

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

Date of Conclusion: 28 November 2006

Entry into Force: 5 October 2007

Effective Date: 1 January 2008

**NOTE**

Singapore and Qatar both 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 and 4 December 2018 respectively. Singapore and Qatar ratified the MLI on 21 December 2018 and 23 December 2019 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 – Qatar) (Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement) (Modifications to Implement Multilateral Instrument) Order 2020, which has entered into force on 1 April 2020, 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 22 September 2009 entered into force on 1 January 2012 and its provisions shall take effect from 1 January 2012.

The text of the second protocol signed on 22 September 2009 is shown in Annex B.

The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the State of Qatar,

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 - Persons Covered**

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.

3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are in particular:

(a) in the case of Singapore:

- the income tax

(hereinafter referred to as "Singapore tax");

(b) in the case of the State of Qatar:

- taxes on income

(hereinafter referred to as "Qatar tax").

4. The Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that 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 that 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 "Singapore" means the Republic of Singapore and when used in a geographical sense, the term "Singapore" includes the territorial waters of Singapore and any area extending beyond the limits of the territorial waters of Singapore, and the sea-bed and subsoil 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;

(b) the term "Qatar" means the State of Qatar's lands, internal waters, territorial sea including its bed and subsoil, the air space over them, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, over which the State of Qatar exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of International law and Qatar's national laws and regulations;

(c) the term "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" means Qatar 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 that 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 that has its place of effective management in 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 Singapore, the Minister for Finance or his authorised representative; and
  - (ii) in the case of the State of Qatar, the Minister of Finance, or his authorized representative;
- (i) the term "national" means:
  - (i) any individual possessing the nationality or citizenship 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 at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that Contracting State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Contracting State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Contracting State.

#### **Article 4 - Resident**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means:
  - (a) in the case of Singapore, a person who is a resident for the purpose of Singapore income tax and also includes the State and any political subdivision, local authority or statutory body thereof; and
  - (b) in the case of the State of Qatar, the State of Qatar, its local authorities, any statutory body thereof and any person who under the laws of the State of Qatar is domiciled or resident in, a citizen of, or having its place of incorporation or management within the State of Qatar.

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 Contracting State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both Contracting States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
- (b) if the Contracting 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 Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which he has an habitual abode;
- (c) if he has an habitual abode in both Contracting States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting 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 Contracting 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;
  - (f) premises used as sales outlet;
  - (g) a farm or plantation; and
  - (h) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of exploration, extraction or exploitation of natural resources.
3. The term "permanent establishment" also includes:
  - (a) a building site, a construction, installation or assembly project, or supervisory activities connected therewith, but only where such site, project or activities lasts for more than 6 months;

- (b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise of a Contracting State 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 the other Contracting State for a period or periods aggregating more than 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the calendar year concerned.

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 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 7 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 Contracting 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. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, an insurance enterprise of a Contracting State except in regard to reinsurance, of a Contracting State, shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if it collects premiums in the territory of that other Contracting State or insures risks situated therein through a person, other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 7 applies.

7. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that Contracting 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. However, when the activities of such an agent are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of that enterprise, and conditions are made or imposed between that enterprise and the agent in their commercial and financial relations which differ from those which would have been made between independent enterprises, he will not be considered an agent of an independent status within the meaning of this paragraph.

8. 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 Contracting 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 situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting 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 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 Contracting 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 Contracting 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 the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deduction 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, which are allowed under the provisions of the domestic law of the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

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 from the operation of ships or aircrafts in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

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

3. Interest on funds connected with the operations of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be regarded as profits derived from the operation of such ships or aircraft, and the provisions of Article 11 shall not apply in relation to such interest.

4. 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 or 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.

## **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 accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1, 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 where the competent authorities of the Contracting States agree, upon consultation, that all or part of 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 agreed profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## **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 shall be taxable only in that other Contracting State.

2. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares, "jouissance" shares or "jouissance" rights, 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 Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 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 Contracting 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.

4. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other Contracting 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 Contracting 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 Contracting 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 Contracting 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 Contracting State.

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.

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 purpose of paragraph 3, the term "Government":

- (a) in the case of Singapore, means the Government of Singapore and shall include:
  - (i) the Monetary Authority of Singapore;
  - (ii) the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte Ltd;
  - (iii) a statutory body; and
  - (iv) any institution wholly or mainly owned, directly or indirectly, by the Government of Singapore as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States.
- (b) in the case of the State of Qatar, means the Government of the State of Qatar and shall include:
  - (i) Qatar Investment Authority;
  - (ii) Qatar Central Bank;
  - (iii) Qatar Retirement Funds;
  - (iv) Qatar Development Bank;
  - (v) a statutory body; and
  - (vi) any institution wholly or mainly owned, directly or indirectly, by the Government of the State of Qatar as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States<sup>1</sup>;

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 Contracting 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to sub-paragraph (b)(vi) of paragraph 4 of Article 11, the competent authorities of the Republic of Singapore and the State of Qatar have come to a mutual agreement that the term "Government" shall include "Qatar Holding LLC" and "QH RE Asset Company LLC". This shall be effective for interest income arising in Singapore and paid to "Qatar Holding LLC" and/or "QH RE Asset Company LLC" from 31 May 2019.

7. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that Contracting 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 Contracting 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 Contracting State.

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, 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, and films, tapes or discs for radio or television broadcasting, any computer software, patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or 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 Contracting 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 a resident of that Contracting 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 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 Contracting State.
2. 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 Contracting State.
3. Gains from the alienation of ships or aircrafts operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircrafts, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
4. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 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 Contracting State except in the following circumstances when such income may also be taxed in the other Contracting State:

- (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 Contracting State; or
- (b) if his stay in the other Contracting 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 Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting 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 Contracting 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 Contracting 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 Contracting State if:
  - (a) the recipient is present in the other Contracting 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 Contracting State; and
  - (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other Contracting 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 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated. However, if the remuneration is derived by a resident of the other Contracting State, it may also be taxed in that other Contracting 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 Contracting State.

## **Article 17 - Artistes And Sportspersons**

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 sportsperson, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by entertainers or sportspersons in their capacities as such accrues not to the entertainers or sportspersons themselves 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 entertainers or sportspersons are exercised.
3. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from activities exercised in the other Contracting State as envisaged in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, shall be exempted from tax in that other Contracting State if the visit to that other Contracting State is supported wholly or substantially by funds of one or both Contracting States, political subdivisions or local authorities or statutory bodies thereof, or takes place under a cultural agreement or arrangement between the Governments of the Contracting States.

## **Article 18 - Pensions**

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned Contracting 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, a local authority or a statutory body thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State, subdivision, authority or body shall be taxable only in that Contracting 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 other Contracting State and the individual is a resident of that other Contracting State who:

- (i) is a national of that other Contracting State; or
- (ii) did not become a resident of that other Contracting 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, a local authority or a statutory body thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or subdivision, authority or body shall be taxable only in that Contracting 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 Contracting State.

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17 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, a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

## **Article 20 - Teachers And Researchers**

1. An individual who is immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who, at the invitation of the Government of the first-mentioned Contracting State or of a recognised University, college, school, museum or other cultural institution in that first-mentioned Contracting State or under an official programme of cultural exchange, is present in that Contracting State for a period not exceeding two consecutive years solely for the purpose of teaching, giving lectures or carrying out research at such institution shall be exempted from tax in that Contracting State on his remuneration for such activity, provided that payment of such remuneration is derived by him from outside that Contracting State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply to income from research if such research is undertaken not in the public interest but primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

## **Article 21 - Students And Trainees**

1. Payments which a student or business apprentice or trainee who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned Contracting State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that Contracting State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that Contracting State.
2. In respect of grants, scholarships and remuneration from employment not covered by paragraph 1, a student, business apprentice or trainee described in paragraph 1 shall be entitled during such education or training to be treated as a resident of the Contracting State which he is visiting.

## **Article 22 - Other Income**

Items of income not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement and arising in a Contracting State may be taxed in that Contracting State.

## **Article 23 - Elimination Of Double Taxation**

1. Double taxation shall be avoided as follows:

- (a) in the case of Singapore:

Where a resident of Singapore derives income from Qatar which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in Qatar, 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 Qatar tax paid, whether directly or by deduction, as a credit against the Singapore tax payable on the income of that resident. Where such income is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Qatar to a resident of Singapore which is a company owning directly or indirectly not less than 10 per cent of the share capital of the first-mentioned company, the credit shall take into account the Qatar tax paid by that company on the portion of its profits out of which the dividend is paid;

- (b) in the case of the State of Qatar:

Where a resident of the State of Qatar derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, is taxable in Singapore, then the State of Qatar shall allow as a deduction from the tax on income of that resident an amount equal to the tax paid in Singapore provided that such deduction shall not exceed that part of the tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income derived from Singapore.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1 of this Article, the terms "Singapore tax paid" and "Qatar tax paid" shall be deemed to include the amount of tax which would have been paid in Singapore or Qatar as the case may be, when an exemption or reduction is granted in accordance with the laws and regulations of that Contracting State that are designed for the promotion of economic development. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply for the first 10 years for which the Agreement is effective. However, the competent authorities of the Contracting States may agree to extend this period.

## **Article 24 - 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 Contracting State in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected.
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 Contracting State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Contracting State carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not 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.
3. 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 Contracting 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 Contracting State are or may be subjected.
4. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 8 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12 apply, interest, royalty 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 Contracting State.
5. The provisions of this Article shall apply to the taxes which are the subject of this Agreement.

## **Article 25 - 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 Contracting 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 24, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within 3 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 26 - 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 received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that Contracting 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, 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 27 - 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 28 - 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.

2. The Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the date of the later of the notifications referred to in paragraph 1 and its provisions shall have effect:

- (a) in the case of Singapore:

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;

- (b) in the case of the State of Qatar:

in respect of income derived during the taxable years beginning on or after the first day of January in the year following that in which this Agreement enters into force.

## **Article 29 - Termination**

This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely, but either of the Contracting States may, on or before the thirtieth day of June in any calendar year beginning after the expiration of a period of five years from the date of its entry into force, give written notice of termination to the other Contracting State through diplomatic channels. In such event, the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

(a) in the case of Singapore:

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 of termination is given;

(b) in the case of the State of Qatar:

in respect of income derived during the taxable years beginning on or after the first day of January in the year following that in which the notice of termination is given.

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

DONE in duplicate at Doha on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 2006 in the Arabic and English languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

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

**Lim Hwee Hua  
Minister of State for Finance and Transport**

**For the Government of  
the State of Qatar**

**Yousef Hussain Kamal  
Minister of Finance**

## **PROTOCOL**

At the moment of signing this 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 the State of Qatar, the undersigned have agreed that the following provisions shall form an integral part of this Agreement:

### **1. With reference to Article 5 (Permanent Establishment)**

In relation to the application of paragraph 2(h) and paragraph 3(b) of Article 5 (Permanent Establishment), with respect to furnishing of services relating to exploration the period test in paragraph 3(b) shall be applicable to the service provider to determine if it has a permanent establishment in that Contracting State unless the service provider is already determined to have a permanent establishment under the principles of paragraph 1 of this Article.

### **2. With reference to Article 23 (Elimination of Double Taxation)**

The Singapore law provides that in the case where an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement exists, the ordinary credit method to eliminate double taxation for residents of Singapore shall be applicable. Under that law, a credit is allowed in respect of Qatar tax paid on income derived from Qatar against the Singapore tax payable on the same income, but the credit allowed shall not exceed the Singapore tax payable on the same income.

### **3. With reference to Article 24 (Non-Discrimination)**

- (a) The two parties agree that the exemption of Qatari and Gulf Cooperation Council nationals from tax under Qatari domestic law shall not be regarded as discrimination under Article 24 of the Agreement.
- (b) Nothing in Article 24 shall be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to 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 Contracting State or to such other persons as may be specified in the taxation laws of that Contracting State.
- (c) The granting by a Contracting State of tax incentives to its nationals designed to promote economic or social development in accordance with its national policy and criteria shall not be construed as discrimination under Article 24.

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

DONE in duplicate at Doha on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 2006 in the Arabic and English languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government of  
the Republic of Singapore**  
**Lim Hwee Hua**  
**Minister of State for Finance and Transport**

**For the Government of  
the State of Qatar**  
**Yousef Hussain Kamal**  
**Minister of Finance**

# **ANNEX A**

## **Effects of the MLI on this Agreement**

### **1. Deletion and replacement of 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 the State of Qatar,

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. New Article 27A**

The following new Article 27A is inserted immediately after Article 27 (Members Of Diplomatic Missions And Consular Posts):

#### **“ARTICLE 27A - 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.”.

### **3. 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) 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 2021; and
- (b) 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 2020.

# **ANNEX B**

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

The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the State of Qatar,

Desiring to amend the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the State of Qatar for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, signed at Doha on 28 November 2006 (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"),

Have agreed as follows:

## **ARTICLE I**

The text of Article 26 of the Agreement is deleted and replaced by the following:

"1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary 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. 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**

The Contracting States shall notify each other in writing, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of the procedures required by their laws for the bringing into force of this Protocol. The Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day from the date of the later of these notifications.

## **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, have signed this Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at Singapore on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2009, in the Arabic and English languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of  
the Republic of Singapore

ENG-TAY GEOK LEE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (BUSINESS)

For the Government of  
the State of Qatar

MOFTAH JASSIM AL MOFTAH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC REVENUES AND TAXES  
DEPARTMENT