

Arbitration Law of the People's Republic of China

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Table of Contents

Chapter I	General Provisions
Chapter II	Arbitration Institutions, Arbitrators and Arbitration Associations
Chapter III	Arbitration Agreements
Chapter IV	Arbitration Proceedings
Section I	Application and Acceptance
Section II	Composition of the Arbitral Tribunal
Section III	Hearing and Award
Chapter V	Application for Setting Aside an Award
Chapter VI	Enforcement
Chapter VII	Special Provisions on Foreign-Related Arbitration
Chapter VIII	Supplementary Provisions

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1

This Law is enacted to ensure the fair and timely arbitration of economic disputes, protect the lawful rights and interests of parties, and safeguard the sound development of the socialist market economy.

Article 2

The development of arbitration shall implement the guiding principles, policies, and decisions of the Communist Party of China and the State, serve the national objectives of high-quality development and high-level opening up, foster a market-oriented, law-based, and internationalised business environment, and play a role in resolving economic disputes.

Article 3

Contractual disputes and other disputes concerning property rights and interests arising between natural persons, legal persons, and unincorporated organisations as equal parties may be arbitrated.

The following disputes shall not be subject to arbitration:

- (1) Disputes concerning marriage, adoption, guardianship, maintenance, or inheritance;
- (2) Administrative disputes that shall be handled by administrative organs in accordance with the law.

Article 4

Where parties elect arbitration to resolve disputes, they shall adhere to the principle of voluntariness and conclude an arbitration agreement. Where no arbitration agreement exists and one party applies for arbitration, the arbitration institution shall decline to accept the case.

Article 5

Where parties have concluded an arbitration agreement and one party brings proceedings before a People's Court, the court shall not accept the case, except where the arbitration agreement is invalid or otherwise provided by law.

Article 6

The arbitration institution shall be selected by agreement between the parties. Arbitration shall not be subject to hierarchical or territorial jurisdiction.

Article 7

Arbitration shall resolve disputes fairly and reasonably in accordance with the facts and the provisions of the law.

Article 8

Arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the principle of good faith.

Article 9

Arbitration shall be conducted independently in accordance with the law, free from interference by administrative organs, social organisations, or individuals.

Article 10

Arbitration shall be final and conclusive. Where, after an award has been rendered, a party applies for arbitration or brings proceedings before a People's Court in respect of the same dispute, the arbitration institution or the People's Court shall decline to accept the case.

Where an award is set aside or refused enforcement by a People's Court in accordance with the law, the parties may apply for arbitration based on a new arbitration agreement reached between them, or may bring proceedings before a People's Court.

Article 11

Arbitration proceedings may be conducted online via information networks, except where the parties expressly disagree. Arbitration proceedings conducted online via information networks shall have the same legal effect as offline arbitration proceedings.

Article 12

The State shall support arbitration institutions in strengthening exchanges and cooperation with overseas arbitration institutions and relevant international organisations, and in actively participating in the formulation of international arbitration rules.

Chapter II Arbitration Institutions, Arbitrators and Arbitration Associations

Article 13

Arbitration institutions may be established in municipalities directly under the Central Government and in cities where the people's governments of provinces and autonomous regions are located. They may also be established in other cities with districts as necessary, without being established layer by layer according to administrative divisions.

Arbitration institutions shall be uniformly established by the people's governments of the cities specified in the preceding paragraph, in conjunction with relevant departments and chambers of commerce, and shall be public-benefit non-profit legal persons.

Article 14

Arbitration institutions established pursuant to Article 13 of this Law shall be registered with the judicial administrative departments of the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government.

Arbitration institutions established by the China Council for International Trade with the approval of the State Council shall be filed with the judicial administrative department of the State Council. The

State Council shall formulate the specific measures for the registration and administration of arbitration institutions.

Article 15

Arbitration institutions shall meet the following conditions:

- (1) Have its own name, registered office and articles of association;
- (2) Possess the necessary assets;
- (3) have members who meet the requirements stipulated in this Law;
- (4) Appointed arbitrators.

The constitution of an arbitration institution shall be formulated in accordance with this Law.

Article 16

Where an arbitration institution changes its name, registered office, articles of association, legal representative, or members, it shall submit an application and complete the change registration in accordance with the law.

Article 17

Where an arbitration institution ceases to exist, it shall complete deregistration in accordance with the law.

Article 18

The membership of an arbitration institution shall comprise one chairperson, two to four deputy chairpersons, and seven to eleven members.

The members of an arbitration institution shall be appointed from among experts in law, economics and trade, science and technology, and persons with practical work experience. Among the members of an arbitration institution, experts in law, economics and trade, and science and technology shall constitute no less than two-thirds.

The members of the arbitration body shall serve a term of five years. Upon expiry of the term, the body shall be renewed in accordance with the law, with no fewer than one-third of the members being replaced.

Article 19

The arbitration institution shall establish sound systems for democratic deliberation, personnel management, fee and financial management, document management, and complaint handling.

Arbitration institutions shall strengthen supervision over their members, staff, and arbitrators, promptly investigating and handling any illegal or disciplinary violations committed during arbitration activities in accordance with the law; where legal liability is to be pursued, the matter shall be promptly transferred to the relevant authorities for handling.

Article 20

Arbitration institutions shall establish information disclosure systems, promptly making public to society information including their articles of association, registration and filing details, arbitration rules, lists of arbitrators, service procedures, fee schedules, annual business reports, and financial reports, thereby proactively accepting public oversight.

Article 21

Arbitrators appointed by arbitration institutions shall be impartial and upright, possess sound professional competence, be diligent and conscientious, maintain integrity and probity, and adhere to professional ethics.

Article 22

Arbitrators shall meet one of the following criteria:

- (1) Having passed the National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination to obtain legal professional qualification, and having engaged in arbitration work for at least eight years;
- (2) Having practised as a solicitor for at least eight years;
- (3) Having served as a judge or prosecutor for at least eight years;
- (4) Those engaged in legal research or teaching with senior professional titles;
- (5) Persons possessing legal knowledge who engage in professional work in fields such as law, economics and trade, maritime affairs and maritime commerce, or science and technology, and who hold senior professional titles or possess equivalent professional competence.

Where laws such as the Law of the People's Republic of China on Supervision Officers, the Law of the People's Republic of China on Judges, and the Law of the People's Republic of China on Prosecutors stipulate that certain public officials may not concurrently serve as arbitrators, such provisions shall apply; other public officials serving as arbitrators shall comply with relevant regulations.

Arbitration institutions may appoint arbitrators from among overseas individuals possessing specialised knowledge in fields such as law, economics and trade, maritime affairs and maritime commerce, or science and technology.

Article 23

Arbitration institutions shall establish rosters of arbitrators according to different specialisations.

Where an arbitrator no longer meets the conditions for serving as an arbitrator, such as being dismissed from public office, having their lawyer's licence revoked, or having their senior professional title revoked, the arbitration institution shall remove them from the roster.

Article 24

Arbitration institutions shall be independent of administrative organs and shall have no subordinate relationship with administrative organs.

There shall be no subordinate relationship between arbitration institutions.

Article 25

The China Arbitration Association is a social organisation with legal personality. Arbitration institutions are members of the China Arbitration Association. The Articles of Association of the China Arbitration Association shall be formulated by the National Members' Assembly.

The China Arbitration Association serves as a self-regulatory body for arbitration institutions, exercising oversight over the conduct of arbitration institutions, their members, staff, and arbitrators in arbitration proceedings in accordance with its Articles of Association.

The China Arbitration Association shall formulate model arbitration rules in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Law and the Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China.

Article 26

The judicial administrative department of the State Council shall, in accordance with the law, guide and supervise arbitration work nationwide, improve relevant working systems, and formulate overall plans for the development of arbitration.

The judicial administrative departments of the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government shall guide and supervise arbitration work within their respective administrative regions in accordance with the law.

Chapter III Arbitration Agreement

Article 27

An arbitration agreement shall include an arbitration clause stipulated in a contract and an agreement to request arbitration reached in other written forms either before or after the occurrence of a dispute.

An arbitration agreement shall contain the following elements:

- (1) An expression of intent to submit the dispute to arbitration;
- (2) The subject matter of arbitration;
- (3) The selected arbitration institution.

Where one party asserts the existence of an arbitration agreement when applying for arbitration and the other party does not deny it before the first hearing, it shall be deemed that an arbitration agreement exists between the parties upon the arbitral tribunal's prompting and recording thereof.

Article 28

An arbitration agreement shall be invalid in any of the following circumstances:

- (1) Where the matters agreed to be arbitrated exceed the scope of arbitration prescribed by law;
- (2) An arbitration agreement entered into by a person who lacks full capacity for civil conduct or a person with limited capacity for civil conduct;
- (3) Where one party has coerced the other into concluding the arbitration agreement through the use of duress.

Article 29

Where an arbitration agreement fails to specify or is ambiguous regarding the matters to be arbitrated or the arbitral institution, the parties may enter into a supplementary agreement; if no supplementary agreement is reached, the arbitration agreement shall be invalid.

Article 30

An arbitration agreement shall exist independently. The formation, amendment, non-effectiveness, termination, revocation or invalidity of the contract shall not affect the validity of the arbitration agreement already concluded.

The arbitral tribunal shall have the power to determine the validity of the contract.

Article 31

Where a party objects to the validity of an arbitration agreement, it may request a decision from the arbitration institution or tribunal, or seek a ruling from the People's Court. Where one party requests a decision from the arbitration institution or tribunal and another requests a ruling from the People's Court, the matter shall be determined by the People's Court.

Any objection to the validity of the arbitration agreement shall be raised before the first hearing of the arbitral tribunal.

Chapter IV Arbitration Procedure

Section I Application and Acceptance

Article 32

An application for arbitration by a party shall satisfy the following conditions:

- (1) An arbitration agreement exists;
- (2) Specific claims for arbitration, along with the relevant facts and grounds;
- (3) The matter falls within the jurisdiction of the arbitration institution.

Article 33

When applying for arbitration, a party shall submit the arbitration agreement, the arbitration application and copies thereof to the arbitration institution.

Article 34

The arbitration application shall specify the following particulars:

- (1) The name, gender, age, occupation, place of employment, residence, and contact details of the parties; the name, registered office, and name, position, and contact details of the legal representative or principal responsible person of the legal person or unincorporated organisation;
- (2) The arbitration claim and the facts and grounds on which it is based;
- (3) Evidence and its sources, and the names and addresses of witnesses.

Article 35

Within five days of receiving the arbitration application, the arbitration institution shall accept it if it meets the conditions for acceptance and notify the applicant accordingly. If it deems the application does not meet the conditions for acceptance, it shall notify the applicant in writing of the refusal to accept it and state the reasons.

Article 36

Upon accepting the arbitration application, the arbitration institution shall, within the time limit prescribed by the arbitration rules, serve the arbitration rules and the list of arbitrators on the claimant, and serve a copy of the arbitration application, together with the arbitration rules and the list of arbitrators, on the respondent.

Upon receipt of the copy of the arbitration application, the respondent shall submit a statement of defence to the arbitration institution within the time limit prescribed by the arbitration rules. Upon receipt of the statement of defence, the arbitration institution shall serve a copy thereof on the claimant within the time limit prescribed by the arbitration rules. Failure by the respondent to submit a statement of defence shall not affect the progress of the arbitration proceedings.

Article 37

Where parties have concluded an arbitration agreement and one party institutes proceedings before a People's Court without declaring the existence of such agreement, and the other party submits the arbitration agreement before the first hearing after the court accepts the case, the People's Court shall dismiss the claim, unless the arbitration agreement is invalid or otherwise provided by law. Where the other party fails to raise an objection to the People's Court's acceptance of the case before the first hearing, it shall be deemed to have waived the arbitration agreement, and the People's Court shall continue with the proceedings.

Article 38

The claimant may waive or amend the arbitration claim. The respondent may admit or deny the arbitration claim and shall have the right to submit a counterclaim.

Article 39

Where a party to arbitration, due to the conduct of the other party or other reasons, faces the risk that the award may become difficult to enforce or may cause other damage to the parties, that party may apply for property preservation, request an order requiring the other party to perform certain acts, or request an order prohibiting the other party from performing certain acts. Where a party applies for preservation, the arbitration institution shall submit the application to the People's Court in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China, and the People's Court shall handle it in a timely manner in accordance with the law.

Where circumstances are urgent, a party to an arbitration agreement may, prior to applying for arbitration, apply to the people's court for property preservation, request an order requiring the other party to perform certain acts, or request an order prohibiting the other party from performing certain

acts, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China. Where a party applies for preservation, the people's court shall handle the matter in a timely manner in accordance with the law.

Where an application is erroneous, the applicant shall compensate the respondent for any losses incurred as a result of the preservation.

Article 40

Parties and their legal representatives may authorise solicitors and other agents to conduct arbitration activities. Where solicitors or other agents are authorised to conduct arbitration activities, a letter of authorisation shall be submitted to the arbitration institution.

Article 41

Arbitration documents shall be served by a reasonable method agreed upon by the parties; where the parties have not agreed or where the agreement is unclear, service shall be effected in accordance with the method prescribed by the arbitration rules.

Section II Composition of the Arbitral Tribunal

Article 42

The arbitral tribunal may consist of three arbitrators or one arbitrator. Where it consists of three arbitrators, a presiding arbitrator shall be appointed.

Article 43

Where the parties agree that the arbitral tribunal shall consist of three arbitrators, each party shall appoint one arbitrator or entrust the director of the arbitration institution to appoint one arbitrator in accordance with the procedures determined by the arbitration rules. The third arbitrator shall be in accordance with the procedures established by the arbitration rules; the third arbitrator shall be jointly selected by the parties, or alternatively, jointly entrusted to the director of the arbitration institution to appoint in accordance with the procedures established by the arbitration rules. Where the parties agree that the third arbitrator shall be jointly selected by the arbitrators they have respectively selected, such agreement shall prevail. The third arbitrator shall be the presiding arbitrator.

Where the parties agree that the tribunal shall consist of one arbitrator, the arbitrator shall be jointly selected by the parties, or may be jointly appointed by the parties through the director of the arbitration institution in accordance with the procedures established by the arbitration rules.

Article 44

Where the parties fail to agree on the composition of the arbitral tribunal or to appoint arbitrators within the time limit prescribed by the arbitration rules, the Director of the arbitration institution shall determine or appoint them in accordance with the procedures established by the arbitration rules.

Article 45

Where an arbitrator is in a situation that may give rise to reasonable doubts as to his or her independence or impartiality, the arbitrator shall promptly disclose this in writing to the arbitration institution.

The arbitration institution shall notify the parties in writing of the arbitrator's disclosure and the composition of the arbitral tribunal.

Article 46

An arbitrator shall recuse themselves in any of the following circumstances, and the parties shall also have the right to apply for their recusal:

- (1) Being a party or representative in the case, or a close relative of a party or representative;
- (2) Has an interest in the case;

- (3) Where the arbitrator has other relationships with a party or representative to the case that may affect impartial arbitration;
- (4) They have privately met with a party or representative, or accepted hospitality or gifts from a party or representative.

Article 47

Where a party applies for recusal, they shall state the grounds and submit the application before the first hearing. Where the grounds for recusal become known after the first hearing, the application may be submitted before the conclusion of the final hearing.

Article 48

The decision on whether an arbitrator shall recuse themselves shall be made by the Director of the arbitration institution. Where the Director serves as an arbitrator, the decision on their recusal shall be made collectively by the other members of the arbitration institution.

Article 49

Where an arbitrator is unable to perform his or her duties due to recusal or other reasons, a new arbitrator shall be selected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Following the reappointment or designation of an arbitrator due to recusal, a party may request that the arbitration proceedings already conducted be repeated. The arbitral tribunal shall decide whether to grant such a request; alternatively, the arbitral tribunal may itself decide whether to repeat the proceedings already conducted.

Article 50

Where an arbitrator falls under the circumstances specified in Article 46(4) of this Law and the circumstances are serious, or where an arbitrator falls under the circumstances specified in Article 71(1)(6) of this Law, the arbitrator shall bear legal liability in accordance with the law, and the arbitration institution shall expel the arbitrator.

Section III Hearings and Awards

Article 51

Arbitration shall be conducted in open court. Where the parties agree not to hold a hearing, the arbitral tribunal may render an award based on the statement of claim, statement of defence and other materials.

Article 52

Arbitration proceedings shall not be conducted in public. Where the parties agree to public proceedings, they may be conducted in public, except where they involve state secrets, another person's trade secrets, or personal privacy.

Article 53

The arbitration institution shall notify both parties of the hearing date within the time limit prescribed by the arbitration rules. A party may, within the time limit prescribed by the arbitration rules, request a postponement of the hearing for justifiable reasons. The decision on whether to postpone shall be made by the arbitral tribunal.

Article 54

Where the claimant, having been notified in writing, fails to appear without justifiable reason or withdraws from the hearing without the tribunal's permission, the claim may be deemed withdrawn.

Where the respondent, having been notified in writing, fails to attend the hearing without justifiable cause or withdraws from the hearing without the permission of the arbitral tribunal, a default award may be rendered.

Article 55

The parties shall furnish evidence in support of their claims.

Where the arbitral tribunal deems it necessary to collect evidence, it may do so on its own initiative; where necessary, it may request relevant authorities to provide assistance in accordance with the law.

Article 56

A party may apply to the arbitral tribunal for an expert appraisal on specialised issues concerning the ascertainment of facts. Where the arbitral tribunal, upon application by a party or on its own initiative, deems an expert appraisal necessary for specialised issues, it may refer the matter to an appraiser agreed upon by the parties or appoint an appraiser itself.

Upon the request of a party or the requirement of the arbitral tribunal, and after notification by the arbitral tribunal, the expert witness shall attend the hearing. With the permission of the arbitral tribunal, a party may put questions to the expert witness.

Article 57

Evidence shall be presented during hearings, and parties may cross-examine it.

Article 58

Where evidence may be lost or become difficult to obtain subsequently, a party may apply for preservation of evidence. Upon such an application, the arbitration institution shall submit the application to the basic-level people's court where the evidence is located, which shall handle it promptly in accordance with the law.

Where circumstances are urgent, parties to an arbitration agreement may apply to the people's court for evidence preservation in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China prior to applying for arbitration. Where a party applies for evidence preservation, the people's court shall handle the matter promptly in accordance with the law.

Article 59

Parties shall have the right to present arguments during the arbitration proceedings. Upon conclusion of the arguments, the presiding arbitrator or sole arbitrator shall solicit the final views of the parties.

Article 60

The arbitral tribunal shall record the proceedings in minutes. Where a party or other participant in the arbitration considers that there is an omission or error in the record of their statements, they shall have the right to apply for a correction. If the correction is not granted, the application shall be recorded.

The minutes shall be signed or sealed by the arbitrators, the recorder, the parties, and other participants in the arbitration.

Article 61

Where the arbitral tribunal discovers that a party has fabricated fundamental facts in its application for arbitration, or that parties have colluded maliciously with the intent to infringe upon national interests, public interests, or the lawful rights and interests of others through arbitration, it shall dismiss the arbitration claim.

Article 62

After filing an arbitration application, the parties may settle the dispute amicably. Where a settlement agreement is reached, they may request the arbitral tribunal to render an award based on the settlement agreement, or may withdraw the arbitration application.

Article 63

Where the parties have reached a settlement agreement and subsequently regret their withdrawal of the arbitration application, they may apply for arbitration pursuant to the arbitration agreement.

Article 64

The arbitral tribunal may conduct mediation prior to rendering an award. Where the parties voluntarily agree to mediation, the tribunal shall conduct mediation. Where mediation fails, the tribunal shall promptly render an award.

Where an agreement is reached through mediation, the arbitral tribunal shall prepare a mediation document or render an award based on the terms of the agreement. The mediation document and the award shall have equal legal effect.

Article 65

The mediation document shall specify the arbitration claims and the outcome agreed by the parties. It shall be signed by the arbitrators, bear the seal of the arbitration institution, and be served on both parties.

The mediation document shall take legal effect upon receipt and signature by both parties.

Where a party reneges before signing the mediation document, the arbitral tribunal shall promptly render an award.

Article 66

The award shall be made in accordance with the opinion of the majority of arbitrators, and the dissenting opinions of the minority arbitrators may be recorded in the minutes. Where the arbitral tribunal is unable to form a majority opinion, the award shall be made in accordance with the opinion of the presiding arbitrator.

Article 67

The award shall state the arbitration claim, the facts of the dispute, the reasons for the award, the outcome of the award, the allocation of arbitration costs, and the date of the award. Where the parties agree not to state the facts of the dispute and the reasons for the award, these may be omitted. The award shall be signed by the arbitrators and bear the seal of the arbitration institution. Arbitrators who disagree with the award may sign or refrain from signing.

Article 68

Where, in adjudicating a dispute, part of the facts are already clear, the arbitral tribunal may render an award on that part first.

Article 69

Where the award contains clerical or computational errors, or omits matters already adjudicated by the tribunal, the tribunal shall rectify such errors or omissions. A party may request the tribunal to rectify such errors or omissions within thirty days of receiving the award.

Article 70

The award shall take legal effect from the date of its issuance.

Chapter V Application for Setting Aside an Award

Article 71

Where a party submits evidence proving that the award falls under any of the following circumstances, it may apply to the Intermediate People's Court at the location of the arbitration institution for the setting aside of the award:

- (1) There is no arbitration agreement;

- (2) The matters adjudicated fall outside the scope of the arbitration agreement or the arbitration institution lacks jurisdiction;
- (3) The composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitral proceedings violated statutory procedures;
- (4) The evidence relied upon in the award is forged;
- (5) The opposing party concealed evidence that could have affected the fairness of the award;
- (6) An arbitrator solicited or accepted bribes, acted in collusion with a party, or rendered an unjust award during the arbitration proceedings.

Where a People's Court, upon examination by a collegiate panel, verifies that the award falls under any of the foregoing circumstances, it shall rule to set aside the award. Where the People's Court determines that the award contravenes public interest, it shall rule to set aside the award.

Article 72

A party applying for the setting aside of an award shall do so within three months of receiving the award.

Article 73

The People's Court shall make a ruling to revoke the award or dismiss the application within two months from the date of accepting the application for revocation.

Article 74

Where, after accepting an application for setting aside an award, the People's Court considers that the matter may be re-arbitrated by the arbitral tribunal, it shall notify the arbitral tribunal to conduct re-arbitration within a specified period and shall rule to stay the period to conduct re-arbitration and shall rule to suspend the annulment proceedings. Where the arbitral tribunal commences re-arbitration, the people's court shall rule to terminate the annulment proceedings.

Should the arbitral tribunal refuse to conduct the re-arbitration, the people's court shall rule to resume the annulment proceedings.

Chapter VI Enforcement

Article 75

The parties shall perform the award. Where one party fails to perform, the other party may apply to the people's court for enforcement in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China. The people's court receiving the application shall enforce the award.

Article 76

Where the respondent submits evidence proving that the award falls under any of the circumstances specified in Article 71(1) of this Law, the people's court shall, after examination and verification by a collegiate panel, rule that enforcement shall not proceed.

Where the People's Court determines that enforcement of the arbitration award would contravene the public interest, it shall rule that enforcement shall not proceed.

Article 77

Where one party applies for enforcement of the award and the other party applies for its revocation, the people's court shall rule to stay enforcement.

Where the People's Court rules to set aside an award, it shall rule to terminate enforcement. Where an application to set aside an award is dismissed by ruling, the People's Court shall rule to resume enforcement.

Chapter VII Special Provisions on Foreign-Related Arbitration

Article 78

The arbitration of foreign-related economic, trade, transport, maritime disputes and other foreign-related disputes shall be governed by the provisions of this Chapter; where no provision is made in this Chapter, other relevant provisions of this Law shall apply.

Article 79

Where a party to a foreign-related arbitration applies for the preservation of evidence, the arbitration institution shall submit the application to the intermediate people's court where the evidence is located, which shall handle the matter promptly in accordance with the law.

Article 80

The arbitral tribunal in a foreign-related arbitration may record the proceedings in full or in summary form. The summary record may be signed or sealed by the parties and other participants in the arbitration.

Article 81

The parties may agree in writing on the place of arbitration. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties on the governing law of the arbitration proceedings, the place of arbitration shall serve as the basis for determining the governing law of the arbitration proceedings and the court with jurisdiction. The arbitral award shall be deemed to have been made at the place of arbitration.

Where the parties have not agreed on the place of arbitration or where such agreement is unclear, the place of arbitration shall be determined in accordance with the arbitration rules agreed by the parties; where the arbitration rules do not provide for this, the arbitral tribunal shall determine the place of arbitration based on the circumstances of the case and in accordance with the principle of convenience for dispute resolution.

Article 82

For foreign-related maritime disputes or foreign-related disputes arising between enterprises registered within free trade pilot zones, Hainan Free Trade Port, or other areas designated by the State and established with the approval of the State Council, where the parties have agreed to arbitration in writing, they may choose to have the dispute arbitrated by an arbitration institution; or they may elect the People's Republic of China as the place of arbitration, with the arbitral tribunal composed of persons meeting the conditions prescribed by this Law and proceeding in accordance with the agreed arbitration rules. Such tribunal shall, within three working days after its constitution, file with the arbitration association the names of the parties, the place of arbitration, the composition of the tribunal, and the arbitration rules.

Where a party applies for the preservation of property or evidence, or requests an order requiring the other party to perform or refrain from performing a specific act, the arbitral tribunal shall submit the application to the people's court in accordance with the law, and the people's court shall handle it promptly in accordance with the law.

Article 83

Where a party submits evidence proving that a foreign-related arbitral award falls under any of the following circumstances, the People's Court shall, upon examination and verification by a collegiate panel, issue a ruling to set aside the award:

- (1) There is no arbitration agreement;
- (2) The respondent was not notified of the appointment of arbitrators or of the commencement of arbitration proceedings, or was unable to present its case for reasons not attributable to the respondent;

- (3) The composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitral procedure did not comply with the arbitration rules;
- (4) The matters adjudicated fall outside the scope of the arbitration agreement or the arbitral institution lacks jurisdiction. Where the People's Court determines that the award contravenes public interest, it shall rule to set it aside.

Article 84

Where the respondent submits evidence proving that the foreign-related arbitration award involves any of the circumstances specified in Article 83(1) of this Law, the People's Court shall, after examination and verification by a collegiate panel, rule that the award shall not be enforced.

Where the People's Court determines that enforcement of the award would contravene public interest, it shall rule that enforcement shall not be granted.

Article 85

Where an arbitral award made within the territory of the People's Republic of China has become legally effective and a party requests its enforcement, and where the party against whom enforcement is sought or its property is not within the territory of the People's Republic of China, the party may apply directly to a foreign court having jurisdiction for recognition and enforcement.

Article 86

Arbitration institutions shall be supported in establishing business entities outside the territory of the People's Republic of China to conduct arbitration activities.

In accordance with the needs of economic and social development and reform and opening up, foreign arbitration institutions may be permitted to establish business offices in areas such as the pilot free trade zones and Hainan Free Trade Port approved by the State Council, and to conduct foreign-related arbitration activities in accordance with relevant national regulations.

Article 87

Parties to foreign-related arbitration are encouraged to select arbitration institutions of the People's Republic of China (including Special Administrative Regions) and to agree to conduct arbitration in the People's Republic of China (including Special Administrative Regions) as the place of arbitration.

Article 88

Where an arbitral award rendered outside the territory of the People's Republic of China has become legally effective and requires recognition and enforcement by a People's Court, the parties may apply directly to the Intermediate People's Court at the place of residence of the party against whom enforcement is sought or at the location of their property. Where the place of residence of the party against whom enforcement is sought or their property is not within the territory of the People's Republic of China, the parties may apply to the Intermediate People's Court at the place of residence of the applicant or at a place with a proper connection to the dispute to which the award relates. The People's Court shall handle such applications in accordance with international treaties concluded or acceded to by the People's Republic of China, or on the basis of reciprocity.

Where foreign arbitration institutions impose restrictions or discrimination upon the lawful rights and interests of citizens, legal persons, or other organisations of the People's Republic of China, the relevant authorities of the People's Republic of China shall have the right to apply the principle of reciprocity to the citizens, enterprises, and other organisations of that country.

Chapter VIII Supplementary Provisions

Article 89

The term "arbitration institution" as used in this Law shall include arbitration committees, arbitration courts and other institutions established in accordance with the law.

Article 90

Where the law provides for a limitation period for arbitration, such provisions shall apply; where no such provisions exist, the provisions governing limitation periods for litigation shall apply.

Article 91

Arbitration institutions may formulate arbitration rules in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Law and the Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China, taking into account the Model Arbitration Rules established by the China Arbitration Association.

Article 92

The parties shall pay arbitration fees in accordance with the prescribed regulations.

Arbitration institutions shall formulate methods for collecting arbitration fees in accordance with relevant national regulations.

Article 93

Labour dispute arbitration, arbitration of rural land contract management disputes, and sports arbitration shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Mediation and Arbitration Law of the People's Republic of China on Labour Disputes, the Mediation and Arbitration Law of the People's Republic of China on Rural Land Contract Management Disputes, the Sports Law of the People's Republic of China, and other pertinent laws.

Article 94

Arbitration institutions and arbitration tribunals may handle international investment arbitration cases in accordance with the arbitration rules agreed upon by the disputing parties, subject to the provisions of relevant international investment treaties and agreements concerning the submission of investment disputes to arbitration.

Article 95

Violations of the registration management provisions for arbitration institutions shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant laws and administrative regulations.

Article 96

This Law shall come into force on 1 March 2026.