

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION  
AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION  
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

NOTE

Date of Conclusion: 21 March 2006

Entry into Force: 29 February 2008

Effective Date: 1 January 2009

NOTE

Singapore and Malta signed the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (commonly known as the “Multilateral Instrument” or in short, the “MLI”) on 7 June 2017. Singapore and Malta ratified the MLI on 21 December 2018 and 18 December 2018 respectively.

More information on the MLI is available at <https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/Quick-Links/International-Tax/Multilateral-Instrument/>.

The Income Tax (Singapore-Malta) (Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement) Order 2019, which has entered into force on 1 April 2019, implements the applicable provisions of the MLI to the articles of this Agreement. For informational purposes, details of the amendments to this Agreement are shown in Annex A.

NOTE

The Protocol signed on 20 November 2009 has entered into force on 28 June 2013 and its provisions shall take effect from 28 June 2013.

The text of the Protocol signed on 20 November 2009 is shown in Annex B.

The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of Malta,

Desiring to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income,

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. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.
2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income, or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property.
3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are :
  - (a) in Malta :
    - the income tax(hereinafter referred to as "Malta tax");
  - (b) in Singapore :
    - the income tax(hereinafter referred to as "Singapore tax").
4. 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 “Malta” means the Republic of Malta and, when used in a geographical sense, means the Island of Malta, the Island of Gozo and other Maltese islands including the territorial waters thereof, as well as any area of the sea-bed, its sub-soil and the superjacent water column adjacent to the territorial waters, wherein the Republic of Malta may, in accordance with international law, exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction with respect to the exploration and exploitation of natural resources;
  - (b) the term “Singapore” means the territories of the Republic of Singapore, the territorial waters of Singapore and the sea bed and sub-soil of the territorial waters, and when used in a geographical sense includes any area extending beyond the limits of the territorial waters of Singapore, and the sea bed and sub-soil of any such area, which has been or may hereafter be designated under the laws of Singapore and in accordance with international law as an area over which Singapore has sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring and exploiting the natural resources, whether living or non-living;
  - (c) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean Malta or Singapore as the context requires;
  - (d) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
  - (e) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
  - (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 “competent authority” means:
    - (i) in the case of Malta, the Minister responsible for finance or his authorised representative;
    - (ii) in the case of Singapore, the Minister for Finance or his authorised representative;
  - (i) 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.

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

#### **ARTICLE 4 - RESIDENT**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature.
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 only 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 has not a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only 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 only of the State of which he is a national;
  - (d) in any other case, 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, then it shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which its place of effective management is situated.

## 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 an 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 including an offshore drilling site.
3. The term “permanent establishment” shall include:
  - (a) a building site, a construction or installation or assembly project, or supervisory services connected therewith, but only if such site or project or services last more than nine months;
  - (b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose, but only where activities of that nature continue (for the same or a connected project) within a Contracting State for a period or periods aggregating more than six months within any twelve-month period.
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 of 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 sub-paragraphs (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 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, boats 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. 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 on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries 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 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 determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions all expenses, including executive and general administrative expenses, which would be deductible if the permanent establishment were an independent enterprise, insofar as they are reasonably allocable to the permanent establishment, whether incurred in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.
4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 derived from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.
2. For the purposes of this Article, profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall include:
  - (a) profits from the rental on a bareboat basis of ships and aircraft; and
  - (b) profits from the use, maintenance or rental of containers (including trailers and related equipment for the transport of containers), used for the transport of goods or merchandise;

where such rental or such use, maintenance or rental, as the case may be, is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic.
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. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting State 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.
2. 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. Under the full imputation system adopted currently by both Contracting States, where dividends are paid by a company which is a resident of one Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State who is the beneficial owner of such dividends, the tax on the gross amount of the dividends in the first-mentioned State shall not exceed the tax chargeable on the profits or income of the company out of which the dividends are paid.
3. Under the full imputation system adopted by both Contracting State, there is no final withholding tax on dividends in addition to the tax chargeable in respect of the profits or income of the company out of which the dividends are paid. If, subsequent to the signing of the Agreement, any of the Contracting States introduces a final withholding tax on dividends in addition to the tax chargeable in respect of the profits or income of the company, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of such Contracting State to the Government of the other Contracting State shall be exempt from such final withholding tax in the first-mentioned State.
4. For the purposes of paragraph 3, the term "Government" :
  - (a) in the case of Malta, means the Government of Malta and shall include:
    - (i) the Central Bank of Malta;
    - (ii) the Malta Enterprise;
    - (iii) a statutory body or any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Malta as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States.
  - (b) in the case of Singapore, means the Government of Singapore and shall include:
    - (i) the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Board of Commissioners of Currency;
    - (ii) the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte Ltd;
    - (iii) a statutory body or any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Singapore as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States.
5. The provision of this Article shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.
6. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares, mining shares, founders' shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, 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 State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

7. The provisions of paragraph I 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.
8. 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 insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar 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 the company's 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 may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest the tax so charged shall not exceed :
  - (a) 7 per cent of the gross amount of the interest if it is received by a bank;
  - (b) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest in all other cases.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to the Government of the other Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.
4. For the purposes of paragraph 3, the term "Government":
  - (a) in the case of Malta, means the Government of Malta and shall include :
    - (i) the Central Bank of Malta;
    - (ii) the Malta Enterprise;
    - (iii) a statutory body or any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Malta as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States.
  - (b) in the case of Singapore, means the Government of Singapore and shall include :
    - (i) the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Board of Commissioners of Currency;
    - (ii) the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte Ltd;
    - (iii) a statutory body or any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Singapore as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States.
5. 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 purpose of this Article.
6. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 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.

7. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority, a statutory body 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 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.
8. 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 may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalties, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.
3. 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, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 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.
5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority, a statutory body 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 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 Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.
6. 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 Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares (other than shares traded on a recognised Stock Exchange) deriving at least 75 per cent of their value directly or indirectly from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other 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 from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 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. However, such income may be taxed in the other Contracting State in the following circumstances:
  - (a) if he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities; in that case, only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other State; or
  - (b) if his stay in the other State is for a period or periods exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the calendar year concerned; in that case, only so much of the income as is derived from his activities performed in that other State may be taxed in that other State.
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 calendar 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 shall be taxable only in that State. However, if the remuneration is derived by a resident of the other Contracting State, it may also be taxed in that other 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 of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

## **ARTICLE 17 - ARTISTES AND SPORTSMEN**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 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 or in connection with personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman 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.
3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to income derived from activities exercised in a Contracting State if the visit to that State is directly or indirectly supported wholly or substantially from the public funds of the other Contracting State, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

## **ARTICLE 18 - PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS**

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that State.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, pensions paid and other payments made under the social security legislation of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

## 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 or a statutory body thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority or body shall be taxable only in that State.  
  
(b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:
  - (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. (a) Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority or a statutory body thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority or body shall be taxable only in that State.  
  
(b) However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that State.
  
3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16 and 18 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, and to pensions, in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

## **ARTICLE 20 - STUDENTS AND BUSINESS APPRENTICES**

A student or business apprentice 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.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement and arising in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

## ARTICLE 22 - ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

1. In the case of Malta, double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

Subject to the provisions of the law of Malta regarding the allowance of a credit against Malta tax in respect of foreign tax, where, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, there is included in a Malta assessment income from sources within Singapore, the Singapore tax on such income shall be allowed as a credit against the relative Malta tax payable thereon.

2. In the case of Singapore, double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

Where a resident of Singapore derives income from Malta which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in Malta, Singapore shall, subject to its laws regarding the allowance as a credit against Singapore tax of tax payable in any country other than Singapore, allow the Malta tax paid, whether directly or by deduction, as a credit against the Singapore tax payable on that income of the resident. Where such income is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Malta to a resident of Singapore, no credit shall be given unless the beneficial owner of the dividend is a company owning directly or indirectly not less than 10 per cent of the share capital of the first-mentioned company.

3. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2, the term "Singapore tax" or "Malta tax", as the context requires, shall be deemed to include the tax which is otherwise payable in Singapore or Malta, as the case may be, had it not been reduced or exempted by that Contracting State under its legal provisions for tax incentives.
4. The provisions of paragraph 3 shall apply for the first ten years for which this Agreement has effect, and shall continue to apply thereafter for further periods of five years. Either Contracting State may terminate the application of the provisions of paragraph 3 by giving notice in writing at least six months before the expiry of the ten-year period or any subsequent five-year period, as the case may be. In such event, the provisions of paragraph 3 shall cease to apply on the expiry of the relevant ten-year or five-year period.

## 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 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. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to:
  - (a) residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which it grants to its own residents; or
  - (b) nationals of the other Contracting State those personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which it grants to its own nationals who are not residents of that State or to such other person as may be specified in the taxation laws of that State.
4. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 8 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 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.
5. 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 the first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.
6. Where a Contracting State grants tax incentives to its nationals designed to promote economic or social development in accordance with its national policy and criteria, it shall not be construed as discrimination under this Article.

## **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 a satisfactory 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.

## 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 insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. Any information so 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 and 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.

## **ARTICLE 27 - ENTRY INTO FORCE**

1. Each of the Contracting States shall notify the other, through diplomatic channels, that the procedures required by its law for the entry into force of this Agreement have been complied with.
2. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the later of the notifications referred to in paragraph 1 and its provisions shall have effect in respect of tax chargeable for any year of assessment beginning on or after the first day of January in the second calendar year following the year in which the Agreement enters into force.

## **ARTICLE 28 - TERMINATION**

This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting State. Either Contracting State may terminate the Agreement, through diplomatic channels, by giving notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year beginning after the expiration of a period of five years from the date on which the Agreement enters into force. In such event, the Agreement shall cease to have effect in respect of tax chargeable for any year of assessment beginning on or after the first day of January in the second calendar year following the year in which the notice is given.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

**DONE** in duplicate at Singapore on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2006 in the English language.

**For the Government of  
the Republic of Singapore**

**For the Government of  
Malta**

## PROTOCOL

At the moment of signing the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, this day concluded between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of Malta, the undersigned have agreed that the following provisions shall form an integral part of the Agreement.

### Article 10

- (a) It is understood that both Singapore and Malta currently adopt the full imputation system regarding the taxation of company profits and the subsequent distribution of dividends to the company's shareholders. Under the imputation system, the amount of dividend chargeable to tax in the shareholder's hands is the aggregate of the amount of the dividend and the amount of the tax paid or payable by the company on the profits or income out of which dividend is paid. Such tax is set off against the shareholder's tax liability on all income chargeable to tax.
- (b) For the purposes of paragraph 2, it is understood that in the case of Singapore, where the dividend is a dividend paid out of the profits or income exempt from tax or taxed at a reduced rate under the laws designed to promote economic development and such dividend is paid on a share of a preferential nature, the "tax chargeable on the profits or income of the company out of which the dividends are paid" shall be deemed to include the tax which would have been paid but for the exemption or reduction under such laws.

### Article 23

With reference to paragraph 4, it is understood that, for the purposes of allowing deduction of a payment of expenses to a non-resident, nothing in the said paragraph shall be construed as preventing Singapore from imposing any obligation to withhold tax from such a payment.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

**DONE** in duplicate at Singapore on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2006 in the English language.

**For the Government of  
the Republic of Singapore**

**For the Government of  
Malta**

# ANNEX A

## Effects of the MLI on this Agreement

### 1. Deletion and replacement of the Preamble

The preamble of this Agreement is deleted and replaced by the following preamble:

“The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of Malta,

Desiring to further develop their economic relationship and to enhance their co-operation in tax matters,

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:”.

### 2. Amendment of Article 9

Paragraph 2 of Article 9 (Associated Enterprises) of this Agreement is deleted and replaced by the following paragraph:

“2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that Contracting State — and taxes accordingly — profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other Contracting State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned Contracting State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Contracting State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. 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.”.

### 3. New Articles 24A to 24H (arbitration provisions)

The following articles shall be inserted immediately after Article 24 (Mutual Agreement Procedure). However, the articles shall not apply to this Agreement if a Contracting State raises an objection under Article 28(2)(b) of the MLI to the reservations that had been made by the other Contracting State under Article 28(2)(a) of the MLI. Such an objection may be raised by:

- (a) Singapore, by 17 December 2019; or
- (b) Malta, by 20 December 2019.

## **“ARTICLE 24A – MANDATORY BINDING ARBITRATION**

1. Where:
  - (a) under Article 24 (Mutual Agreement Procedure), a person has presented a case to the competent authority of a Contracting State on the basis that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States have resulted for that person in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement; and
  - (b) the competent authorities are unable to reach an agreement to resolve that case pursuant to Article 24 (Mutual Agreement Procedure) within a period of two years beginning on the start date referred to in paragraph 8 or 9, as the case may be (unless, prior to the expiration of that period the competent authorities of the Contracting States have agreed to a different time period with respect to that case and have notified the person who presented the case of such agreement),

any unresolved issues arising from the case shall, if the person so requests in writing, be submitted to arbitration in the manner described in this Article and Articles 24B to 24H, according to any rules or procedures agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting States pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 10.

2. Where a competent authority has suspended the mutual agreement procedure referred to in paragraph 1 because a case with respect to one or more of the same issues is pending before court or administrative tribunal, the period provided in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 will stop running until either a final decision has been rendered by the court or administrative tribunal or the case has been suspended or withdrawn. In addition, where a person who presented a case and a competent authority have agreed to suspend the mutual agreement procedure, the period provided in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 will stop running until the suspension has been lifted.

3. Where both competent authorities agree that a person directly affected by the case has failed to provide in a timely manner any additional material information requested by either competent authority after the start of the period provided in sub paragraph (b) of paragraph 1, the period provided in sub paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 shall be extended for an amount of time equal to the period beginning on the date by which the information was requested and ending on the date on which that information was provided.

4.
  - (a) The arbitration decision with respect to the issues submitted to arbitration shall be implemented through the mutual agreement concerning the case referred to in paragraph 1. The arbitration decision shall be final.
  - (b) The arbitration decision shall be binding on both Contracting States except in the following cases:
    - (i) if a person directly affected by the case does not accept the mutual agreement that implements the arbitration decision. In such a case, the case shall not be eligible for any further consideration by the competent authorities. The mutual agreement that implements the arbitration decision on the case shall be considered not to be accepted by a person directly affected by the case if any person directly affected by the case does not, within 60 days after the date on which notification of the mutual agreement is sent to the person, withdraw all issues

resolved in the mutual agreement implementing the arbitration decision from consideration by any court or administrative tribunal or otherwise terminate any pending court or administrative proceedings with respect to such issues in a manner consistent with that mutual agreement.

- (ii) if a final decision of the courts of one of the Contracting States holds that the arbitration decision is invalid. In such a case, the request for arbitration under paragraph 1 shall be considered not to have been made, and the arbitration process shall be considered not to have taken place (except for the purposes of Articles 24C (Confidentiality of Arbitration Proceedings) and 24G (Costs of Arbitration Proceedings)). In such a case, a new request for arbitration may be made unless the competent authorities agree that such a new request should not be permitted.
- (iii) if a person directly affected by the case pursues litigation on the issues which were resolved in the mutual agreement implementing the arbitration decision in any court or administrative tribunal.

5. The competent authority that received the initial request for a mutual agreement procedure as described in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 1 shall, within two calendar months of receiving the request:

- (a) send a notification to the person who presented the case that it has received the request; and
- (b) send a notification of that request, along with a copy of the request, to the competent authority of the other Contracting State.

6. Within three calendar months after a competent authority receives the request for a mutual agreement procedure (or a copy thereof from the competent authority of the other Contracting State) it shall either:

- (a) notify the person who has presented the case and the other competent authority that it has received the information necessary to undertake substantive consideration of the case; or
- (b) request additional information from that person for that purpose.

7. Where pursuant to sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 6, one or both of the competent authorities have requested from the person who presented the case additional information necessary to undertake substantive consideration of the case, the competent authority that requested the additional information shall, within three calendar months of receiving the additional information from that person, notify that person and the other competent authority either:

- (a) that it has received the requested information; or
- (b) that some of the requested information is still missing.

8. Where neither competent authority has requested additional information pursuant to sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 6, the start date referred to in paragraph 1 shall be the earlier of:

- (a) the date on which both competent authorities have notified the person who presented the case pursuant to sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 6; and

- (b) the date that is three calendar months after the notification to the competent authority of the other Contracting State pursuant to sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 5.

9. Where additional information has been requested pursuant to sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 6, the start date referred to in paragraph 1 shall be the earlier of:

- (a) the latest date on which the competent authorities that requested additional information have notified the person who presented the case and the other competent authority pursuant to sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 7; and
- (b) the date that is three calendar months after both competent authorities have received all information requested by either competent authority from the person who presented the case.

If, however, one or both of the competent authorities send the notification referred to in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 7, such notification shall be treated as a request for additional information under sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 6.

10. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement (pursuant to Article 24 (Mutual Agreement Procedure)) settle the mode of application of the provisions contained in this Article and Articles 26B to 26H, including the minimum information necessary for each competent authority to undertake substantive consideration of the case. Such an agreement shall be concluded before the date on which unresolved issues in a case are first eligible to be submitted to arbitration and may be modified from time to time thereafter.

11. Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this Article:

- (a) any unresolved issue arising from a mutual agreement procedure case otherwise within the scope of the arbitration process provided for by this Agreement shall not be submitted to arbitration, if a decision on this issue has already been rendered by a court or administrative tribunal of either Contracting State;
- (b) if, at any time after a request for arbitration has been made and before the arbitration panel has delivered its decision to the competent authorities of the Contracting States, a decision concerning the issue is rendered by a court or administrative tribunal of one of the Contracting States, the arbitration process shall terminate.

12. The provisions of this Article and Articles 24B to 24H shall not apply —

- (a) to any case involving the application of Singapore's general anti-avoidance rules contained in section 33 of the Act, case law or juridical doctrines, and any subsequent provisions (as notified by Singapore to the Depositary of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting done at Paris on 24 November 2016 (as amended from time to time)) that replace, amend or update these anti-avoidance rules.
- (b) to any case involving the application of any law of Malta (or any subsequent provisions which replace, amend or update that law) that is analogous to Singapore's general anti-avoidance rules contained in section 33 of the Act, case law or judicial doctrines, and any subsequent provisions (as notified by Singapore to the Depositary of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent

Base Erosion and Profit Shifting done at Paris on 24 November 2016 (as amended from time to time)) that replace, amend or update these anti-avoidance rules. The competent authority of Malta will consult with the competent authority of Singapore in order to specify any such analogous provisions which exist in Malta's law pursuant to paragraph 10.

13. This Article and Articles 24B to 24H –
- (a) shall have effect with respect to cases presented to the competent authority of a Contracting State under Article 24 (Mutual Agreement Procedure) on or after 1 April 2019; and
  - (b) shall apply to a case presented to the competent authority of a Contracting State under Article 24 prior to 1 April 2019 only to the extent that the competent authorities of both Contracting States agree that it will apply to that specific case.

#### **ARTICLE 24B – APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATORS**

1. Except to the extent that the competent authorities of the Contracting States mutually agree on different rules, paragraphs 2 through 4 shall apply for the purposes of Articles 24A to 24H.

2. The following rules shall govern the appointment of the members of an arbitration panel:

- (a) The arbitration panel shall consist of three individual members with expertise or experience in international tax matters.
- (b) Each competent authority shall appoint one panel member within 60 days of the date of the request for arbitration under paragraph 1 of Article 24A (Mandatory Binding Arbitration). The two panel members so appointed shall, within 60 days of the latter of their appointments, appoint a third member who shall serve as Chair of the arbitration panel. The Chair shall not be a national or resident of either Contracting State.
- (c) Each member appointed to the arbitration panel must be impartial and independent of the competent authorities, tax administrations, and ministries of finance of the Contracting States and of all persons directly affected by the case (as well as their advisors) at the time of accepting an appointment, maintain his or her impartiality and independence throughout the proceedings, and avoid any conduct for a reasonable period of time thereafter which may damage the appearance of impartiality and independence of the arbitrators with respect to the proceedings.

3. In the event that the competent authority of a Contracting State fails to appoint a member of the arbitration panel in the manner and within the time periods specified in paragraph 2 or agreed to by the competent authorities of the Contracting States, a member shall be appointed on behalf of that competent authority by the highest ranking official of the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that is not a national of either Contracting State.

4. If the two initial members of the arbitration panel fail to appoint the Chair in the manner and within the time periods specified in paragraph 2 or agreed to by the competent authorities of the Contracting States, the Chair shall be appointed by the highest ranking official of the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration of the

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that is not a national of either Contracting State.

#### **ARTICLE 24C – CONFIDENTIALITY OF ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS**

1. Solely for the purposes of the application of Articles 24A to 24H and 25 and of the provisions of the domestic laws of the Contracting States related to the exchange of information, confidentiality, and administrative assistance, members of the arbitration panel and a maximum of three staff per member (and prospective arbitrators solely to the extent necessary to verify their ability to fulfil the requirements of arbitrators) shall be considered to be persons or authorities to whom information may be disclosed. Information received by the arbitration panel or prospective arbitrators and information that the competent authorities receive from the arbitration panel shall be considered information that is exchanged under Article 25 (Exchange of Information).

2. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall ensure that members of the arbitration panel and their staff agree in writing, prior to their acting in an arbitration proceeding, to treat any information relating to the arbitration proceeding consistently with the confidentiality and nondisclosure obligations described in Article 25 (Exchange of Information) and under the applicable laws of the Contracting States.

#### **ARTICLE 24D – RESOLUTION OF A CASE PRIOR TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE ARBITRATION**

For the purposes of Articles 24 and 24A to 24H, the mutual agreement procedure, as well as the arbitration proceeding, with respect to a case shall terminate if, at any time after a request for arbitration has been made and before the arbitration panel has delivered its decision to the competent authorities of the Contracting States:

- (a) the competent authorities of the Contracting States reach a mutual agreement to resolve the case; or
- (b) the person who presented the case withdraws the request for arbitration or the request for a mutual agreement procedure.

#### **ARTICLE 24E – TYPE OF ARBITRATION PROCESS**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to reach agreement on the type of arbitration process that shall apply with respect to the Agreement. Until such an agreement is reached, Article 24A shall not apply with respect to the Agreement.

2. Prior to the beginning of arbitration proceedings, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall ensure that each person that presented the case and their advisors agree in writing not to disclose to any other person any information received during the course of the arbitration proceedings from either competent authority or the arbitration panel. The mutual agreement procedure under Article 24, as well as the arbitration proceeding under Articles 24A to 24H, with respect to the case shall terminate if, at any time after a request for arbitration has been made and before the arbitration panel has delivered its decision to the competent authorities of the Contracting States, a person that presented the case or one of that person's advisors materially breaches that agreement.

## **ARTICLE 24F – AGREEMENT ON A DIFFERENT RESOLUTION**

Notwithstanding paragraph 4 of Article 24A (Mandatory Binding Arbitration), an arbitration decision pursuant to Articles 24A to 24H shall not be binding on the Contracting States and shall not be implemented if the competent authorities of the Contracting States agree on a different resolution of all unresolved issues within three calendar months after the arbitration decision has been delivered to them.

## **ARTICLE 24G – COSTS OF ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS**

In an arbitration proceeding under Articles 24A to 24H, the fees and expenses of the members of the arbitration panel, as well as any costs incurred in connection with the arbitration proceedings by the Contracting States, shall be borne by the Contracting States in a manner to be settled by mutual agreement between the competent authorities of the Contracting States. In the absence of such agreement, each Contracting State shall bear its own expenses and those of its appointed panel member. The cost of the chair of the arbitration panel and other expenses associated with the conduct of the arbitration proceedings shall be borne by the Contracting States in equal shares.

## **ARTICLE 24H – COMPATIBILITY**

1. Any unresolved issue arising from a mutual agreement procedure case otherwise within the scope of the arbitration process provided for in this Article and Articles 24A to 24G shall not be submitted to arbitration if the issue falls within the scope of a case with respect to which an arbitration panel or similar body has previously been set up in accordance with a bilateral or multilateral convention that provides for mandatory binding arbitration of unresolved issues arising from a mutual agreement procedure case.
2. Nothing in this Article and Articles 24A to 24G shall affect the fulfilment of wider obligations with respect to the arbitration of unresolved issues arising in the context of a mutual agreement procedure resulting from other conventions to which the Contracting States are or will become parties.”.

#### 4. New Article 26A

The following new Article 26A is inserted immediately after Article 26 (Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts):

### **“ARTICLE 26A – PREVENTION OF TREATY ABUSE**

1. Notwithstanding any provisions of this Agreement, a benefit under this Agreement shall not be granted in respect of an item of income or capital 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.
2. Where a benefit under this Agreement is denied to a person under the provisions of this Agreement that deny all or part of the benefits that would otherwise be provided under this Agreement where the principal purpose or one of the principal purposes of any arrangement or transaction, or of any person concerned with an

arrangement or transaction, was to obtain those benefits, the competent authority of the Contracting State that would otherwise have granted this benefit shall nevertheless treat that person as being entitled to this benefit, or to different benefits with respect to a specific item of income or capital, if such competent authority, upon request from that person and after consideration of the relevant facts and circumstances, determines that such benefits would have been granted to that person in the absence of the transaction or arrangement. The competent authority of the Contracting State to which a request has been made under this paragraph by a resident of the other Contracting State shall consult with the competent authority of the other Contracting State before rejecting the request.”.

5. Entry into effect of the MLI

The effects of the MLI on this Agreement, as laid out in this Annex, shall have effect in Singapore:

- (a) for paragraph 3 of this Annex on the arbitration provisions, with respect to any tax paid, deemed paid or liable to be paid, before, on or after 1 April 2019;
- (b) for all other paragraphs in this Annex:
  - (i) with respect to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid, deemed paid or liable to be paid (whichever is the earliest), on or after 1 January 2020; and
  - (ii) with respect to taxes other than those withheld at source, where the income is derived or received in a basis period beginning on or after 1 October 2019.

# ANNEX B

**PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL  
EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME, WITH PROTOCOL,  
SIGNED AT SINGAPORE ON 21 MARCH 2006**

The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of Malta

Desiring to amend the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of Malta for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, with Protocol, signed at Singapore on 21 March 2006 (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”),

Have agreed as follows:

## **ARTICLE I**

The text of Article 25 (Exchange of Information) of the Agreement is deleted and replaced by the following:

“1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.

2. Any information received under paragraph 1 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) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1, or the oversight of the above. 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.

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

- a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and 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).

4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.”

## **ARTICLE II**

Each of the Contracting States shall notify the other, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of the procedures required by their respective laws for the bringing into force of this Protocol. The Protocol shall enter into force 30 days after the date of the later of such notification.

## **ARTICLE III**

This Protocol, which shall form an integral part of the Agreement, shall remain in force as long as the Agreement remains in force and shall apply as long as the Agreement itself is applicable.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

**DONE** in duplicate at London on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009, in the English language.

**For the Government of  
the Republic of Singapore**

**For the Government of  
Malta**

**H.E. MICHAEL TEO ENG CHENG  
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**H.E. JOSEPH ZAMMIT TABONA  
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF  
MALTA**