreement on December 29, 1987 and the President of the Republic endorsed it by the presidential decree No. 399/1987.

July 1989 : The conclusion of an agreement between the AALCC and the Egyptian Government for the permanent financial and organizational structure arrangements of the Cairo Centre.

¹ The members of the Committee are: Egypt, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic, Botswana is an associate member.

III - The Role of the Cairo Centre in Settling Disputes of International Trade and Investment

International trade and investment disputes are to be settled peacefully under the Cairo Centre's Rules of Arbitration, Conciliation, Mediation, Technical Expertise, Mini Trials or Claims Review Boards. Here's brief word about the Centre's experience with each of these means:

1 - Arbitration:

The number of the arbitration cases registered with the Cairo Centre have just reached ~~88~~ cases². This number reflects the increasing confidence and the outstanding performance of the Cairo Centre in the field of dispute settlement. It is worth noting here that the arbitration clause for the Cairo Centre has been included in thousands of international contracts concluded in the region to settle any possible disputes before the Cairo Centre and according to its Rules.

The Cairo Centre maintains an international list of arbitrators. The list contains the names of eminent jurists, judges, engineers and diplomats from which the parties may select their arbitrators. In this regard, the Cairo Centre asks the different bodies, specially in the Arab region, to nominate the names of experienced and qualified personnel to be included in its panel. The nominees undergo a rigorous selection procedures at the end of which only the most outstanding ones are added to the list of arbitrators.

2 - Conciliation:

In March 1990, The Cairo Centre adopted the Conciliation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). These rules aim to save the parties' time and money during the settlement of any commercial and economic disputes which may arise between them.

If the parties fail to settle their dispute through conciliation, then the arbitration procedures are commenced, or resumed, until the dispute gets settled.

² This number exceeds the cases registered with many prominent arbitral organizations that were established before the Cairo Centre such as the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the World Bank, which registered 26 international cases.

In a number of cases, the Director of the Cairo Centre was asked by the parties sometimes before and other times after the commencement of arbitration procedures, to refer the dispute to the conciliation procedures .

3 - Mediation:

The Rules of Mediation were adopted by the Cairo Centre in 1990.

Although both mediation and conciliation share some common concepts, yet the mediation procedures do differ. The mediator, unlike the conciliator, does not meet with both parties together, but meets separately with each of them in an attempt to reach a satisfactory reconciliation. The parties would not be completely obliged to consider and follow the mediator's recommendations despite their previous agreement to do so.

The mediator must be a person with a persuasive talent and must have enough experience in the field of dispute subject to be able to collect the necessary information and to negotiate with the parties. His role is to bridge the gaps between the parties viewpoints and to eliminate psychological and bureaucratic barriers which are often the direct cause of the dispute.

The type of mediation depends on several factors such as the nature and place of the dispute. Positive mediation may include long debates and negotiation in order to settle the dispute, but on the other hand mediation could be limited to reporting information and giving recommendations which may help the parties to settle their dispute. In this regard, the mediator has to be aware of the cultural backgrounds of the parties and of their interests in order to seek the optimum means for settling the dispute.

4 - Technical Expertise:

The Cairo Centre issued its Rules of Technical Expertise in the same year it issued the conciliation rules, i.e., 1990 . As the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) had not set model rules for technical expertise, the Cairo Centre in this concern decided to adopt the most effective and suitable rules applied by international arbitration organizations to be its rules for technical expertise.

The Centre expects the rules of technical expertise to become more favorable to the disputing parties specially in technical disputes, since it could substantially save the parties' time and money when compared with other means.

The Cairo Centre is in the process of updating its panel of technical experts. In this regard the Cairo Centre invites the personnel who possess the necessary practical and academic qualifications, specially from the Arab region, to nominate themselves in the panel.

5 - Mini Trials:

This means was applied for the first time by the American Arbitration Association and followed by the Zurich Chamber of Commerce. Like the other ADR means, it aims to minimize the cost and time spent in settling trade and investment disputes as well as their subsequent complications.

In a Mini Trial, the dispute gets referred to a three-member tribunal. Each of the disputed parties appoints one of its qualified top management officials as a member of the tribunal, and then the two members select a chairman for the tribunal. If the two appointed members fail to agree on a chairman, a neutral party, e.g. one of the arbitration centres or chambers of commerce, makes the appointment.

The tribunal is then expected to propose a plan for the settlement of the dispute. In case the three members fails to reach an agreement on a plan, the chairman takes the responsibility of designing a plan by himself.

The parties are not to resort to any judicial or arbitral procedures during the mini trial. They are also not obliged to accept the dispute settlement plan proposed by the tribunal.

Neither one of the two parties is allowed to use any information or evidence reached to during the mini trial against the other party in any judicial or arbitral procedures. It is expected that Mini Trial will become more preferable to disputed parties, especially the private sector companies, since it protects the parties' interests and confidential information.

6 - Claims Review Boards:

This means is mostly applied in settling disputes arising from construction contracts. A three-member board is formed at the beginning of the project. Two members are to be

appointed: one by the contractor and another by the owner, the two members then select a chairman for the board.

Each member of the board receives a complete set of documents including a copy of the contract, the job schedule, minutes of the meetings between the parties and the work progress reports.

The board reviews any claims delivered by the contractor or any modifications requested by the owner and then issues its recommendations which are not obligatory for the parties.

This means has the advantage of settling minor disputes right in their infancy since the members of the board are normally well acquainted with all the details of the contract and thus can help the parties to put off any dispute or controversy before it gets escalated.

IV - The Electronic Information System

Due to the multiplicity of the services and means provided by the Cairo Centre to settle international trade disputes, it became necessary to support these services with an advanced and up-to-date information system which guarantees that the users, researchers and disputing parties obtain the relevant information in an efficient and smooth manner.

Accordingly, the Cairo Centre established its data bank to store information (in Arabic, English and French) concerning international trade and investment. This includes legislation, awards, international conventions and arbitration rules from the various countries of the world.

- This service is not limited to the parties in the cases heard before the Centre, its scope is wide enough to include legal researchers and academics from the Afro-Asian Region specially in the field of international arbitration.

The dependence on the Cairo centre's information system has noticeably increased specially after the issuance of the Law No. 27/1994 Concerning Arbitration in Civil and Commercial Matters which directed many academics and researchers to seek such information for their advanced degrees and researches in arbitration.

The Cairo Centre's electronic information system is expected to develop over 2 stages, namely:

- The first (current stage): Providing the facilities at the Centre's premises where the storage of information is on various local means such as computers and microfiche/films.
- The second (future stage): aims to connect the Centre's information system with international electronic networks to enable its personnel to retrieve information from the international systems, and also to make its information about investment opportunities in the region available to foreign investors on-line.

V - The Centre's Institute for Investment and Arbitration

In 1989, the Cairo Centre established its Institute for Investment and Arbitration (the institute) to further encourage the resort to arbitration and other ADR means, and also to create a new calibre of trained international arbitrators and lawyers in the Afro-Asian Region.

The Institute is now responsible for the organization of international conferences, seminars and training programs in order to provide lawyers, law practitioners and businessmen the opportunities to get exposed to the latest styles in settling international trade and investment disputes. In the recent programs several topics were presented such as: drafting international contracts, arbitration procedures, preparation of arbitration awards, enforcement of arbitration awards and statement of claims.

The institute is also responsible for the Centre's publications such as booklet, periodicals and newsletters.

The following is a brief report about the most successful international conferences and seminars that were organized by the Cairo Centre in the past ten years:

A - International Conferences :

1. The international conference on "International Commercial Arbitration", was held jointly with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) between January 20th and 22nd, 1986 in Cairo's Marriot Hotel. There were 113 participants in this conference representing the following countries: Egypt, Algeria, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Nigeria, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, U.A. Emirates, U.S. of America, Canada and Spain.
2. The international Conference on "International Commercial Arbitration, and Promotion and Protection of Foreign Investments in the Afro-Asian Region", which was held jointly with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) between January 26th and 28th, 1988 also in Cairo's Marriot Hotel. 200 participants attended from Egypt, Tunisia, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, U.S. of America, Sweden, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Italy, Austria, France, Nigeria, Spain, Jordan, Oman, Canada, Syria, Sudan, Thailand,

- Yemen, India, Yugoslavia, Bahrain, the Netherlands, China, Abu Dhabi, Iraq, Malaysia, Gabon and Sri Lanka.
3. The first Congress of International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions" was held on February 21st and 22nd, 1992 in the Gezira Sheraton Hotel, Cairo. The participants in this congress were 96 from different nationalities. Seventy two arbitral organizations and institutions were represented in this congress.
 4. The International Conference on "The European Unity as from 1992 and its Impact on the Economic Development in the Arab World" was held jointly with the League of Arab States, the European Commission in Egypt, UNIDO and UNCTAD on January 20th and 21st, 1992 in Gezira Sheraton Hotel. The participants of this conference represented different nationalities from the Arab Region, European Unity Countries, United States of America and Japan.
 5. The international conference on "International Commercial and Maritime Arbitration" was held in 1992 between October 11th - 13th in Cairo and on October 14th and 15th in Alexandria. The participants in this conference were 125 technical personnel involved in commercial and maritime arbitration representing Egypt, England, Singapore, Germany, Argentina, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Pakistan, Libya, Kuwait, Panama, Qatar, Lebanon, U.S. of America, Algeria, Greece, U.A. Emirates, Czechoslovakia, Tunisia and Bahrain.
 6. The International Conference on "the Latest Developments in International Construction Contracts", was held jointly with the American Arbitration Association between April 18th and 20th, 1993 in the Gezira Sheraton Hotel and attended by representatives of a large number of different nationalities.
 7. The international Conference on "The New Egyptian Arbitration Law" was held under the patronage of the Egyptian Minister of Justice on September 12 - 13, 1994 in Cairo Sheraton Hotel and attended by representatives of several other nationalities.
 8. The international conference on "The New Trends in Maritime Arbitration" was held on September 14th and 15th, 1994 in Al-Montazah Sheraton, Alexandria and attended by scholars and participants from different nationalities specially the Arab Countries.
 9. The international conference on "Reforming and Modernizing Procurement Rules in Developing Countries" was held jointly with the International Law Institute, Washington and in cooperation with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the World Bank and other international organizations. The conference was held under the patronage of H.E. the Egyptian Prime Minister between January 29th and 31st, 1994 in Mena House Oberoi Hotel and attended by representatives of several nationalities.
 10. The second international conference on "the European Unity and its Impacts on the Arab Countries Economies" was held jointly with the League of Arab States and the European Commission in Egypt. It was held between October 15th and 17th, 1994 in

Cairo Sheraton Hotel and attended by participants from several Arab and European Countries.

11. The international conference on "Procurement Laws and Rules of Goods, Construction and Services" was held jointly with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the World Bank and the International Law Institute in Washington. It was held on September 9th and 10th, 1995 in the Nile Hilton Hotel and attended by participants from different nationalities.
12. The international conference on "The Settlement of Energy, Petroleum and Gas Disputes" was held jointly with the World Bank and the League of Arab States. It was held on November 18th and 19th, 1995 in the Nile Hilton Hotel and attended by representatives from different nationalities.
13. The international conference on "International Construction and Services Contracts" was held jointly with FIDIC, UNCITRAL, the World Bank, the Egyptian Society for Consultant Engineers and other international organizations. It was held between March 17th and 22nd, 1996 and attended by interested personnel of different nationalities specially the Arab world.

The Institute is scheduled to organize the following conferences during the second half of 1996 and the first half of 1997 :

1. The third conference on "The Arab Relations with the European Unity and the Arab European Partnership" which is to be held in cooperation with the Arab League and the European Commission during the 22nd, and 23rd September 1996 .
2. A conference on " The Features of Maritime Arbitration" in cooperation with the Alexandria International Maritime Arbitration Centre (a branch of the Cairo Centre) and other international maritime arbitration organizations between September 30th and October 2nd, 1996.
3. A conference on "International Procurement and Building, Operation, and Transport (BOT) Contracts" in cooperation with the UN Commission and the International Law Institute in Washington (ILI) and other international organizations between the 21st, and 24th of October, 1996 .
4. An international conference on the UNCITRAL activities to be held in Cairo in cooperation with the UN Commission for International Trade Law and the Arab League between December 1st, and 5th ,1996 .
5. A conference on "International Commercial Arbitration" in cooperation with the European Arab Arbitration Board.
6. The second conference on the " The Settlement of Energy Disputes" in cooperation with the World Bank and Dundy University - Scotland, during April 1997 .

Cairo Sheraton Hotel and attended by participants from several Arab and European Countries .

11- The international conference on " Procurement Laws and Rules of Goods, Construction and Services " was held jointly with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the World Bank and the International Law Institute in Washington . It was held on September 9th and 10th, 1995 in the Nile Hilton Hotel and attended by participants from different nationalities.

12- The International conference on " The Settlement of Energy, Petroleum and Gas Disputes" was held jointly with the World Bank and the League of Arab States. It was held on November 18th and 19th, 1995 in the Nile Hilton Hotel and attended by representatives from different nationalities.

13- The International conference on " International Construction and Services Contracts " was held jointly with FIDIC, UNCITRAL, the World Bank, the Egyptian Society for Consultant Engineers and other international organizations . It was held between March 17th and 22nd, 1996 and attended by interested personnel of different nationalities specially the Arab World.

14- The third conference on " the Arab Relations with the European Unity and the Arab European Partnership" which held in cooperation with the Arab League and the European Commission during the 22nd, and 23rd September 1996.

15- A Conference on " The Features of Maritime Arbitration " organized by the Alexandria International Maritime Arbitration organizations between September 30th and October 2nd , 1996.

The Institute is scheduled to organize the following conferences during the following months of 1996 and the first half of 1996:

1- A conference on "International Procurement and Building, operation , and Transport (BOT) Contracts " in cooperation with the UN Commission and the International Law Institute in Washington (I.L.I) and other international organizations between the 21st, and 24th of October, 1996.

2- An International Conference on the UNCITRAL activities to be held in Cairo in cooperation with the UN Commission for International Trade Law and the Arab League between December 2nd, and 5th of October, 1996.

3- A Conference on " International Commercial Arbitration " in cooperation with the European Arab Arbitration Board.

4- The second conference on "The Settlement of Energy Disputes " in cooperation with the World Bank and Dundee University -Scotland, during April 1997.

B.) Training Programs:

The Cairo Centre thus far organized 18 training programs devoted to the preparation and training of international Arab, African and Asian arbitrators. The goal of such training programs is to create a generation of lawmen, businessmen, and arbitrators who gained enough of the local experience and are aware of common practices in other legal and international economic cultures. They are also expected to possess the legal skills which could only be acquired through international communication and the practice of commercial arbitration in other legal systems.

In the long run, such training programs are intended to qualify the lawmen who belong to this region to defend their economic interests instead of constantly relying on foreign experts.

The following international organizations participated in the past training programs : the International Development Law Institute (IDLI), the American Arbitration Association - New York (AAA), the International Chamber of Commerce - Paris (ICC), the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of London (CIA), and the International Centre for the settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), Washington .

Future Training Programs:

1- The 19th training program to earn the membership and affiliation of the chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIA) to be hold in Cairo during March 1997. This training program is the second program to be organized in cooperation with the Institute. The first training program organized jointly with the Institute was held in Cairo between June 12th and 18th, 1995 where the graduates were awarded the membership and affiliation of the Said Institute .

2- A Training Program on " International Maritime Arbitration " is to be held by the Alexandria International Maritime Arbitration Centre (a branch of the Cairo Centre), and also the participation of many other international arbitration institutions during 28th and 29th of May 1997.

3- A Training program is to be arranged in cooperation with AAA during 1997.

4- A Training program is to be arranged in cooperation with the ICC during 1997.

VI. The Society of the Arab And African Arbitrators

In 1991, the Society of Arab And African Arbitrators was established under the auspices of the Centre . The Society plays a vital role in providing legal cultural and scientific services . Additionally, the Society aims at enhancing international commercial arbitration, and improving the technical and practical standards of the arbitrators through participation in regional and international seminars, educational conferences, and also in following up the recent researches and perspectives of international arbitration.

The Society recently organized the following training programs under the auspices of the Centre :

- A Seminar on the "Evaluation of the International Trade Contracts", which was held at the premises of the Centre between December 9th and 21st 1995. The Seminar was held in association with the French Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation and the Business Law Institute (Cairo University and Singor University in Alexandria).
- A Seminar on " The Latest Developments in the FIDIC Contracts" . The Seminar was held in cooperation with the " Arab Contractors" during 15 - 16 January 1996.

VII. The Role of the Cairo Centre in Developing the Legislation of the Region Regarding Arbitration

1) The Centre's rôle in the preparation of the New Egyptian Arbitration Law:

As a result of the growing international trade relations in this century, there has been a noticeable increase in resorting to arbitration as a means for resolving disputes related to international trade relations which incorporate foreign practices that necessitate the involvement of private international law.

Due to the nature of such international trade relations, many countries issued new rules especially in the field of arbitration in international trade related cases - other than those to which the local trade relations are subjected .

- Moreover, many international agreements were concluded which support arbitration, or certain prospects of it, in such commercial relations .

In June 21st, 1985, the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law approved the International Commercial Arbitration Model Law . The Egyptian government contributed a remarkable effort in preparing the draftlaw as well as the reviews and modifications of the said Law which were ratified by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 1985 .

The Report of the United Nations Commission stated that " The General Assembly of the United Nations recommends that the adopting countries should take the Model Law into consideration whenever they issue legislations or reviews for their laws to meet the current needs related to the international trade law ."

Accordingly, there was a need to modify the commercial arbitration rules in the Egyptian Legislation in order to encourage foreign investments in local economic development projects . Hence, there was an urgent need to develop these rules in order to achieve the nation's goals.

Taking the above considerations into practice, the Cairo Centre held a meeting, in March 11th, 1986, which recommended the formulation of a Committee headed by the late Dr. Mohsen Shafik, and the membership of the Director of the Center and other professors of commercial law, in addition to several Egyptian experts in arbitration in

order to draft an international commercial arbitration law following the Model Law. On March 12th , 1996, the Minister of Justice issued a decree to form the said committee. The committee prepared the draft of the above Law which was later reviewed by the Legislation Administration of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministerial Committee for Legislative Affairs. The Draft was then referred to the People's Assembly which ratified it. On April 18th, 1994, the Egyptian Arbitration Law concerning for civil and commercial articles was issued under the Law No. 27/ 1994 , and went into force as of May 20, 1994 ...

2- The Centre's role in the development of Arbitration Legislation and Rules in the Region

a.) The Djibouti Arbitration Centre :

In May 1990, the Cairo Centre delegated His Excellency Ambassador / Kamal Bahgat Abdel-Motal - assistant Director of the Centre and the Ex.Egyptain Ambassador to the Philippines - in order to establish the initial and essential foundations for the Djibouti Arbitration Centre. The Ambassador prepared a detailed report including the basic regulations the new arbitration Centre should adopt with respect to its rules, administrative structure, the personnel affairs, and equipment.

b.) The Lagos Arbitration Centre :

The Cairo Centre provided its experience in establishing the Lagos Arbitration Centre in Nigeria, the second Centre in Africa to which the Cairo Centre contributed in laying its general principals.

c.) The Bahrain Arbitration Centre :

The Cairo Centre is constantly working towards strengthening its cooperation links with the Arab Arbitration Centres as well.

The Bahrain Ministry of Commerce and Commercial Chamber delegated a team, headed by Mr. Abdel-Razik Zeen Al-Abedeem, to the Cairo Centre in order to consider the technical issues for the establishment of the Bahrain Arbitration Centre and the drafting of its rules.

The visit of the delegation lasted for two weeks during which its members collected all the necessary information and data for establishing the new Centre, and reviewed the draft project for establishing the said Centre.

The Director of the Cairo Centre participated in the Conference of The International Council for Commercial Arbitration which was held at Bahrain between February 14th and 16th in 1993. The Director also attended the Inauguration Ceremony of the Bahrain Centre and expressed his willingness to offer further support.

3- The Preparation of a Comparative Study on "All Arab Legislations" to be Submitted at the Conference on "Complex Arbitration Cases" from 14th - 16th February 1993 - Helsinki / Finland.

On February 28th, 1996, the International Law Society in France asked the Cairo Centre to provide it with a comprehensive study about the problems and obstacles that face arbitration issues under the various Arab legislations. The Cairo Centre, in response, prepared a study which embodies a number of different Arab legislations and attempts to answer the following questions :

- Can a commercial arbitration case be referred to a judicial court and its arbitration procedures be left unresumed ?
- Can the arbitral Tribunal proceed with a commercial or civil case when another relevant case is being handled by a Criminal Court ?
- What sort of problems may be faced in an arbitration case whenever a relevant case is being handled by a Criminal Court ?
- What sort of problems may arise in the arbitral procedures whenever a third party - which was not involved in the arbitration agreement - joins in a dispute.
- What problems are related with " Cross Claims" ?

VIII. The Cooperation Agreements Between the Cairo Centre and the other Arbitral Institutions and Organizations

Even since it was found, the Cairo Centre has constantly been strengthening its relations, through intensive communications, with the various the international organizations and centres that are interested in international commercial arbitration. The Centre cooperates with such institutions iwhich lead to exchanging experience in this field, and promotion of arbitration as a means for resolving disputes in the international commercial and investment issues .

Such communications resulted in many joint activities which were organized by the Centre and other international arbitration organizations and centres.

So far, 26 international agreements were concluded with the Cairo Centre . Two additional agreements are expected this year. One with the Indian Arbitration Centre and the other with the Maritime Arbitrators Society for the Mediterranean Countries.

Within the framework of the general agreement between the Cairo Center and the American Arbitration Association signed in July 1984, another agreement was made on a common format for the Arbitration Clause between the Centre and the American Arbitration Association concerning the trade and investment disputes between the Arab countries and the United States of America.

The above agreement was signed on March 3rd, 1993. According to the articles of this agreement, any dispute, controversy or claim, related to an international investment or trade relationship, arising out of breach of any contractual commitment or even its termination, shall be settled by arbitration pursuant to the signed agreement between the Cairo Centre and the American Arbitration Association whenever the parties of the trade or investment contract agree to that.

This agreement provides a greater opportunity for arbitration to be held within the Arab region whenever an Arab country is a party.

IX. The Cooperation Agreement Between the League of Arab States and the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee - The Role of the Cairo Centre in Executing Amman Agreement of Commercial Arbitration

On July 7th, 1992, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Arab League and the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee AALCC. Dr. Esmat Abdel-Mageed, the Secretary General of the Arab League, signed this agreement on behalf of the Arab League. Mr. Franc Nagina, the Secretary General of the AALCC at this time, signed the agreement on behalf of the AALCC. The Arab League Counsel approved this Agreement in its decision No. 5914 / 976 on April 4th, 1992.

The said Agreement aims at coordinating the efforts of the two organizations within the framework of both the Arab League Convention and the AALCC Charter.

The Agreement is comprised of 8 articles which govern and organize the areas of cooperation between the two organizations, which greatly enforces the role of the Centre in the Arab countries.

After signing this Agreement and still within the framework of cooperation between the two organizations, the Council of the Arab Ministries of Justice agreed on making the Cairo Centre the execution body of the Oman Agreement. This was issued in its meeting of April 22th, 1993 which was organized by the Arab League.

In order to further support cooperation between the Arab League and the AALCC, the Council of the Arab League, in its 96th Session, invited the Arab countries which had not joined the AALCC to do so.

X. Cooperation and Support to Other Arbitration Centres in the Region

In order to enhance arbitration in the African - Asian region, the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration supports and cooperates with, other new arbitration Centres in the Afro-Asian region.

The following are examples of the arbitration centres which the Cairo Centre supported during their establishment :

A-1) The Djibouti Centre :

The Cairo Centre contributed in establishing the arbitration rules, and administrative structure for Djibouti Centre as stated earlier.

B-2) The Lagos Centre :

The Cairo Center is offering all the help it can provide for establishment of the Lagos Arbitration Centre as mentioned before.

C-3) The Bahrain Arbitration Centre :

The Cairo Centre has provided all the possible assistance to the Bahrain Arbitration Centre, and is quite willing to provide more aid.

4) The Abu Dhabi Arbitration Centre :

The Abu Dhabi Arbitration Centre, which is now under establishment, has recently approached the Cairo Centre to provide it with its experience regarding the organizational and administrative structure, the training of the arbitrators who will work in its Centre thereafter. The Cairo Centre has expressed its willingness to support and cooperate with this new Centre. The Abu Dhabi Arbitration Centre has already expressed its willingness to delegate participants to the conferences arranged by the Cairo Centre.

XI. Establishing a New Branch of the Cairo Centre devoted to Maritime Arbitration in Alexandria

In order to become an arbitration organization with a widerange of specializations, the Cairo Centre signed a cooperation agreement with the Arab Academy, for Science and Technology which is supported by the Arab League, to establish a new branch of the Cairo Centre that is devoted to maritime arbitration and its premises in Alexandria.

The Maritime Arbitration Centre was established in October, 1993. The first activity of the said Centre was the organization of a Training Program on maritime arbitration between April 21st and 25th, 1993. More succesful activities and events took place from then on.

The new Maritime Arbitration branch in Alexandria, the largest Egyptian port on the Mediterranean, is considered an advantageous opportunity for all the Arab, African, and Asian countries which will have, for the first time, a Centre, specialized in the field of maritime disputes, devoted to their benefits.

It is also worth mentioning that our Maritime Arbitratio branch has more plans to organize a number of international maritime arbitration training courses and conferences on a regular basis in the near future.

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