The Bilateral Investment Treaty between Spain and Costa Rica: Legal Framework

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1. INVESTOR AND INVESTMENT CONCEPTS

Investor

A) Individual: national legislation of each Party (Art. I.1.a)

B) Legal person (profit or nonprofit): constitution and establishment in the host State (Art. I.1.b)
Investment

Broad definition:
A) Direct investment + Portfolio investment (Art. I.2)

B) Movable and immovable property, mortgages, shares, intellectual property rights… (Art. I.2)
2. TERRITORIAL AND TEMPORAL APPLICATION

Territorial application

Three-dimensional concept
(territory, air and maritime spaces)
(Art. I.4)
Temporal application

A) **Investments** made *before* and *after* the entry into force of the BIT (Art. II.4)

B) **Disputes** arisen *after* the entry into force of the BIT (Art. XI)
2. TERRITORIAL AND TEMPORAL APPLICATION

Temporal application

*In case of termination*

Investments made during the term of the BIT will be protected 10 additional years

(Art. XII.3)
3. THE DUTIES OF PROMOTION AND PROTECTION

A) Promotion
   (general clause) (Art. II.1)
B) Information (Art. II.2)
C) Admission
   (according to legislation of the Host State) (Art. II.3)
3. THE DUTIES OF PROMOTION AND PROTECTION

Protection

A) Fair and Equitable Treatment (Art. III)

B) National Treatment (Art. IV)

C) Most-Favored Nation Treatment (excludes Maffezini effect) (Art. IV)
3. THE DUTIES OF PROMOTION AND PROTECTION

D) Discriminatory Expropriation/Nationalization/Measure of equivalent effect (Art. V)

E) Compensation for losses (Art. VI)

F) Repatriation of investments (Art. VII)
3. THE DUTIES OF PROMOTION AND PROTECTION

Exceptions to MF Treatment

A) Any customs union/free trade area (Art. IV.3)
B) International agreements or national legislation on taxation (Art. IV.3)
4. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Inter State (Art. X)

- Diplomatic Channels (within 6 months)
- Arbitral Tribunal
4. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Investor - State (Art. XI)

No fork-in-the-road

- National Courts (Host State)
- ICSID Tribunal
- UNCITRAL Tribunal
5. OTHER PROVISIONS

Subrogation

State of origin (or designated Agency) may guarantee and pay their national investors and then claim or exercise rights against the Host State (Art. IX).
5. OTHER PROVISIONS

Umbrella clause

Each Contracting Party shall observe any written contractual obligation it may have entered into with regard to investments of the other Contracting Party (Art. III.2 *in fine*)
5. OTHER PROVISIONS

Favor inversionis

Any most favorable treatment granted to the investor by International or national Law shall prevail over the BIT (Art. VIII)