

## **1991 Income Tax Convention**

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**Status:** In Force

### **CONVENTION BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM AND THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

The Government of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 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:

Chapter I

Scope Of The Convention

#### **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 a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income, all taxes imposed on total income or on elements of income including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, taxes on the total amount of wages or salaries paid by enterprises, as well as taxes on capital appreciation.

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

a) In the case of Egypt:

(i) the tax on income derived from immovable property (including the land tax, the building tax and the Ghaffir tax);

(ii) the tax on income from movable capital;

(iii) the tax on commercial and industrial profits;

(iv) the tax on wages, salaries, remuneration and annuities;

(v) the tax on profits from liberal professions and all other non-commercial professions;

(vi) the general income tax;

(vii) the corporation profits tax;

(viii) the supplementary taxes imposed as a percentage of taxes mentioned above or otherwise;

(hereinafter referred to as "Egyptian tax");

b) In the case of Belgium:

(i) the individual income tax;

(ii) the corporate income tax;

(iii) the income tax on legal entities;

(iv) the income tax on non-residents;

(v) the special levy assimilated to the individual income tax;

including the prepayments, the surcharges on these taxes and prepayments, and the supplements to the individual income tax;

(hereinafter referred to as "Belgian tax").

4. The Convention shall also apply 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.

Chapter II

Definitions

#### **Article 3 General Definitions**

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

a)

(i) the term "Egypt" means the Arab Republic of Egypt and, when used in a geographical sense, it means:

- (a) the national territory,
  - (b) the territorial sea,
  - (c) the areas beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea over which Egypt has sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources whether living or non living of the waters superjacent to the sea-bed and of the sea-bed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the area and other rights in accordance with international law,
  - (d) the continental shelf;
  - (ii) the term "Belgium" means the Kingdom of Belgium: when used in a geographical sense, it means the national territory, the territorial sea and any other area in the sea within which Belgium, in accordance with international law, exercises sovereign rights or its jurisdiction;
  - b) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Egypt or Belgium as the case may be;
  - c) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
  - d) the term "company" means any body corporate or any 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 "tax" means Egyptian tax or Belgian tax as the context requires;
  - g) 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;
  - h) the term "competent authority" means:
    - (i) in the case of Egypt, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative;
    - (ii) in the case of Belgium, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative.
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 law of that State concerning the taxes to which the Convention applies.

#### **Article 4 Resident**

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that State, is subject to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature.
2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:
  - a) he shall be deemed to be a resident 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 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 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:
  - a) a place of management;
  - b) a branch;
  - c) premises used as sales outlets;
  - d) an office;
  - e) a factory;
  - f) a workshop;

g) a mine, an oil or a gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources;  
h) a farm, a plantation, livestock or equipment used in agriculture.

3. The term "permanent establishment" likewise encompasses:

a) a building site, a construction, assembly or installation project or supervisory activities in connection therewith, but only where such site, project or activities continue for a period of more than six months.

b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose, but only where activities of that nature continue (for the same or a connected project) for a period or periods aggregating more than six months within any 12-month period.

4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:

a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage or display 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 or display;

c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;

d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;

e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;

f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs a) to e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person - other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 7 applies -- is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, if such person:

a) has and habitually exercises in that State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of 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; or

b) has no such authority but habitually maintains in the first-mentioned State a stock of goods or merchandise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise on behalf of the enterprise.

6. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, an insurance enterprise of a Contracting State shall, except in regard to re-insurance, be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if it collects premiums in the territory of that other 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 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, 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, 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 State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise) shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

### Chapter III

#### Taxation Of Income

### **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. 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, 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 also apply to income derived from the direct use, letting or use in any other form of immovable property.

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

### **Article 7 Business Profits**

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

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

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere. However, no such deduction shall be allowed in respect of amounts, if any, paid (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses) by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission, for specific services performed or for management, or, except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of interest on moneys lent to the permanent establishment. Likewise, no account shall be taken, in the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, for amounts charged (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses), by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission for specific services performed or for management, or, except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of interest on moneys lent to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices.

4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

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

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

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, 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 aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

2. If the place of effective management of a shipping enterprise is aboard a ship, then it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State in which the home harbour of the ship is situated, or, if there is no such home harbour, in the Contracting State of which the operator of the ship is a resident.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits 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.

### **Article 10 Dividends**

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends the tax so charged shall not exceed:
  - a) in the case of Egypt:
    - (i) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends;
    - (ii) notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (i), dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Egypt to an individual who is a resident of Belgium may in Egypt be subject to the general income tax levied on net total income; however, the general income tax thus imposed shall in no case exceed an average of 20 per cent of the net dividends payable to such individual;
  - b) in the case of Belgium:
    - (i) 15 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;
    - (ii) 20 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. 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 State of which the company making the distribution is a resident. This term means also income - even paid in the form of interest - which is taxable under the head of income on capital invested by the members of a company other than a company with share capital, which is a resident of Belgium.

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

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

### **Article 11 Interest**

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest the tax so charged shall not exceed 15 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.
3. 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; however, the term "interest" shall not include for the purpose of this Article penalty charges for late payment nor interest regarded as dividends under the second sentence of paragraph 3 of Article 10.

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

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

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 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 in the Contracting State in which the interest arises, according to the law of that State.

### **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 25 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties for the use of, or the right to use, trade marks, and 15 per cent in all other cases.

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, or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial, or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

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

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

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 royalties shall remain taxable in the Contracting State in which the royalties arise, according to the law of that State.

### **Article 13 Capital Gains**

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

2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other State.

3. Gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in 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 the preceding paragraphs (including income which, in accordance with the law of a Contracting State, is taxable in the hands of a company which is a resident of that State, in the event of the purchase of its own shares or in the event of the distribution of its assets) may be taxed in both Contracting States according to the law of those States.

#### **Article 14 Independent Personal Services**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State 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 State; or

b) if his stay in the other Contracting State is for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 120 days in the calendar year concerned; in that case, only so much of the income as is derived from his activities performed in that other State may be taxed in that other State.

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

#### **Article 15 Dependent Personal Services**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.

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

a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned, and

b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and

c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

#### **Article 16 Directors' Fees And Remuneration Of Top-Level Managerial Officials**

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

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall likewise apply to payments received by an official of a company in a top-level managerial position who in fact carries out functions which are similar nature as those performed by a person as referred to in that paragraph 1.

#### **Article 17 Income Earned By Entertainers And Athletes**

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 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, 14 and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or athlete are exercised.

### **Article 18 Pensions And Annuities**

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, pensions and annuities arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State.

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

### **Article 19 Remuneration And Pensions In Respect Of Government Service**

1.

a) Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.

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

(i) is a national of that State; or

(ii) did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

2.

a) Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.

b) However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that other State.

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16 and 18 shall apply to remuneration and pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

### **Article 20 Income Received By Students And Apprentices**

A resident of a Contracting State who is temporarily present in the other Contracting State solely:

a) as a student at a university, college or school in that other Contracting State;

b) as a business or technical apprentice; or,

c) as the recipient of a grant, allowance, or award for the primary purpose of study or research from a religious, charitable, scientific or educational organization

shall not be taxed in that other State in respect of a scholarship grant. The same shall apply to any amount representing remuneration for services rendered in that other State, provided that such remuneration is necessary for the purpose of his maintenance.

### **Article 21 Remuneration Received By Professors, Teachers And Researchers**

1. A resident of a Contracting State who, at the invitation of a university, college or other establishment for higher education or scientific research in the other Contracting State, visits that other State solely for the purpose of teaching or scientific research at such institution for a period not exceeding two years shall not be taxed in that other State on his remuneration for such teaching or research.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to remuneration derived in respect of research undertaken not in the public interest but primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

### **Article 22 Other Income**

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Convention shall be taxable only in that State.

2. However, if such income is derived by a resident of a Contracting State from sources in the other Contracting State, such income may also be taxed in the State in which it arises, and according to the law of that State.

Chapter IV

Methods For Prevention Of Double Taxation

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

1. In the case of Egypt, double taxation shall be avoided as follows:

- a) Income other than that referred to in sub-paragraph b) below shall be exempt from the Egyptian taxes referred to in sub-paragraph a) of paragraph 3 of Article 2 if the income is taxable only in Belgium under this Convention;
- b) Income referred to in Articles 10, 11, 12, 13 paragraph 4, 14, 16, 17 and 22 received from Belgium may be taxed in Egypt in accordance with the provisions of these Articles, on their gross amount. The Belgian tax levied on such income (excluding in the case of dividends, tax payable in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid) entitles residents of Egypt to a tax credit corresponding to the amount of Belgian tax levied but which shall not exceed the amount of Egyptian tax attributable to such income. Such credit shall be allowed against taxes referred to in sub-paragraph a) of paragraph 3 of Article 2, in the basis of which such income is included;
- c) Where in accordance with any provision of the Convention, income derived by a resident of Egypt is exempt from tax in Egypt, Egypt may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income.
2. In the case of Belgium, double taxation shall be avoided as follows:
- a) Where a resident of Belgium derives income which may be taxed in Egypt in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, not including the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 10, paragraphs 2 and 6 of Article 11 and paragraphs 2 and 6 of Article 12, Belgium shall exempt such income from tax but may, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of that resident, apply the rate of tax which would have been applicable if such income had not been exempted.
- b) Where a resident of Belgium derives items of his aggregate income which are dividends taxable in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 10, and not exempt from Belgian tax according to subparagraph c) below, interest taxable in accordance with paragraphs 2 or 6 of Article 11, and royalties taxable in accordance with paragraphs 2 or 6 of Article 12, the fixed proportion in respect of the foreign tax for which provision is made under Belgian law shall, under the conditions and at the rate provided for by such law, be allowed as a credit against Belgian tax relating to such income. The credit shall be given in an amount of 20 per cent of the gross income in a case where a resident of Belgium derives income by way of dividends or interest which, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention may be taxed in Egypt but which is exempted from taxation there by virtue of the Egyptian Law no 43 of 1974 amended by Law no 32 of 1977 or by any other law which shall not affect the general principle hereof.
- c) Where a company which is a resident of Belgium owns shares in a company which is a resident of Egypt and which is subject to tax in that State, the dividends which are paid to it by the latter company and which may be taxed in Egypt in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 10 shall be exempted from the corporate income tax in Belgium to the extent that exemption would have been accorded if the two companies had been residents of Belgium.
3. A Contracting State may tax income which in accordance with this Convention may be taxed in the other Contracting State to the extent that such income has not been taxed in that other State because of the set off of losses also deducted, in respect of any accounting period, from income taxable in the first-mentioned Contracting State.
4. For the purposes of this Article, profits, income or gains of a resident of a Contracting State which are taxed in the other Contracting State in accordance with this Convention shall be deemed to arise from sources in that other State.

#### Chapter V

#### Special Provisions

### **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 State in the same circumstances are or may be subjected.
2. The term "nationals" means:
- a) all individuals possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
- b) all legal persons, partnerships and associations deriving their status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State.
3. Stateless persons who are residents of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in either 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 the State concerned in the same circumstances are or may be subjected.

4. 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.

5. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

6. Except where the provisions of Article 9, paragraph 6 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12 apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned State.

7. 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.

8. Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed as preventing a Contracting State:

a) from taxing the total amount of the profits attributable to a permanent establishment in that State of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or of an association having its place of effective management in that other State, at the rate of tax provided by the law of the first-mentioned State, but this rate may not exceed the maximum rate applicable to all or part of the profits of companies which are residents of that first-mentioned State;

b) from imposing its tax on the distribution of dividends derived from a holding which is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base which a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or an association having its place of effective management in that other State, has in the first-mentioned State.

9. In this Article, the term "taxation" means taxes which are the subject of this Convention.

### **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 Convention, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 24, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

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 Convention.

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 Convention.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate directly with each other for the application of the Convention. In particular, they shall, through consultations, develop appropriate procedures, conditions, methods and techniques for the implementation of the Convention.

### **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 Convention or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by the Convention insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention, as well as for the prevention of fraud or evasion of such taxes. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State. However, if the information is originally regarded as secret in the transmitting State it 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 which are the subject of the Convention. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes but 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 A Diplomatic Mission Or Consular Post**

1. Nothing in this Convention shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of a diplomatic mission or consular post under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.
2. Notwithstanding Article 4, an individual who is a member of a diplomatic mission, consular post or permanent mission of a Contracting State which is situated in the other Contracting State or in a third State shall be deemed for the purposes of the Convention to be a resident of the sending State if he is liable in the sending State to the same obligations in relation to tax on his total income as are residents of that sending State.
3. The Convention shall not apply to International Organizations, to organs or officials thereof and to persons who are members of a diplomatic mission, consular post or permanent mission of a third State, being present in a Contracting State and who are not liable in either Contracting State to the same obligations in relation to tax on their total income as are residents thereof.

### **Article 28 Miscellaneous Rules**

1. The provisions of this Convention shall not be construed to restrict in any manner any exclusion, exemption, deduction, credit or other allowance now or hereafter accorded:
  - (a) by the laws of a Contracting State in the determination of the tax imposed by that State, or
  - (b) by any other agreement entered into by a Contracting State.
2. Nothing in the Convention shall be construed as preventing the application of the provisions of the domestic law of each Contracting State which are specifically aimed at combatting fiscal fraud or evasion.

#### Chapter VI

#### Final Provisions

### **Article 29 Entry Into Force**

1. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Cairo as soon as possible.
2. The Convention shall enter into force on the fifteenth day following the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification and its provisions shall have effect:
  - (a) in respect of taxes due at source on income paid or credited on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following that in which the exchange of instruments of ratification takes place;
  - (b) in respect of other taxes on income of taxable periods beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following that in which the exchange of instruments of ratification takes place.
3. The Agreement between Belgium and Egypt for reciprocal exemption of certain taxes on air transport companies concluded by exchange of letters dated at Cairo the 18th and 31st October 1956 shall not have effect for any period for which Article 8 of the present Convention has effect.

### **Article 30 Termination**

This Convention shall continue in effect indefinitely but either Contracting State may, on or before 30th June on any calendar year after the fifth year following the year of the exchange of instruments of ratification, give to the other Contracting State a notice of termination in writing through diplomatic channels; in such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect:

- a) in respect of taxes due at source on income paid or credited on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following that in which the notice is given;
- b) in respect of other taxes on income of taxable periods beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following that in which the notice is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized to that effect, have signed this Convention. DONE in duplicate at Cairo on January 3, 1991 in the English, Arabic, Dutch and French languages, each version being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English version shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

*Alain Rens,*

*Ambassador of Belgium*

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**

*Dr. Mohamed Ahmed El Razaz,*

*Minister of Finance*