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INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
(IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES) ACT 1948
(SECTION 2)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
(IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES)
(PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION)
ORDER 2007

ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph

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[1 October 2007]

Citation

1. This Order is the International Organisations (Immunities and Privileges) (Permanent Court of Arbitration) Order 2007.

Definitions

2. In this Order —

“Administrative Council” means the Administrative Council of the Permanent Court of Arbitration;

“Deputy Secretary-General” means the deputy to the head of the International Bureau;

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“International Bureau” means the International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration;

“Official of the PCA” means —

- (a) the Secretary-General;
- (b) any PCA Legal Officer; or
- (c) any member of the staff of the International Bureau;

“Permanent Court of Arbitration” or “PCA” means the Permanent Court of Arbitration based in The Hague;

“PCA Adjudicator” means any arbitrator, mediator, conciliator or member of a fact-finding commission of inquiry taking part in any hearing, meeting or other activity in relation to any PCA Proceeding;

“PCA Agreement” means the Host Country Agreement between the Government and the Permanent Court of Arbitration dated on 25 April 2022;

“PCA Legal Officer” means any legal officer of the PCA appointed to serve in Singapore by the PCA pursuant to the PCA Agreement;

“PCA Office” means the PCA Office in Singapore for the Promotion of Dispute Resolution through the Mechanisms of the Permanent Court of Arbitration;

“PCA Proceeding” means any dispute resolution proceeding administered by or under the auspices of the PCA in which one or more of the parties is or are a State, a State-controlled entity or an intergovernmental organisation;

“policy of insurance” means a policy of insurance in respect of third-party risks which complies with the requirements of the Motor Vehicles (Third-Party Risks and Compensation) Act 1960;

“Secretary-General” means the head of the International Bureau.

Status of PCA

3.—(1) The PCA is an organisation of which the Government and the governments of foreign sovereign Powers are members.

(2) The PCA (including the PCA Office, as an organ of the PCA) has the legal capacities of a body corporate.

Immunities and privileges of PCA and PCA Office

4.—(1) The PCA and the PCA Office, including —

- (a) the property and assets of the PCA;
- (b) any office or meeting space provided by the Government for any activity undertaken in connection with any PCA Proceeding; and
- (c) any office space provided by the Government for any PCA Legal Officer and staff supporting any PCA Legal Officer to discharge their official duties,

are immune from suit and legal process.

(2) The immunity mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) does not apply —

- (a) where there is an express waiver of the immunity by the PCA in any particular case; or
- (b) in the case of a civil action arising out of any accident caused by a motor vehicle belonging to, or operated on behalf of, the PCA, where any damages claimed are not recoverable under any policy of insurance in force in relation to the use of that motor vehicle.

(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (6), the official archives of the PCA (including all documents and electronic data belonging to or held by the PCA), and the official premises of the PCA, have the same inviolability as is accorded in respect of the official archives and premises of an envoy of a foreign sovereign Power accredited to the President.

(4) The property and assets of the PCA, wherever located and by whomsoever held, are immune from search, confiscation, expropriation or other form of judicial constraint, except where there is an express waiver of the immunity by the PCA in a particular case.

(5) Subject to sub-paragraph (7), the PCA is exempt from any prohibition or restriction on the importation or exportation of its publications or goods which it imports or exports for its official use.

(6) Despite sub-paragraph (3), the PCA must not permit its official premises to be used as a refuge for avoiding arrest under the laws of Singapore or in any other manner incompatible with those laws.

(7) All goods to which sub-paragraph (5) applies must not be sold in Singapore except under conditions agreed between the Government and the PCA.

(8) The PCA enjoys the same exemption or relief from the following taxes as is accorded to a foreign sovereign Power:

- (a) income tax on all income (including incidental interest), if any, derived from Singapore;
- (b) customs and excise duties on all goods (excluding liquor and tobacco) imported by the PCA for its official use in Singapore;
- (c) goods and services tax on all goods (excluding liquor and tobacco) imported by, and all services provided to, the PCA for its official use in Singapore;
- (d) property tax and stamp duty in relation to all properties (excluding any office and meeting space provided by the Government for any activity undertaken in connection with any PCA Proceeding, and any office space provided by the Government for any PCA Legal Officer to discharge the PCA Legal Officer's official duties) which are owned or leased by the PCA in its own name;
- (e) subject to sub-paragraph (9), all vehicle taxes and fees in respect of a motor vehicle imported or purchased by the PCA for its official use in Singapore.

(9) Where the PCA has enjoyed any exemption or relief mentioned in sub-paragraph (8)(e) in respect of a motor vehicle, the PCA does not enjoy that exemption or relief in respect of any other motor vehicle within 4 years starting from the date on which the PCA becomes the registered owner of the firstmentioned motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act 1961.

Immunities and privileges of Officials of PCA and PCA Adjudicators

5.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), every Official of the PCA and every PCA Adjudicator have —

- (a) immunity from suit and legal process in respect of all words spoken or written and all acts done by him or her in the course of the performance of his or her official duties; and
- (b) exemption from income tax in respect of all salaries, allowances and other emoluments paid to him or her by the PCA,

except insofar as in any particular case that immunity or privilege is waived —

- (c) in the case of an Official of the PCA other than the Secretary-General, or in the case of a PCA Adjudicator — by the Secretary-General; or
- (d) in the case of the Secretary-General — by the Administrative Council.

(2) The immunity under sub-paragraph (1)(a) continues to apply even after the person mentioned in that sub-paragraph ceases to be an Official of the PCA or a PCA Adjudicator, as the case may be.

(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General are accorded, in addition, in respect of themselves, their spouses and their children under 21 years of age —

- (a) the like immunity from suit and legal process;
- (b) the like inviolability of residence; and

(c) the like exemption or relief from taxes,
as are accorded to an envoy of a foreign sovereign Power accredited to the President and the envoy's spouse and children, except insofar as in any particular case that privilege is waived —

(d) in the case of the Deputy Secretary-General or his or her spouse or children under 21 years of age — by the Secretary-General; or

(e) in the case of the Secretary-General or his or her spouse or children under 21 years of age — by the Administrative Council.

(4) No immunity or privilege under sub-paragraph (1)(b) or (3) may be enjoyed by —

(a) any person who is a citizen or permanent resident of Singapore; or

(b) where the Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary-General is a citizen or permanent resident of Singapore — his or her spouse or children.

COMPARATIVE TABLE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
(IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES)
(PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION)
ORDER 2007

This subsidiary legislation has undergone renumbering in the 2026 Revised Edition. This Comparative Table is provided to help readers locate the corresponding provisions in the previous version.

2026 Ed.	S 519/2007
5—(2)	5—(1A)
(3)	(2)
(4)	(3)