

**SYNTHESISED TEXT OF THE MLI AND THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA  
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION  
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

**General disclaimer on the Synthesised text document**

This document presents the synthesised text for the application of the Agreement between the Republic of Austria and Malaysia for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income signed on 20 September 1989 (the “Agreement”), as modified by the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting signed by the Republic of Austria on 7 June 2017 and by Malaysia on 24 January 2018 (the “MLI”).

This document was prepared jointly by the competent authorities of the Republic of Austria and Malaysia and represents their shared understanding of the modifications made to the Agreement by the MLI.

The document was prepared on the basis of the MLI position of the Republic of Austria submitted to the Depository upon ratification on 22 September 2017, as updated upon notification of extension of the list of agreements on 30 August 2023, and Malaysia submitted to the Depository upon ratification on 18 February 2021, as updated upon notification on 10 November 2022. These MLI positions are subject to modifications as provided in the MLI. Modifications made to MLI positions could modify the effects of the MLI on this Agreement.

The authentic legal texts of the Agreement and the MLI take precedence and remain the legal texts applicable.

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

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

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

**References**

The authentic legal texts of the MLI and the Agreement can be found on the webpage of the Federal Ministry of Finance (<https://www.bmf.gv.at/>).

The MLI position of the Republic of Austria submitted to the Depository upon ratification on 22 September 2017, as updated upon notification of extension of the list of agreements on 30 August 2023, and the MLI position of Malaysia submitted to the Depository upon ratification on 18 February 2021, as updated upon notification on 10 November 2022, can be found on the MLI Depository (OECD) webpage (<http://www.oecd.org/tax/treaties/beps-ml-signatories-and-parties.pdf>).

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

**Entry into Effect of the MLI Provisions**

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

Dates of the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval: 22 September 2017, as updated upon notification of extension of the list of agreements on 30 August 2023, for the Republic of Austria and 18 February 2021, as updated upon notification on 10 November 2022, for Malaysia.

Entry into force of the MLI: 1 July 2018 for the Republic of Austria and 1 June 2021 for Malaysia.

Notification of the updated positions of the Malaysia by the Depository: 10 November 2022.

Notification of the updated positions of the Republic of Austria by the Depository: 30 August 2023.

This document provides specific information on the dates on or after which each of the provisions of the MLI has effect with respect to the Agreement throughout this document.

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

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of Malaysia [**REPLACED by paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI**] [desiring to conclude an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income,]

*The following paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI replaces the text referring to an intent to eliminate double taxation in the preamble of this Agreement:<sup>1</sup>*

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

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

have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**

**Personal Scope**

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

**Article 2**

**Taxes Covered**

- (1) This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed by a Contracting State, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.
- (2) The taxes which are the subject of this Agreement are:
  - a) in Malaysia:
    - i) the income tax and excess profit tax;
    - ii) the supplementary income tax (development tax); and
    - iii) the petroleum income tax; (hereinafter referred to as "Malaysian tax");
  - b) in Austria:
    - i) the income tax (die Einkommensteuer);
    - ii) the corporation tax (die Körperschaftsteuer);
    - iii) the directors' tax (die Aufsichtsratsabgabe); and
    - iv) the tax on commercial and industrial enterprises, including the tax levied on the sum of wages (die Gewerbesteuer einschließlich der Lohnsummensteuer); (hereinafter referred to as "Austrian tax").

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with paragraphs 3 and 5 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI has effect in the Republic of Austria with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Austria, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025;

and,

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI has effect in Malaysia with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by Malaysia, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 30 May 2024.

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

### **Article 3**

#### **General Definitions**

- (1) In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
- a) the term "Malaysia" means the Federation of Malaysia and includes the adjacent territorial waters and the areas of the continental shelf and the waters superjacent to it, over which Malaysia exercises its rights in accordance with international law and the laws of Malaysia;
  - b) the term "Austria" means the Republic of Austria;
  - c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Malaysia or Austria as the context requires;
  - d) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons which is treated as a taxable unit for tax purposes;
  - 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 "tax" means Malaysian tax or Austrian tax, as the context requires;
  - h) the term "national" means:
    - i) any individual possessing the nationality or citizenship of a Contracting State;
    - ii) any legal person, partnership, association and any other entity deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;
  - i) 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;
  - j) the term "competent authority" means:
    - i) in the case of Malaysia, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative; and
    - ii) in the case of Austria, the Federal Minister of Finance.
- (2) In 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 laws 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 residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature. But this term does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State.
- (2) Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:
- a) he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
  - b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has an habitual abode;
  - c) if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State of which he is a national;
  - d) if he is a national of both States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to 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 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;
  - f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources including timber or other forest produce, and
  - g) a farm or plantation.
- (3) A building site or construction, installation or assembly project constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than six months.
- (4) **[REPLACED by paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the MLI]** [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.]

*The following paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the MLI replaces paragraph 4 of Article 5 of this Agreement.<sup>2</sup>*

ARTICLE 13 OF THE MLI - ARTIFICIAL AVOIDANCE OF PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT STATUS THROUGH THE SPECIFIC ACTIVITY EXEMPTIONS

*(Option A)*

Notwithstanding Article 5 of this Agreement, the term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:

- a) the activities specifically listed in paragraph 4 of Article 5 of this Agreement as activities deemed not to constitute a permanent establishment, whether or not that exception from permanent establishment status is contingent on the activity being of a preparatory or auxiliary character;

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with paragraphs 3 and 5 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the MLI has effect in the Republic of Austria with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Austria, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025;

and,

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the MLI has effect in Malaysia with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by Malaysia, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 30 May 2024.

- b) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any activity not described in subparagraph a);
- c) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs a) and b),

provided that such activity or, in the case of subparagraph c), the overall activity of the fixed place of business, is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

- (5) 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 State for more than six months within a calendar year in connection with a construction, installation or assembly project which is being undertaken in that other State.
- (6) A person (other than a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 7 applies) acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned State, if:
- a) he has, and habitually exercises in the first-mentioned State, an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless his activities are limited to the purchase of goods or merchandise for the enterprise;
  - b) he maintains in the first-mentioned State a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise from which he regularly fills orders on behalf of the enterprise.
- (7) An enterprise of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that other State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, where 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, he shall not be considered an agent of an independent status if the transactions between the agent and the enterprise were not made under arm's length conditions.
- (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 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 State.
- (2) For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "immovable property" shall be defined in accordance with the laws 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, oil or gas wells, quarries and other places of the extraction of natural resources including timber or other forest produce. 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 professional 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 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 State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.
- (4) If the information available to the competent authority is inadequate to determine the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment of an enterprise, nothing in this Article shall affect the application of any law of that State relating to the determination of the tax liability of a person by the exercise of a discretion or the making of an estimate by the competent authority, provided that the law shall be applied, so far as the information available to the competent authority permits, in accordance with the principle of 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 derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.
- (2) Income of an enterprise of one of the Contracting States derived from the other Contracting State from the operation of ships in international traffic may be taxed in that other Contracting State, but the tax chargeable in that other State on such income shall be reduced by an amount equal to fifty per cent of such tax.
- (3) Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also apply to the share of the profits from the operation of ships or aircraft derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

## **Article 9**

### **Associated Enterprises**

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.

*The following paragraph 1 of Article 17 of the MLI applies and supersedes the provisions of this Agreement:*<sup>3</sup>

#### ARTICLE 17 OF THE MLI – CORRESPONDING ADJUSTMENTS

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 the Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

### Article 10

#### Dividends

- (1) Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
- (2) Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Austria to a resident of Malaysia may be taxed in Austria in accordance with the laws of Austria but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends the tax so charged shall not exceed:
  - a) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 25 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
  - b) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.
- (3) Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Malaysia to a resident of Austria who is the beneficial owner thereof shall be exempt from any tax in Malaysia which is chargeable on dividends in addition to the tax chargeable in respect of the income of the company. Nothing in this paragraph shall affect the provisions of the Malaysian law under which the tax in respect of a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Malaysia from which Malaysian tax has been, or has been deemed to be, deducted may be adjusted by reference to the rate of tax appropriate to a Malaysian year of assessment immediately following that in which the dividend was paid.
- (4) The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from 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.
- (5) The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 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, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such a case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
- (6) Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives income or profits from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company to persons who are not residents of that other State, or subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax

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<sup>3</sup> In accordance with paragraph 3 and 5 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 17 of the MLI has effect in the Republic of Austria with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Austria, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025;

and,

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 17 of the MLI has effect in Malaysia with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by Malaysia, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 30 May 2024.



on undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of income or profits 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 15 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest to which a resident of Austria is beneficially entitled shall be exempt from Malaysian tax if the loan or other indebtedness in respect of which the interest is paid is an approved loan as defined in section 2(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1967, of Malaysia.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3, the Government of a Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in the other Contracting State in respect of interest derived by the Government from that other State.
- (5) For the purposes of paragraph 4, the term "Government":
  - a) in the case of Malaysia means the Government of Malaysia and shall include:
    - i) the governments of the States;
    - ii) the local authorities;
    - iii) the statutory bodies; and
    - iv) the Bank Negara Malaysia;
  - b) in the case of Austria means the Republic of Austria including the political subdivisions and local authorities of the Republic of Austria and shall also include the "Österreichische Kontrollbank AG".
- (6) 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.
- (7) The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 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, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such a case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
- (8) Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof, 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 in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.
- (9) 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 paid, 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:
  - a) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties referred to in paragraph 3(a);
  - b) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties referred to in paragraph 3(b).
- (3) The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for:

- a) the use of, or the right to use, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or any copyright of scientific work, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience;
  - b) the use of, or the right to use, cinematograph films, or tapes for radio or television broadcasting or any copyright of literary or artistic work.
- (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, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such a case the provisions of Article 7 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 or a statutory body thereof, or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying such royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the obligation to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment 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 paid, 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 a 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**

#### **Gains From the Alienation of Property**

- (1) Gains from the alienation of immovable property, as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.
- (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 including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or together with the whole enterprise) may be taxed in that other State. However, gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State in international traffic and movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in the State of which the enterprise is a resident.
- (3) Gains from the alienation of any property or assets, other than those mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

### **Article 14**

#### **Personal Services**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 remuneration derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment or a profession shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment or profession is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment or profession is so exercised, such income as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 remuneration derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State in respect of such employment or profession exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:
  - a) the individual is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned; and
  - b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, a person who is not a resident of the other State; and
  - c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment which the person paying the remuneration has in the other State.

- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 remuneration in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft in international traffic operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State may be taxed in that Contracting State.

## **Article 15**

### **Directors' Fees**

Directors' fees and 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 16**

### **Artistes and Athletes**

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 14 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 an athlete, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.
- (2) Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or an athlete in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or athlete himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14 be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or athlete are exercised.
- (3) The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to remuneration or profits 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 17**

### **Pensions and Annuities**

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 18, any pensions and other similar remuneration for past employment or any annuity arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State.

## **Article 18**

### **Government Service**

- (1) a) Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof to any individual in respect of services rendered to that State or political subdivision, local authority or statutory body thereof shall be taxable only in that State.  
  
b) However, such remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that other State and the recipient is a resident of that other State who:
  - i) is a national of that State; or
  - ii) did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of performing the services.
- (2) Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State, political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof to any individual in respect of services rendered to that State, political subdivision, local authority or statutory body thereof shall be taxable only in that State.
- (3) The provisions of Articles 14, 15 and 17 shall apply to remuneration or pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with any trade or business carried on by a Contracting State, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

## **Article 19**

### **Students**

- (1) Payments which a student or business apprentice 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 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 State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that State.
- (2) Remuneration which a student or business apprentice who is or was formerly a resident of a Contracting State derives from an employment which he exercises in the other Contracting State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any calendar year concerned shall not be taxed in that other State if the employment is directly related to his studies or apprenticeship.

## **Article 20**

### **Teachers and Researchers**

- (1) An individual who is a resident of a Contracting State immediately before making a visit to the other Contracting State, and who, at the invitation of any university, college, school or other similar educational institution, visits that other State for a period not exceeding two years solely for the purpose of teaching or research or both at such educational institution shall be exempt from tax in that other State on any remuneration for such teaching or research which is subject to tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.
- (2) This Article shall not apply to income from research if such research is undertaken primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

## **Article 21**

### **Income not Expressly Mentioned**

Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State which are not expressly mentioned in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that Contracting State except that if such income is derived from sources in the other Contracting State, it may also be taxed in that other State.

## **Article 22**

### **Elimination of Double Taxation**

- (1) In the case of Malaysia, double taxation shall be avoided as follows:
  - a) subject to the laws of Malaysia regarding the allowance as a credit against Malaysian tax of tax payable in any country other than Malaysia, Austrian tax payable under the laws of Austria and in accordance with this Agreement by a resident of Malaysia in respect of income derived from Austria shall be allowed as a credit against Malaysian tax payable in respect of that income. Where such income is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Austria to a company which is a resident of Malaysia and which owns not less than 25 per cent of the voting shares of the company paying the dividend, the credit shall take into account Austrian tax payable by that company in respect of its income out of which the dividend is paid. The credit shall not, however, exceed that part of the Malaysian tax, as computed before the credit is given, which is appropriate to such item of income;
  - b) for the purpose of sub-paragraph (a) the term "Austrian tax" does not include the tax on commercial and industrial enterprises computed on a basis other than profits.
- (2) In the case of Austria, double taxation shall be avoided as follows:
  - a) where a resident of Austria derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in Malaysia, Austria shall, subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c), exempt such income from tax. Moreover, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Malaysia to a company which is a resident of Austria and which owns for a period of at least 12 months prior to the date relevant for the determination of the last-mentioned company's profits at least 25 per cent of the share capital of the first-mentioned company

- paying the dividends will be exempt from Austrian corporation tax imposed on the last-mentioned company receiving such dividends;
- b) where a resident of Austria derives items of income which, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Articles 8, 11 and 12 and of Article 21 may be taxed in Malaysia, Austria shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the tax paid in Malaysia. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to such items of income derived from Malaysia. The same applies to dividends (other than those dealt with in subparagraph (a) above) falling under paragraph 3 of Article 10 and to interest falling under paragraph 3 of Article 11;
  - c) where in accordance with any provision of this Agreement income derived by a resident of Austria is exempt from tax in Austria, Austria may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income.
- (3) For the purpose of subparagraph (b) of paragraph 2, the term "tax paid in Malaysia" shall be deemed to include:
- a) in respect of dividends received from a company which is a resident in Malaysia, any amount which would have been payable as Malaysian tax but for an exemption or relief from tax granted under the Malaysian laws relating to incentives for the promotion of economic development in Malaysia which were in force on the date of signature of this Agreement or any other provisions which may subsequently be introduced in Malaysia in modification of or in addition to those laws so far as they are of a substantially similar character. However, any deduction from Austrian tax granted in accordance with paragraph 3 shall not exceed an amount equal of 40 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends;
  - b) in the case of interest to which paragraph 3 of Article 11 applies, an amount not exceeding 15 per cent of the gross amount of the interest in respect of which Malaysian tax would have been payable but for the exemption granted in accordance with that paragraph.

## **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.
- (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) 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.
- (4) Nothing in this Article shall be construed as obliging:
  - a) a Contracting State to grant to individuals who are residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents;
  - b) Malaysia to grant to nationals of Austria not resident in Malaysia those personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which are by law available on the date of signature of this Agreement only to nationals of Malaysia not resident in Malaysia.
- (5) Nothing in this Article shall be construed so as to prevent either Contracting State from limiting to its nationals the enjoyment of tax incentives designed to promote economic development in that State provided that such tax incentives have not been granted to nationals of a third State.
- (6) In this Article, the term "taxation" means taxes to which this Agreement applies.

## **Article 24**

### **Mutual Agreement Procedure**

- (1) Where a resident of a Contracting State considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with this Agreement, he may, notwithstanding the remedies provided by the taxation laws of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 23, to that of the 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 this 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.

*The following second sentence of paragraph 2 of Article 16 of the MLI applies to this Agreement:<sup>4</sup>*

#### ARTICLE 16 OF THE MLI – MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

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. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by the Agreement. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.
- (2) In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:
  - a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws or the administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
  - b) to supply particulars which are 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.

### Article 26

#### Diplomatic and Consular Officers

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

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<sup>4</sup> In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 35 of the MLI, Article 16 of the MLI has effect with respect to this Agreement for a case presented to the competent authority of a Contracting State on or after 30 August 2023, except for cases that were not eligible to be presented as of that date under the Agreement prior to its modification by the MLI, without regard to the taxable period to which the case relates.

*The following paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the MLI applies and supersedes the provisions of this Agreement:<sup>5</sup>*

**ARTICLE 7 OF THE MLI – PREVENTION OF TREATY ABUSE**  
*(Principal purposes test provision)*

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

**Article 27**

**Entry into Force**

- (1) This Agreement shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Kuala Lumpur as soon as possible.
- (2) This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month next following that in which the exchange of instruments of ratification takes place and its provisions shall have effect:
  - a) in Malaysia:  
as respects Malaysian tax for the year of assessment beginning on the first day of January 1988 and subsequent years of assessment;
  - b) in Austria:  
as respects Austrian tax for any fiscal year beginning on the first day of January 1987 and subsequent fiscal years.

**Article 28**

**Termination**

This Agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely, but either Contracting State may terminate the Agreement, through diplomatic channels, by giving to the other Contracting State written notice of termination on or before 30th June in any calendar year after the year 1990. In such an event the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

- a) in Malaysia:  
for the year of assessment beginning on the first day of January in the second calendar year following that in which the notice of termination is given and subsequent years of assessment;
- b) in Austria:  
for any fiscal year beginning on the first day of January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given and subsequent fiscal years.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement and put seals thereto.

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<sup>5</sup> In accordance with paragraphs 3 and 5 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the MLI has effect in the Republic of Austria with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Austria, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025;

and,

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI has effect in Malaysia with respect to this Agreement:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2024; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by Malaysia, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 30 May 2024.

Done in duplicate at Vienna this 20th day of September 1989, each in the German language, Bahasa Malaysia and the English language, the three texts being equally authentic. In the event of there being a dispute in the interpretation and the application of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of Austria:

**Dr. Wolfgang Nolz**

For the Government of Malaysia:

**Abdul Halim bin Ali**

### **Protocol**

At the time of signing the Agreement between the Government of Austria and the Government of Malaysia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, the undersigned have agreed that the following provisions shall form an integral part of the Agreement.

In connection with Article 7 (Business profits):

- (a) it is understood that in Austria the term "profits" as used in this Article includes the profits derived from a participation in a sleeping partnership (Stille Gesellschaft) created under Austrian law;
- (b) in the case of Malaysia:
  - (i) in attributing the business profits of an enterprise to a permanent establishment falling under paragraph 3 of Article 5 Malaysia will take into consideration the total contract value for the purpose of arriving at a fair profit to be attributed to the permanent establishment; and
  - (ii) in so doing Malaysia recognises the deduction of cost of materials and equipment either manufactured or purchased by the enterprise and transferred to the permanent establishment at arm's length prices from the total contract value.

For the Government of the Republic of Austria:

**Dr. Wolfgang Nolz**

For the Government of Malaysia:

**Abdul Halim bin Ali**