

**Income Tax (Singapore — Finland) (Avoidance of Double Taxation Convention)  
Order 1982**

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WHEREAS it is provided by section 49 of the Income Tax Act that if the Minister by order declares that arrangements specified in the order have been made with the Government of any country outside Singapore with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to tax under the Act and any tax of a similar character imposed by the laws of that country, and that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect, the arrangements shall have effect in relation to tax under the Act notwithstanding anything in any written law:

AND WHEREAS by a Convention dated 23rd day of October 1981, between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of Finland, arrangements were made amongst other things for the avoidance of Double

Taxation:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby declared by the Minister for Finance —

- (a) that the arrangements specified in the Schedule to this Order have been made with the Government of the Republic of Finland; and
- (b) that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect notwithstanding anything in any written law.

## THE SCHEDULE

### CONVENTION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AND THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND 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 Republic of Finland,

Desiring to conclude a Convention 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 Convention shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

#### ARTICLE 2

##### TAXES COVERED

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of each Contracting State or of its 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 and taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises.

3. The existing taxes to which the Convention shall apply are:

(a) in Singapore:

the income tax (hereinafter referred to as “Singapore tax”);

(b) in Finland:

(i) the state income tax;

- (ii) the communal tax;
  - (iii) the church tax;
  - (iv) the sailors' tax; and
  - (v) the tax withheld at source from non-residents' income,
- (hereinafter referred to as "Finnish tax").

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

5. If by reason of changes made in the taxation law of either Contracting State, it seems desirable to amend any Article of the Convention without affecting the general principles thereof the necessary amendments may be made by mutual consent by means of an exchange of diplomatic notes or in any other manner in accordance with their constitutional procedures.

### ARTICLE 3

#### GENERAL DEFINITIONS

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

- (a)
  - (i) the term "Singapore" means the Republic of Singapore;
  - (ii) the term "Finland" means the Republic of Finland and, when used in a geographical sense, means any territory in which Finnish taxation law is in force;
- (b) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Singapore or Finland as the context requires;
- (c) the term "person" includes an individual, an undivided estate of a deceased person, a trust, a company and any other body of persons which is treated as an entity for tax purposes;
- (d) the term "company" means any body corporate or any other entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (e) 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;
- (f) the term "competent authority" means:
  - (i) in Singapore, the Minister for Finance or his authorised representative;

- (ii) in Finland, the Ministry of Finance or its authorised representative;
- (g) the term “tax” means Singapore tax or Finnish tax as the context requires;
- (h) the term “national” means:
  - (i) any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
  - (ii) any legal person, partnership and association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;
- (i) the term “profits of an enterprise” does not include rents or royalties in respect of literary or artistic copyrights, motion picture films or of tapes for television or broadcasting or of mines, oil wells, quarries, or other places of extraction of natural resources or of timber or forest produce, or income in the form of dividends, interest, rents, royalties or fees or other payments derived from the management, control or supervision of the trade, business or other activity of any other enterprise or concern or payments for labour or personal services or income derived from the operation of ships or aircrafts;
- (j) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise which 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 or solely between such places and one or more structures used for the exploration or exploitation of natural resources situated in waters adjacent to the territorial waters of that other Contracting State.

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

## ARTICLE 4

### FISCAL DOMICILE

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who is resident in a Contracting State for tax purposes of that Contracting State.
2. Where by reason of the provision of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:
  - (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident of the 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 of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relations are closest (hereinafter referred to as his “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 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, the competent authorities of the two 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, it shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which its place of effective management is situated. If its place of effective management cannot be determined, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

## ARTICLE 5

### PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

1. For the purposes of this Convention, 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 but is not limited to:

- (a) a place of management;
- (b) a branch;
- (c) an office;
- (d) a store or other sales outlet;
- (e) a factory;
- (f) a workshop;
- (g) a warehouse; and
- (h) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.

3. The term “permanent establishment” also includes:

- (a) a building site, or a construction, installation or assembly project, but only where such site or project or any combination of them continues for a period or periods aggregating more than six months within any 12-month period;
- (b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by a resident of a Contracting State through employees or other personnel.

4. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if it carries on supervisory activities in that other Contracting State for a period or periods aggregating more than six months within any 12-month period in connection with a construction, installation or assembly project or any combination of them which are being undertaken in that other Contracting State.

5. 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;