

# **SYNTHESISED TEXT OF THE MULTILATERAL CONVENTION TO IMPLEMENT TAX TREATY RELATED MEASURES TO PREVENT BASE EROSION AND PROFIT SHIFTING AND THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

## **General disclaimer on the Synthesised text document**

This document presents the synthesised text for the application of the Agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Finland for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income signed on 26 May 1995 (the “Agreement”), as modified by the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting signed by the Republic of South Africa and by the Republic of Finland on 7 June 2017 (the “MLI”).

The document was prepared on the basis of the MLI position of the Republic of South Africa submitted to the Depositary upon ratification on 30 September 2022 and of the MLI position of the Republic of Finland submitted to the Depositary upon ratification on 25 February 2019. These MLI positions are subject to modifications as provided in the MLI. Modifications made to MLI positions could modify the effects of the MLI on the Agreement.

The sole purpose of this document is to facilitate the understanding of the application of the MLI to the Agreement and it does not constitute a source of law. The authentic legal texts of the Agreement and the MLI take precedence and remain the legal texts applicable.

The provisions of the MLI that are applicable with respect to the provisions of the Agreement are included in boxes throughout the text of this document in the context of the relevant provisions of the Agreement. The boxes containing the provisions of the MLI have generally been inserted in accordance with the ordering of the provisions of the OECD Model Tax Convention.

Changes to the text of the provisions of the MLI have been made to conform with the terminology used in the MLI to the terminology used in the Agreement (such as “Covered Tax Agreement” and “Convention”, “Contracting Jurisdictions” and “Contracting States”), to ease the comprehension of the provisions of the MLI. The changes in terminology are intended to increase the readability of the document and are not intended to change the substance of the provisions of the MLI. Similarly, changes have been made to parts of provisions of the MLI that describe existing provisions of the Agreement. Descriptive language has been replaced by legal references of the existing provisions to ease the readability.

In all cases, references made to the provisions of the Agreement or to the Agreement must be understood as referring to the Agreement as modified by the provisions of the MLI, provided such provisions of the MLI have taken effect.

## References

The authentic legal text of the MLI can be found on the following hyperlink [Multilateral Instrument](#). The South African DTAs and Protocols can be accessed through the following path [www.sars.gov.za](http://www.sars.gov.za) ⇒ Legal Counsel ⇒ International Treaties & Agreements ⇒ Double Taxation Agreements & Protocols.

The MLI position of the Republic of South Africa submitted to the Depository upon ratification on 30 September 2022 and of the MLI position of the Republic of Finland submitted to the Depository upon ratification on 25 February 2019 and the consolidated MLI position of Finland submitted to the Depository on 27 June 2023 can be found on the MLI Depository (OECD) webpage [Signatories and Parties to the MLI](#).

### Disclaimer on the entry into effect of the provisions of the MLI

#### Entry into Effect of the MLI Provisions

The provisions of the MLI applicable to the Agreement do not take effect on the same dates as the original provisions of the Agreement. Each of the provisions of the MLI could take effect on different dates, depending on the types of taxes involved (taxes withheld at source or other taxes levied) and on the choices made by the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Finland in their MLI positions.

Dates of the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval: 30 September 2022 for the Republic of South Africa and 25 February 2019 for the Republic of Finland.

Entry into force of the MLI: 1 January 2023 for the Republic of South Africa and 1 June 2019 for the Republic of Finland.

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the MLI, the provisions of the MLI (other than paragraph 4 of Article 9) have effect in the Republic of South Africa with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2023; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of South Africa, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 July 2023.

In accordance with paragraph 1 and 3 of Article 35 of the MLI, the provisions of the MLI (other than paragraph 4 of Article 9) have effect in Republic of Finland with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2023; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Finland, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024.

In accordance with paragraph 9 of Article 28 and paragraph 6 of Article 29 of the MLI, paragraph 4 of Article 9 of the MLI has effect in the Republic of South Africa with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of South Africa, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024.

In accordance with paragraph 9 of Article 28 and paragraph 6 of Article 29 of the MLI, paragraph 4 of Article 9 of the MLI has effect in the Republic of Finland with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Finland, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND  
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION  
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

**Preamble**

The Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Finland desiring to promote and strengthen the economic relations between the two countries and **[MODIFIED by paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI]** [desiring to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income,]

**The following paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI replaces the text referring to an intent to eliminate double taxation in the preamble language of this Convention:**

**ARTICLE 6 OF THE MLI - PURPOSE OF A COVERED TAX AGREEMENT**

Intending to eliminate double taxation with respect to the taxes covered by this Agreement without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance (including through treaty-shopping arrangements aimed at obtaining reliefs provided in this Agreement for the indirect benefit of residents of third jurisdictions),

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**

***Personal Scope***

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

**Article 2**

***Taxes Covered***

1. The existing taxes to which this Agreement shall apply are:

(a) in Finland:

- (i) the state income taxes (valtion tuloverot; de statliga inkomstskatterna);
- (ii) the corporate income tax (yhteisöjen tulovero; inkomstskatten för samfund);
- (iii) the communal tax (kunnallisvero; kommunalskatten);
- (iv) the church tax (kirkollisvero; kyrkoskatten);

- (v) the tax withheld at source from interest (korkotulon lähdevero; källskatten på ränteinkoms t); and
- (vi) the tax withheld at source from non -residents' income (rajoitetusti verovelvollisen lähdevero; källskatten för begränsat skattskyldig);

(hereinafter referred to as "Finnish tax");

(b) in South Africa:

- (i) the normal tax;
- (ii) the non-resident shareholders' tax; and
- (iii) the secondary tax on companies;

(hereinafter referred to as "South African tax").

2. The Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

### **Article 3**

#### ***General Definitions***

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the term "Finland" means the Republic of Finland and, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory of the Republic of Finland, and any area adjacent to the territorial waters of the Republic of Finland within which, under the laws of Finland and in accordance with international law, the rights of Finland with respect to the exploration for and exploitation of the natural resources of the sea bed and its sub-soil and of the superjacent waters may be exercised;
- (b) the term "South Africa" means the Republic of South Africa and, when used in a geographical sense, includes the territorial sea thereof as well as any area outside the territorial sea, including the continental shelf, which has been or may hereafter be designated, under the laws of South Africa and in accordance with international law, as an area within which South Africa may exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction;
- (c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Finland or South Africa, as the context requires;
- (d) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a company or body corporate for tax purposes;
- (e) the term "competent authority" means:
  - (i) in Finland, the Ministry of Finance, its authorised representative or the authority which, by the Ministry of Finance, is designated as competent authority;
  - (ii) in South Africa, the Commissioner for Inland Revenue or his authorised representative;

- (f) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State
- (g) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
- (h) the term "national" means:
  - (i) any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
  - (ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;
- (i) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons.

2. As regards the application of the provisions of the Agreement by a Contracting State at any time, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has at that time under the laws of that State concerning the taxes to which the Agreement applies.

#### **Article 4**

##### ***Residence***

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means:
  - (a) in the case of Finland, any person who, under the income tax laws of Finland, is unlimitedly liable to tax therein; the term does not, however, include any person who is liable to tax in Finland in respect only of income from sources in Finland;
  - (b) in the case of South Africa, any individual who is ordinarily resident in South Africa and any other person (excluding a partnership) which has its place of effective management in South Africa.
  
2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:
  - (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
  - (b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he does not have a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has an habitual abode;
  - (c) if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State of which he is a national;
  - (b) if he is a national of both States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.
  
3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement and determine the mode of application of the Agreement to such person.

## Article 5

### *Permanent Establishment*

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the business of the enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.
2. The term "permanent establishment" includes especially:
  - (a) a place of management;
  - (b) a branch;
  - (c) an office;
  - (d) a factory;
  - (e) a workshop; and
  - (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.
3. A building site or a construction, installation or assembly project or any supervisory activity in connection with such site or project constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than twelve months.
4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:
  - (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
  - (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
  - (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
  - (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or collecting information, for the enterprise;
  - (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;
  - (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.
6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

7. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

## **Article 6**

### ***Income from Immovable Property***

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include buildings, property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources. Ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. Where the ownership of shares or other corporate rights in a company entitles the owner of such shares or corporate rights to the enjoyment of immovable property held by the company, the income from the direct use, letting or use in any other form of such right to enjoyment may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the immovable property is situated.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.

## **Article 7**

### ***Business Profits***

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries or carried on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries or carried on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries or carried on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

5. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

6. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

## **Article 8**

### ***Shipping and Air Transport***

1. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.

2. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State from the use or rental of containers (including trailers, barges and related equipment for the transport of containers) used for the transport of goods or merchandise shall be taxable only in that State, except where such containers are used for the transport of goods or merchandise solely between places within the other Contracting State.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

## **Article 9**

### ***Associated Enterprises***

1. Where:

- (a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
- (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State and taxes accordingly profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits, if that other State considers the adjustment justified. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

## **Article 10**

### ***Dividends***

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- (a) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company which holds at least 10 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
- (b) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, as long as an individual resident in Finland is entitled to a tax credit in respect of dividends paid by a company resident in Finland, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Finland to a resident of South Africa shall be taxable only in South Africa if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

4. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights participating in profits (not being debt claims), as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

6. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except in so far as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or in so far as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

## **Article 11**

### ***Interest***

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State if such resident is the beneficial owner of the interest.

2. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt -claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purposes of this Article.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

4. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

5. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## **Article 12**

### ***Royalties***

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State if such resident is the beneficial owner of the royalties.

2. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work (including cinematograph films and films, tapes or discs for radio or television broadcasting), any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

4. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

5. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## **Article 13**

### ***Capital Gains***

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. **[REPLACED by paragraph 4 of Article 9 of the MLI]** [Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares or other corporate rights in a company the assets of which consist mainly of immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.]

**The following paragraph 4 of Article 9 of the MLI applies and supersedes the provisions of paragraph 2 Article 13 of this Agreement:**

**ARTICLE 9 OF THE MLI – CAPITAL GAINS FROM ALIENATION OF SHARES OR INTERESTS OF ENTITIES DERIVING THEIR VALUE PRINCIPALLY FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

For purposes of this Agreement, gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares or comparable interests, such as interests in a partnership or trust, may be taxed in the other Contracting State if, at any time during the 365 days preceding the alienation, these shares or comparable interests derived more than 50 per cent of their value directly or indirectly from immovable property situated in that other Contracting State.

3. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other State.
4. Gains derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in that State.
5. Gains derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the alienation of containers (including trailers, barges and related equipment for the transport of containers) used for the transport of goods or merchandise shall be taxable only in that State, except where such containers are used for the transport of goods or merchandise solely between places within the other Contracting State.
6. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in the preceding paragraphs of this Article, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

**Article 14**

***Independent Personal Services***

1. Income derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State unless he has or had a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has or had such a fixed base, the income may be taxed in the other State but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base. For the purposes of this provision, where an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State is present in the other Contracting State for a period or periods exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve -month period commencing or ending in the tax year concerned, he shall be deemed to have a fixed base regularly available to him in that other State and the income that is derived from the aforementioned services or activities that are performed in that other State during such period or periods shall be attributable to that fixed base.

2. The term "professional services" includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

## **Article 15**

### ***Dependent Personal Services***

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 19, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:

- (a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the tax year concerned, and
- (b) the remuneration is paid by or on behalf of an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and
- (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State may be taxed in that State.

## **Article 16**

### ***Directors' Fees***

Directors' fees and other similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors or any other similar organ of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

## **Article 17**

### ***Entertainers and Sportsmen***

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14 and 15, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

## **Article 18**

### ***Pensions, Annuities and Social Welfare Payments***

1. Any:

- (a) pension and other similar payment arising in a Contracting State,
- (b) benefit, whether periodic or lump-sum compensation, awarded under the social security legislation of a Contracting State or under any public scheme organised by a Contracting State for social welfare purposes, or
- (c) annuity arising in a Contracting State, shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. The term "annuity" as used in this Article means a stated sum payable periodically at stated times during life, or during a specified or ascertainable period of time, under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth.

## **Article 19**

### ***Government Service***

1. (a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.

(b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the individual is a resident if the services are rendered in that State and the individual:

- (i) is a national of that State; or
- (ii) did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

2. The provisions of Articles 15 and 16 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

## **Article 20**

### ***Students, Apprentices and Business Trainees***

A student, apprentice or business trainee who is present in a Contracting State solely for the purpose of his education or training and who is, or immediately before being so present was, a resident of the other Contracting State, shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned State on payments received from outside that first-mentioned State for the purposes of his maintenance, education or training.

## **Article 21**

### ***Other Income***

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

## **Article 22**

### ***Elimination of Double Taxation***

Double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

- (a) In Finland:
- (i) Where a resident of Finland derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in South Africa, Finland shall, subject to the provisions of item (ii) of this subparagraph, allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that person an amount equal to the tax on income paid in South Africa. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the tax on the income, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in South Africa.
  - (ii) Dividends paid by a company being a resident of South Africa to a company which is a resident of Finland and which controls directly at least 10 per cent of the voting power in the company paying the dividends shall be exempt from Finnish tax.
  - (iii) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Agreement, an individual who is a resident of South Africa and under Finnish taxation law with respect to the Finnish taxes referred to in Article 2 is also regarded as resident in Finland, may be taxed in Finland. However, Finland shall allow any South African tax paid on income as a deduction from Finnish tax in accordance with the provisions of item (i) of this subparagraph. The provisions of this item shall apply only to nationals of Finland.
  - (iv) Where in accordance with any provision of the Agreement income derived by a resident of Finland is exempt from tax in Finland, Finland may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of such person, take into account the exempted income.
- (b) In South Africa, Finnish taxes paid by residents of South Africa in respect of income taxable in Finland, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, shall be deducted from the taxes due according to South African fiscal law. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed an amount which bears to the total South African tax payable the same ratio as the income concerned bears to the total income.

## **Article 23**

### ***Non-discrimination***

1. Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith, which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.
2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities.
3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 5 of Article 11 or paragraph 5 of Article 12 apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned State.
4. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of that first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.
5. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.
6. In this Article the term "taxation" means taxes which are the subject of this Agreement.

## **Article 24**

### ***Mutual Agreement Procedure***

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 23, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.
2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at an appropriate solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs. When it seems advisable in order to reach agreement to have an oral exchange of opinions, such exchange may take place through a commission consisting of representatives of the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

## **Article 25**

### ***Exchange of Information***

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by the Agreement in so far as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by the Agreement. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws or the administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*).

## **Article 26**

### ***Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts***

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of diplomatic missions or consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

**The following paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the MLI applies and supersedes the provisions of this Agreement:**

**ARTICLE 7 OF THE MLI – PREVENTION OF TREATY ABUSE  
(PRINCIPAL PURPOSES TEST PROVISION)**

Notwithstanding any provisions of this Agreement, a benefit under this Agreement shall not be granted in respect of an item of income if it is reasonable to conclude, having regard to all relevant facts and circumstances, that obtaining that benefit was one of the principal purposes of any arrangement or transaction that resulted directly or indirectly in that benefit, unless it is established that granting that benefit in these circumstances would be in accordance with the object and purpose of the relevant provisions of this Agreement.

**Article 27**

***Entry into Force***

1. Each of the Contracting States shall notify to the other the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force fifteen days after the date of the later of these notifications.

2. The provisions of the Agreement shall have effect:

(a) in Finland:

- (i) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of income derived on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force;
- (ii) with regard to other taxes on income, in respect of taxes chargeable for any tax year beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force;

(b) in South Africa:

- (i) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force;
- (ii) with regard to other taxes, in respect of years of assessment beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force.

3. The Agreement between the Government of Finland and the Government of the Union of South Africa for the avoidance of double taxation on the income derived from shipping and aircraft, concluded by exchange of notes dated 3 March 1952, shall not have effect for any period for which the present Agreement has effect.

## Article 28

### *Termination*

1. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely but either of the Contracting States may terminate the Agreement through the diplomatic channel, by giving to the other Contracting State written notice of termination not later than 30 June of any calendar year starting five years after the year in which the Agreement entered into force.

2. In such event the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

(a) in Finland:

- (i) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of income derived on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the year in which such notice is given;
- (ii) with regard to other taxes on income, in respect of taxes chargeable for any tax year beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the year in which such notice is given;

(b) in South Africa:

- (i) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the year in which such notice is given;
- (ii) with regard to other taxes, in respect of years of assessment beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the year in which such notice is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Helsinki, this 26th day of May 1995, in the English language.

(Signed) A.B.Nzo  
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Signed) T.K.Halonen  
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF FINLAND