

# Statutory Instrument 1997 No. 2986

## The Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Lesotho) Order 1997

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1997 No. 2986**

**INCOME TAX**

**The Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Lesotho) Order 1997**

*Made*

*17th December 1997*

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 17th day of December 1997

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Whereas a draft of this Order was laid before the House of Commons in accordance with the provisions of section 788(10) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988<sup>[1]</sup>, and an Address has been presented to Her Majesty by that House praying that an Order may be made in the terms of that draft:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred upon Her by section 788 of the said Act, and of all other powers enabling Her in that behalf, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows: -

1. This Order may be cited as the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Lesotho) Order 1997.

2. It is hereby declared -

(a) that the arrangements specified in the Convention set out in the Schedule to this Order have been made with the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to income tax, corporation tax or capital gains tax and taxes of a similar character imposed by the laws of Lesotho;

(b) that those arrangements include provisions with respect to the exchange of information necessary for carrying out the domestic laws of the United Kingdom and the laws of Lesotho concerning taxes covered by the arrangements including, in particular, provisions about the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to those taxes; and

(c) that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect.

*N. H. Nicholls*  
Clerk of the Privy Council



## SCHEDULE

### CONVENTION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND CAPITAL GAINS

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho;

Desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains;

Have agreed as follows:

#### Article 1

##### **Personal scope**

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

#### Article 2

##### **Taxes covered**

(1) The taxes which are the subject of this Convention are:

(a) in the case of the United Kingdom:

- (i) the income tax;
- (ii) the corporation tax; and
- (iii) the capital gains tax;

(hereinafter referred to as "United Kingdom tax");

(b) in the case of Lesotho:

the income tax;

(hereinafter referred to as "Lesotho tax").

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article, the terms "United Kingdom tax" and "Lesotho tax" do not include any amount which represents a penalty or interest imposed under the law of either Contracting

State relating to the taxes to which this Convention applies.

(3) This Convention shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed by either Contracting State after the date of signature of this Convention in addition to, or in place of, the taxes of that Contracting State referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any substantial changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

## Article 2

### **General definitions**

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

(a) the term "United Kingdom" means Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including any area outside the territorial sea of the United Kingdom which in accordance with international law has been or may hereafter be designated, under the laws of the United Kingdom concerning the Continental Shelf, as an area within which the rights of the United Kingdom with respect to the sea bed and sub-soil and their natural resources may be exercised;

(b) the term "Lesotho" means the sovereign kingdom of Lesotho comprising all the areas that immediately before 4 October 1966 were comprised in the former colony of Basutoland together with such other areas that may, in accordance with international law, be declared by an Act of the Lesotho Parliament to form part of Lesotho;

(c) the term "national" means:

(i) in relation to the United Kingdom, any British citizen, or any British subject not possessing the citizenship of any other Commonwealth country or territory, provided he has the right of abode in the United Kingdom; and any legal person, partnership, association or other entity deriving its status as such from the law in force in the United Kingdom;

(ii) in relation to Lesotho, any citizen of Lesotho, or any individual treated as a permanent resident under the law of Lesotho; and any legal person, partnership, association or other entity deriving its status as such from the law in force in Lesotho;

(d) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean the United Kingdom or Lesotho, as the context requires;

(e) the term "person" comprises an individual, a company and any other body of persons, but does not include a partnership;

(f) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;

(g) 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;

(h) 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;

(i) the term "competent authority" means, in the case of the United Kingdom, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue or their authorised representative, and, in the case of Lesotho, the Commissioner of Income Tax or the authorised representative of the Commissioner for Income Tax.

(2) As regards the application of this Convention by a Contracting State any term not otherwise defined shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the laws of that Contracting State relating to the taxes which are the subject of this Convention.

#### Article 4

### **Residence**

(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 liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature.

(2) Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:

(a) he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both Contracting States, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);

(b) if the Contracting State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has no permanent home available to him in either Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which he has an habitual abode;

(c) if he has an habitual abode in both Contracting States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State

of which he is a national;

(d) if he is a national of both Contracting 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) of this Article a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting 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) an office;

(d) a factory;

(e) a workshop;

(f) an installation or structure for the exploration of natural resources;  
and

(g) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.

(3) A building site or construction or installation project constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than six months.

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

(a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;

(b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;

(c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to

the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;

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

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

(f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e) of this paragraph, 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) of this Article, where a person - other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph (6) of this Article applies - is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts on behalf of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such a person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph (4) of this Article which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.

(6) An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

(7) The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

#### Article 6

### **Income from immovable property**

(1) Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

(2) The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has

under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

(3) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article 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) of this Article 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) of this Article, 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 a reasonable allocation of executive and general administrative expenses incurred for the purposes of the enterprise as a whole, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

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

(5) Where profits include items of income or capital gains 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 derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.

(2) For the purposes of this Article, profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic include:

(a) income from the rental on a bareboat basis of ships or aircraft; and

(b) profits from the use, maintenance or rental of containers (including trailers and related equipment for the transport of containers) used for the transport of goods or merchandise;

where such rental or such use, maintenance or rental, as the case may be, is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic.

(3) Where profits within paragraphs (1) or (2) of this Article are derived by a resident of a Contracting State from participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency, the profits attributable to that resident shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which he is a resident.

#### Article 9

### **Associated enterprises**

(1) Where:

(a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State; or

(b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State;

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included by a Contracting State in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

(2) Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other

Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Convention 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) 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 subject to tax in respect of the dividends in that other Contracting State the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent. of the gross amount of the dividends.

(3) The terms "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 assimilated to income from shares by the taxation laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident and also includes any other item (other than interest relieved from tax under the provisions of Article 11 of this Convention) which, under the laws of the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividend is a resident, is treated as a dividend or distribution of a company.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article shall not apply if the recipient 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 15 of this Convention, 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 undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in that other State.

(6) The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of the shares or other rights in respect of which the dividend is paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

#### 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 subject to tax in respect of the interest in the other Contracting State the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 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. The term "interest" shall not include any item which is treated as a distribution under the provisions of Article 10 of this Convention.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article shall not apply if the recipient 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 15 of this Convention, 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 paid exceeds, for whatever reason, 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 of interest. 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 Convention.

(7) Any provision in the laws of either Contracting State relating only to interest paid to a non-resident company shall not operate so as to require such interest paid to a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State to be treated as a distribution or dividend by the company paying such interest. The preceding sentence shall not apply to interest paid to a company which is a resident of one of the Contracting States in which more than 50 per cent. of the voting power is controlled, directly or indirectly, by a person or persons who are residents of the other Contracting State.

(8) The relief from tax provided for in paragraph (2) of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest:

(a) is exempt from tax on such income in the Contracting State of which he is a resident; and

(b) sells or makes a contract to sell the holding from which such interest is derived within three months of the date such beneficial owner acquired such holding.

(9) The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

(10) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (2) of this Article, interest arising in a Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in that State if it is paid to the Government of the other Contracting State or a local authority thereof or any agency or instrumentality of that Government or local authority.

(11) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7 of this Convention and of paragraph (2) of this Article, interest arising in Lesotho which is paid to a resident of the United Kingdom shall be exempt from tax in Lesotho if it is paid in respect of a loan made, guaranteed or insured, or any other debt-claim or credit guaranteed or insured by the United Kingdom Export Credits Guarantee Department.

## 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 subject to tax in respect of the royalties in that other Contracting State the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent. of the gross amount of the royalties.

(3) The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work (including cinematograph films, and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting), any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information (know how) concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article shall not apply if the recipient 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 15 of this Convention, as the case may be, shall apply.

(5) Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State where 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 fixed base in connection with which the obligation to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

(6) Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the recipient or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties paid exceeds, for whatever reason, the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the recipient 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 Convention.

(7) The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of the rights in respect of which the royalties are paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

#### Article 13

### **Management and technical fees**

(1) Technical fees 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 technical fees may also be taxed in the Contracting

State in which they arise and according to the law of that State, but if the recipient is subject to tax in respect of the technical fees in that other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent. of the gross amount of the technical fees.

(3) The term "technical fees" as used in this Article means payments of any kind to any person, other than to an employee of the person making the payments, in consideration for any services of a technical, managerial or consultancy nature.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article shall not apply if the recipient of the technical fees, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the technical fees arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the technical fees are effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 15 of this Convention, as the case may be, shall apply.

(5) If a resident of a Contracting State, who receives technical fees which arise in the other Contracting State and who is subject to tax in respect thereof in the first-mentioned Contracting State, so elects for any year of assessment, financial year or year of income, the tax chargeable in respect of those technical fees in the Contracting State in which they arise shall be calculated as if he had a permanent establishment or a fixed base in the last-mentioned Contracting State and as if those technical fees were taxable in accordance with Article 7 or Article 15 of this Convention, as the case may be, as profits attributable to that permanent establishment or fixed base.

(6) Technical fees shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political sub-division, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the technical fees, 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 obligation to pay the technical fees was incurred, and such technical fees are borne by that permanent establishment or fixed base, then such technical fees shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

(7) Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the recipient or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the technical fees paid exceeds, for whatever reason, the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the recipient 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 Convention.

(8) The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or

assignment of the rights in respect of which the technical fees are paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

Article 14

**Capital Gains**

Each Contracting State may tax capital gains in accordance with the provisions of its domestic law.

Article 15

**Independent personal services**

(1) Subject to the provisions of Article 13 of this Convention, 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 unless he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has such a fixed base, the income may be taxed in the other State but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base.

(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 16

**Dependent personal services**

(1) Subject to the provisions of Articles 17, 19, 20 and 21 of this Convention, 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) of this Article, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:

(a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve month period commencing or ending in the fiscal 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 of which the enterprise operating the ship or aircraft is a resident.

#### Article 17

### **Directors' fees**

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

#### Article 18

### **Artistes and sportsmen**

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 15 and Article 16 of this Convention, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

(2) Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 15 and 16 of this Convention, be taxed in the Contracting States in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article, income derived from activities as defined in paragraph (1) performed under a cultural agreement or arrangement between the Contracting States shall be exempt from tax in the Contracting State in which those activities are exercised.

#### Article 19

### **Pensions and annuities**

(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of Article 20 of this Convention, pensions and other similar remuneration paid in consideration of past employment to a resident of a Contracting State and any annuity paid to such a resident shall be taxable only in that State.

(2) The term "annuity" means a stated sum payable to an individual periodically at stated times during his 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 20

**Government service**

(1)

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

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:

(i) is a national of that State; or

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

(2)

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

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of and a national of that State.

(3) The provisions of Articles 16, 17 and 19 of this Convention shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, and to pensions, in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

Article 21

**Students**

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 first-mentioned State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that State.

## Article 22

### **Other income**

(1) Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, which are not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Convention, other than income paid out of trusts or the estates of deceased persons in the course of administration, shall be taxable only in that State.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph (2) of Article 6 of this Convention, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 15 of this Convention, as the case may be, shall apply.

(3) Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer of income under this Article and the beneficial owner, or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the payment exceeds, for whatever reason, 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 payment shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

(4) The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of the rights in respect of which the income is paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

## Article 23

### **Elimination of double taxation**

(1) Subject to the provisions of the law of the United Kingdom regarding the allowance as a credit against United Kingdom tax of tax payable in a territory outside the United Kingdom (which shall not affect the general principle hereof):

(a) Lesotho tax payable under the laws of Lesotho and in accordance with this Convention, whether directly or by deduction, on profits or income from sources within Lesotho (excluding in the case of a dividend, tax payable in respect of the profits out of which the dividend is paid) shall be allowed as a credit against any United Kingdom tax computed by reference to the same profits or income by reference to which the Lesotho tax is computed;

(b) in the case of a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Lesotho to a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom and which controls directly or indirectly at least 10 per cent. of the voting power in the company paying the dividend, the credit shall take into account (in addition to any Lesotho tax for which credit may be allowed under the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph) the Lesotho tax payable by the company in respect of the profits out of which such dividend is paid.

(2) In the case of Lesotho, subject to the provisions of the law of Lesotho from time to time in force which relate to the allowance of credit against Lesotho tax of tax paid in a country outside Lesotho (which shall not affect the general principle of this Article), United Kingdom tax paid under the law of the United Kingdom and in accordance with this Convention whether directly or by deduction, in respect of income derived by a person who is a resident of Lesotho from sources in the United Kingdom shall be allowed as a credit against Lesotho tax payable in respect of that income.

(3) For the purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article, profits and income owned by a resident of a Contracting State which may be taxed in the other Contracting State in accordance with this Convention shall be deemed to arise from sources in that other Contracting State.

(4) For the purpose of paragraph (1) of this Article, the term "Lesotho tax payable" shall be deemed to include any amount which would have been payable as Lesotho tax for any year but for an exemption or reduction of tax granted for that year or any part thereof under any of the following provisions of Lesotho law:

(a) Paragraph 1 of the Third Schedule to the Income Tax Order 1993 so far as this was in force on, and has not been modified since, the date of signature of this Convention, or has been modified only in minor respects so as not to affect its general character; or

(b) any other provision which may subsequently be made granting an exemption or reduction of tax which is agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting States to be of a substantially similar character, if it has not been modified thereafter or has been modified only in minor respects so as not to affect its general character.

(5) Relief from United Kingdom tax by virtue of paragraph (4) shall not be given:

(a) where the profits or income in respect of which tax would have been payable but for the exemption or reduction of tax granted under the provisions referred to in that paragraph arise or accrue more than ten years after the date on which this Convention enters into force; or

(b) in respect of income or profits from any source if that income or those profits arise in a period beginning more than ten years after the

exemption or reduction referred to in that paragraph was first granted in respect of that source, whether that period began before or after the entry into force of this Convention.

(6) The period referred to in paragraph (5)(a) of this Article may be extended by agreement between the Contracting States.

#### Article 24

### **Limitation of relief**

Where under any provision of this Convention any income is relieved from tax in a Contracting State and, under the law in force in the other Contracting State a person, in respect of that income, is subject to tax by reference to the amount thereof which is remitted to or received in that other Contracting State and not by reference to the full amount thereof, then the relief to be allowed under this Convention in the first-mentioned Contracting State shall apply only to so much of the income as is taxed in the other Contracting State.

#### Article 25

### **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. Nothing in this Convention shall be construed as preventing a Contracting State from imposing under its laws an income tax (referred to as a "branch profits tax") on the repatriated income of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State in addition to the income tax imposed on the chargeable income of the company in accordance with this Convention; provided that any branch profits tax so imposed shall not exceed 10 per cent. of the amount of the repatriated income in the year of assessment.

(3) Except where the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 9, paragraphs (6) and (9) of Article 11, paragraphs (6) and (7) of Article 12, paragraphs (7) and (8) of Article 13, or paragraphs (3) and (4) of Article 22 of this Convention apply, and subject to the provisions of paragraph (7) of Article 11, 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.

(4) 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.

(5) Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed as obliging either Contracting State to grant to individuals not resident in that State any of the personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which are granted to individuals so resident.

(6) The provisions of this Article shall apply to the taxes which are the subject of this Convention.

#### Article 26

### **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 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.

(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 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 with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

#### Article 27

### **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 this Convention insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to this Convention, in particular, to prevent fraud and to facilitate the administration of statutory provisions against legal avoidance. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret 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 this Convention. 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) of this Article be construed so as to impose on the competent authority of either Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice prevailing in either Contracting State;
- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of either 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 28

### **Members of diplomatic or permanent missions and consular posts**

(1) Nothing in this Convention shall affect any fiscal privileges accorded to members of diplomatic or permanent missions or consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 4 of this Convention, an individual who is a member of a diplomatic or permanent mission or consular post of a Contracting State or of any third State which is situated in the other Contracting State or who is an official of an international organisation, and any member of the family of such an individual, shall not be deemed to be a resident of the other State for the purposes of this Convention if he is subject to tax on income or capital gains in that other State only if he derives income or capital gains from sources therein.

#### Article 29

### **Entry into force**

(1) Each of the Contracting States shall notify to the other the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Convention. This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the later of these notifications and shall thereupon have effect:

- (a) in the United Kingdom:

(i) in respect of income tax and capital gains tax, for any year of assessment beginning on or after 6th April in the calendar year next following that in which the Convention enters into force;

(ii) in respect of corporation tax, for any financial year beginning on or after 1st April in the calendar year next following that in which the Convention enters into force;

(b) in Lesotho:

for any year of assessment beginning on or after 1st April in the calendar year next following that in which the Convention enters into force.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) of this Article, the Arrangement of 25th November 1949 (as amended on 3rd July 1968) between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Lesotho (hereinafter referred to as "the Arrangement") shall terminate and cease to be effective from the date on which this Convention has effect in respect of the taxes to which this Convention applies in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article.

(3) Where any provision of the Arrangement would have afforded any greater relief from tax than is due under this Convention, any such provision as aforesaid shall continue to have effect:

(a) in the United Kingdom, for any year of assessment, or financial year, or chargeable period, and

(b) in Lesotho, for any year of assessment,

beginning, in either case, before the entry into force of this Convention.

Article 30

### **Termination**

This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by one of the Contracting States. Either Contracting State may terminate the Convention, through diplomatic channels, by giving notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year beginning after the expiry of five years from the date of entry into force of the Convention. In such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect:

(a) in the United Kingdom:

(i) in respect of income tax and capital gains tax, for any year of assessment beginning on or after 6th April in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given;

(ii) in respect of corporation tax, for any financial year beginning on or after 1st April in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given;

(b) in Lesotho:

for any year of assessment beginning on or after 1st April in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention.

Done in duplicate at London this 29th day of January 1997.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

*Chalker of Wallasey*

For the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho:

*Benjamin Masilo*

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

The Convention with Lesotho is set out in the Schedule to this Order.

The Convention provides for business profits not arising through a permanent establishment to be taxed only in the country of the taxpayer's residence. Profits attributable to a permanent establishment may be taxed in the country in which the permanent establishment is situated (Articles 5 and 7).

Income from immovable property may be taxed in the country in which the property is situated (Article 6).

Shipping and air transport profits are to be taxed only in the residence state of the operator (Article 8).

The Convention includes rules for determining taxable profits when a company in one country is related to a company in the other (Article 9).

The rate of tax imposed in the country of source on dividends derived by a

resident of the other country is, in general, not to exceed 10 per cent. of the gross amount of the dividends (Article 10).

The rate of tax imposed in the country of source on interest derived by a resident of the other country is, in general, not to exceed 10 per cent. of the gross amount of the interest. Certain categories of interest (e.g. interest paid to the Government of the other country) will be exempt from tax in the source state (Article 11).

The rate of tax imposed in the country of source on royalties flowing to the other country is, in general, not to exceed 10 per cent. of the gross amount of the royalties (Article 12).

The rate of tax imposed in the country of source on management and technical fees paid to a resident of the other country is, in general, not to exceed 10 per cent. of the gross amount of the fees (Article 13).

Capital gains are to be taxed in accordance with the domestic law of each country (Article 14).

The earnings of temporary business visitors and some other individuals are, subject to certain conditions, to be taxed only in the country of the taxpayer's residence (Articles 15 and 16). Fees received by a resident of one country in his capacity as a director of a company resident in the other country may be taxed in the latter country (Article 17).

Income derived from the activities of artistes and sportsmen may be taxed in the country in which those activities are exercised, with certain exemptions (Article 18). Occupational pensions (other than those paid in respect of Government Service) and annuities are to be taxed only in the recipient's country of residence (Article 19). Government Service remuneration and pensions are normally taxable only by the paying Government (Article 20). Certain payments made to visiting students and business apprentices are to be exempt from tax in the country visited (Article 21). There are separate provisions for diplomatic or consular officials (Article 28).

Other income not specified in the Convention (with the exception of income paid out of trusts or the estates of deceased persons in the course of administration) is to be taxable only in the taxpayer's country of residence, as long as it is not associated with a permanent establishment or fixed base in the country of source (Article 22).

Where income continues to be taxable in both countries credit will be given in the taxpayer's country of residence for tax imposed by the other country. In the case of dividends, the United Kingdom will give credit for underlying tax paid in Lesotho where the shareholder is a United Kingdom company which controls at least 10 per cent. of the voting power in the company paying the dividends (Article 23).

There are provisions which limit the relief available in certain circumstances

(Article 24). There are also provisions safeguarding nationals and enterprises of one country against discriminatory taxation in the other country (Article 25), for consultation to resolve difficulties in the application or interpretation of the Convention (Article 26) and for exchanges of information (Article 27) between the taxation authorities of the two countries.

The Convention will enter into force on the date of the later of the notifications by each country of the completion of the procedures required by its law to bring the Convention into force. The Convention is to take effect in the United Kingdom on or after 1st April in respect of corporation tax, and on or after 6th April for income tax and capital gains tax, in the calendar year next following that in which it enters into force (Article 29). The date of entry into force will in due course be published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes.

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*Notes:*

[1] 1988 c.1; section 788 is extended by section 277 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 (c.12).[back](#)