



SABA
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY

BULLETIN

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UAE | INTRODUCING THE NEW FEDERAL ARBITRATION LAW



Federal Law no. 6 of 2018, better known as the Federal Arbitration Law, entered into force in the United Arab Emirates on June 14, 2018. Before that, arbitration, which was commonplace in the UAE despite not having a dedicated law, was governed by Articles 203 to 218 of the Civil Procedures Code of 1992.

The new Law, which is broadly based on the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and in consistency with its provisions, provides for limited grounds to rescind an arbitral award, and grants the arbitral tribunal the authority to rule on its own jurisdiction. Furthermore, the Law includes provisions designed to promote efficiency in arbitration and to prevent significant delays.

As to the scope of its application, the Law applies to domestic and international arbitration proceedings. Furthermore, the Law grants the arbitral tribunal extended powers within and according to the parties' agreement.

The Law brings the UAE's arbitration framework in line with international practice. This is indicative of the country's aspiration to position itself as an arbitration hub, both locally, regionally, and internationally.

ETHIOPIA | COUNTRY INSIGHTS



Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa, is one of the fastest growing states among the 188 International Monetary Fund member countries. This growth, which has been driven by the government's investment in infrastructure, as well as sustained progress in the agricultural and service sectors, is expected to keep rising in the years to come.

Ethiopia's annual GDP growth averaged 10.9 percent over the past year. The country's GDP is US\$80.87 billion, while the GDP per capita is US\$2,200. The GDP composition is 35.8 percent for agriculture, 22.2 percent for industry, and 42 percent for services.

Foreign exchange earnings are led by the services sector and by the export of several commodities. While coffee remains the largest foreign exchange earner, Ethiopia is diversifying its exports. Commodities such as gold, sesame, livestock, and horticulture products are becoming increasingly important for the growing economy. Manufacturing represented less than eight percent of total exports in 2016, but manufacturing exports are expected to increase in future years due to an international presence that is significantly growing in Ethiopia.

The East African nation recently attracted US\$8.5 billion in foreign direct investment. Investment in the country has been primarily in infrastructure, construction, agriculture, textiles, and leather.

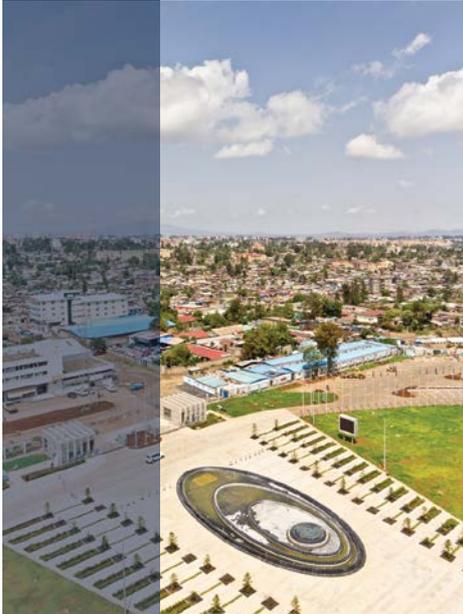
In the fall of 2015, the Ethiopian government finalized and published the current 2016-20 five-year plan, known as the Growth and Transformation Plan II, which emphasizes developing manufacturing in sectors where Ethiopia has a comparative advantage, such as textiles and garments, leather goods, and processed agricultural products.

Ethiopia maintains a relatively comprehensive regulatory and legislative system for the protection of trademarks, patents, designs, and copyrights, and is a party to the World Intellectual Property Organization. The country also maintains an observer status at the World Trade Organization. Accordingly, IP is an important avenue for nourishing the economy in Ethiopia.

On the trademarks front, Ethiopia follows the Trademark Registration and Protection Proclamation of 2006, which is implemented by Ministerial Resolution no. 273 of 2012. The 10th edition of the Nice classification is in force and multiclass applications are acceptable. Trademark examination is performed on formal, absolute, and relative grounds and oppositions may be filed within 60 days from publication date.

ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIA | COUNTRY INSIGHTS



ETHIOPIA

The protection term for a trademark is seven years from filing date and is renewable for like periods. As for use, it is not a requirement for registration or renewal, but trademarks are vulnerable to a cancellation action by any interested party if there has been no effective use of the mark for a period of three consecutive years preceding date of filing for cancellation.

A legalized Power of Attorney is required for trademark registration, along with a certified copy of corresponding home or foreign registration, with verified English translation. It is worth noting that claiming priority is possible.

As for patents, two types of patents are available in Ethiopia: Patents of Invention and Patents of Importation. The protection term for a patent is 15 years from filing date and is extendable for five years. Although Ethiopia is not a member of the Paris Union, priority may still be claimed from a foreign patent application filed not more than twelve months previously. Additionally, Ethiopia is not a member of the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Absolute novelty is required for patentability in Ethiopia. However, novelty will not be destroyed if the disclosure of the invention to the public occurred not earlier than twelve months preceding the filing date or, where applicable, the priority date. Filing requirements for Patents of Invention are a legalized Power of Attorney, specification, claims and abstract in English, International Patent Classification, and formal drawings - if applicable, along with a legalized Assignment of Invention and a legalized Certificate of Incorporation. The priority document with a verified English translation may be submitted within three months from the date of filing.

As for Patents of Importation, the filing requirements are the same as for the Patents of Invention, with the exception of having to submit a certified copy of basic foreign granted patent. The Assignment of Invention is not required for Patents of Importation.

Ethiopia, as aforementioned, remains a country with high aspirations that welcomes foreign investments. A healthy balance between the latter and local development is bound to be beneficial for the country's own growth. The proper application and enforcement of IP laws should help Ethiopia become more of an innovative hub in East Africa and lead to this required healthy financial balance.

SAUDI ARABIA | THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEITS DESTROYED BEFORE REACHING CONSUMERS

SAUDI ARABIA

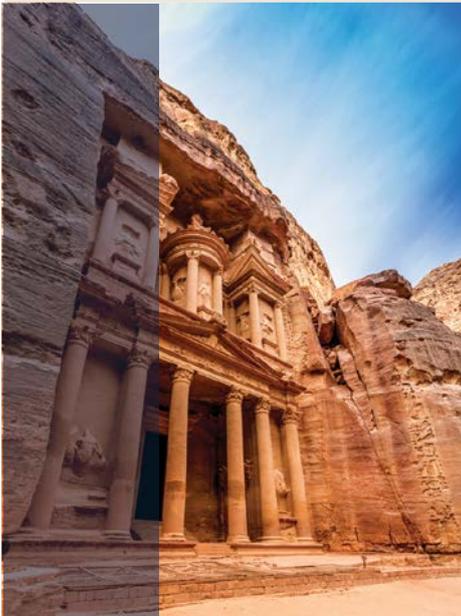
In their continuous efforts to protect intellectual property rights in Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Commerce and Investment recently seized more than 17,000 counterfeit products bearing well-known brand names.

The authorities concerned at the MCI will be taking the necessary legal procedures and referring the cases to public prosecution, as this activity is considered a violation of the Anti-Commercial Fraud Law and the GCC Trademark Law.

Penalties of such illegal activities may result in up to three-year imprisonment, a fine of up to one million riyals, which is equivalent to US\$266,655, and defamation in two local newspapers at the expense of the defendant.



JORDAN | REDUCED REGISTRATION FEES FOR INTERNATIONALIZED COUNTRY CODE TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN



In an effort to promote the registration of the internationalized country code top-level domain (".alurdun"), the Jordan National Information Technology Center announced a reduction in the registration fees.

Furthermore, the protection term was reduced to one year instead of two years.

The table below offers more information on Arabic domain names in the Middle East and North Africa.

COUNTRY	TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN	REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT	PROTECTION TERM	LOCAL PRESENCE
EGYPT	.misr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name and particulars of the applicant Name and title of the authorized signatory Power of attorney, notarized in case the applicant is of Egyptian Nationality; while for the others, the POA should be legalized up the Egyptian Consulate Copy of corresponding certificate of registration 	1-5 years depending on the registrar	Required
JORDAN	.alurdun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power of attorney, legalized A copy of the certificate of registration of trademark Copy of certificate of incorporation of the domain name owner The primary name server and secondary name server and their IP addresses 	1 year, then renewable every year	Not Required
PALESTINE	.falasteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of the corresponding home registration certificate of the mark, certified 	To be announced	To be announced
QATAR	.qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The registrant contacts, admin contacts, tech contacts and the DNS/IP details Copy of the corresponding certificate of registration inside/outside Qatar 	Renewed annually	Not Required
SAUDI ARABIA	.alsauodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power of attorney, simply signed A letter addressed to Saudi Network Information Center, completed on applicant's letterhead, simply signed, with company seal Copy of the corresponding certificate of registration or copy of the corresponding certificate of incorporation or extract from the commercial register 	Unlimited	Required

JORDAN

JORDAN | REDUCED REGISTRATION FEES FOR INTERNATIONALIZED COUNTRY CODE TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN



JORDAN

COUNTRY	TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN	REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT	PROTECTION TERM	LOCAL PRESENCE
TUNISIA	.tunis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power of attorney, simply signed by the applicant• A Tunisian application OR a Tunisian registration but in ARABIC language	1 year, then renewable every year	Not Required
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	.emarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter of Authorization or power of attorney• Copy of the corresponding certificate of registration	1-5 years	Not Required

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