

Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize of the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards Motion, 2021.

WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards was adopted by a United Nations diplomatic conference on 10th June 1958, and entered into force on 7th June 1959;

AND WHEREAS, the objective of the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards is to require courts of contracting states to give effect to private agreements to arbitrate and to recognize and enforce arbitration awards made in other contracting states;

AND WHEREAS, in 1980, prior to Independence the then Legislature amended the Arbitration Act to add Part III and the Fourth Schedule which set out the Convention *en toto* with the expressed intention “to give effect to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards”;

AND WHEREAS, The New York Convention had been ratified by the United Kingdom on 24th September 1975, and made applicable to Belize by Notice of Territorial Application (in the form of a Declaration by the United Kingdom) which was received by the Secretary General of the United Nations on 26th November 1980, some six weeks after the enactment of the 1980 Ordinance;

AND WHEREAS, since 1980 the Convention has been a part of the Laws of Belize but it has never been ratified by Belize;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize is desirous of completing the formalities by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention;

AND WHEREAS, section 61(A) (2) (a) of the Belize Constitution, as amended by the Belize Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Act (No. 13 of 2008), provides that the Senate shall authorize the ratification of any treaty by the Government of Belize;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, a full text of which is hereto annexed.