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**Mauritius - South Africa  
Income Tax Treaty  
(2013)**

**Status:** In Force

**Conclusion Date:** 17 May 2013.

**Ratification Date:** 10 October 2013 (South Africa); 25 May 2015 (Mauritius).

**Entry into Force:** 28 May 2015.

**Effective Date:** 1 January 2016 (see Article 28).

**Note:** Both treaty partners have signed the OECD Multilateral Convention (MLI) and included the agreement in their list of Covered Tax Agreements under Article 2(1)(a)(ii), which may affect the text and interpretation of this agreement.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

**FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND**

**THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION**

**WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

The Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius;

**DESIRING** to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income;

**HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ARTICLE 1**

**PERSONS COVERED**

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

**ARTICLE 2**

**TAXES COVERED**

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or its political subdivisions, 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.
3. The existing taxes to which this Agreement shall apply are:
  - (a) in Mauritius,
    - the income tax;  
(hereinafter referred to as "Mauritius tax"); and
  - (b) in South Africa:
    - (i) the normal tax;
    - (ii) the secondary tax on companies;
    - (iii) the withholding tax on royalties; and
    - (iv) the tax on foreign entertainers and sportspersons;  
(hereinafter referred to as "South African tax").
4. The Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their taxation laws.

## ARTICLE 3

### GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) the term "Mauritius" means the Republic of Mauritius and includes:
    - (i) all the territories and islands which, in accordance with the laws of Mauritius, constitute the State of Mauritius;
    - (ii) the territorial sea of Mauritius; and
    - (iii) any area outside the territorial sea of Mauritius which in accordance with international law has been or may hereafter be designated, under the laws of Mauritius, as an area, including the Continental Shelf, within which the rights of Mauritius with respect to the sea, the sea bed and sub-soil and their natural resources may be exercised;
  - (b) the term "South Africa" means the Republic of South Africa and, when used in a geographical sense, includes the territorial sea thereof as well as any area outside the territorial sea, including the continental shelf, which has been or may hereafter be designated, under the laws of South Africa and in accordance with international law, as an area within which South Africa may exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction;
  - (c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Mauritius or South Africa as the context requires;
  - (d) the term "business" includes the performance of professional services and of other activities of an independent character;
  - (e) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a company or body corporate for tax purposes;
  - (f) the term "competent authority" means:
    - (i) in Mauritius, the Director General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority or an authorised representative of the Director General; and
    - (ii) in South Africa, the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service or an authorised representative of the Commissioner;
  - (g) the term "enterprise" applies to the carrying on of any business;
  - (h) 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;
  - (i) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
  - (j) the term "national", in relation to a Contracting State, means:
    - (i) any individual possessing the nationality or citizenship of that Contracting State; and
    - (ii) any legal person or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in that Contracting State;
  - (k) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons which is treated as an entity for tax purposes; and
  - (l) the term "tax" means Mauritius tax or South African tax, as the context requires.
2. As regards the application of the Agreement at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

## ARTICLE 4

### RESIDENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of that person's domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State.
2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then that individual's status shall be determined as follows:
  - (a) the individual shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which a permanent home is available to the individual, if a permanent home is available to the individual in both States, the individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State with which the individual's personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
  - (b) if the State in which the centre of vital interests is situated cannot be determined, or if the individual does not have a permanent home available to that person in either State the individual, shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which the individual has an habitual abode;
  - (c) if the individual has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, the individual shall be deemed to be a resident of the State of which the individual is a national;

- (d) if the individual 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, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement endeavour to settle the question and determine the mode of application of the Agreement to such person. In the absence of such agreement such person shall be considered to be outside the scope of the Agreement except for the provisions of Article 25.

## ARTICLE 5

### PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the business of the enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term "permanent establishment" shall include:

- (a) a place of management;
- (b) a branch;
- (c) an office;
- (d) a factory;
- (e) a workshop;
- (f) a warehouse, in relation to a person providing storage facilities for others;
- (g) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources; and
- (h) an installation or structure used for the exploration of natural resources.

3. The term "permanent establishment" likewise encompasses:

- (a) a building site or a construction, installation or assembly project, or supervisory activities in connection therewith, but only if the site, project or activity lasts more than twelve months;
- (b) the furnishing of services by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by an enterprise for such purpose, but only where activities of that nature continue (for the same or a connected project) within the Contracting State for a period or periods exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned;
- (c) the performance of professional services or other activities of an independent character by an individual, but only where those services or activities continue within a Contracting State for a period or periods exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned.

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

- (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
- (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
- (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
- (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or for collecting information, for the enterprise;
- (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of advertising, for the supply of information, for scientific research or for similar activities which have a preparatory or auxiliary character, for the enterprise; and
- (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.

6. 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, is taxable in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.
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, boats 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.

## 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 executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting 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 determining the profits of a permanent establishment, of 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. In so far 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 of this Article 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 of this Article, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.
7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

## ARTICLE 8

### SHIPPING AND AIR TRANSPORT

1. Profits of an enterprise 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 shall include:
  - (a) profits from the rental on a bareboat basis of ships or aircraft; and
  - (b) profits from the use 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 use is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic.

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

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

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

2. Where a Contracting State includes in 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 firstmentioned 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 Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

## ARTICLE 10

### DIVIDENDS **Please note that rates are subject to a most favoured nation clause. For details, see the WHT charts for Mauritius and South Africa.**

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 to the beneficial owner shall not exceed:
  - (a) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company which holds at least 10 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
  - (b) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of these limitations.

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 or other rights (not being debt-claims) participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, no tax may be imposed on the beneficial owner in that other State on the dividends paid by the company except in so far as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or in so far as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment 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 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 beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.



The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in that State if:

- (a) the payer of the interest is the Government of that Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof; or
- (b) the interest is paid to the Government of the other Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof; or
- (c) the interest is paid by the Central Bank of that Contracting State or to the Central Bank of the other Contracting State; or
- (d) the interest is paid to any institution or body which is wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by the other Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof; or
- (e) the interest arises in respect of any debt instrument listed on a recognised stock exchange.

4. For the purposes of paragraph 3(e), the term "recognised stock exchange" means:

- (a) in Mauritius, the Stock Exchange of Mauritius;
- (b) in South Africa, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange;
- (c) any other stock exchange agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

5. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purposes of this Article. The term "interest" shall not include any item which is treated as a dividend under the provisions of Article 10 of this Agreement.

6. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

7. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether that person is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment with which the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

8. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such a case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 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 beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

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

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise through a permanent establishment situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether that person is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment with which the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties paid, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such a case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **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, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise), may be taxed in that other State.
3. Gains of an enterprise of a Contracting State 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 that State.
4. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares deriving more than 50 per cent of their value directly or indirectly from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
5. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in the preceding paragraphs of this Article shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 15, 17, 18 and 20, 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 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 which the employer has in the other State.
3. Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State may be taxed in that State.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **DIRECTORS' FEES**

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

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **ENTERTAINERS AND SPORTSPERSONS**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14, income derived by entertainers such as theatre, motion picture, radio or television artistes, and musicians, or by sportspersons, from their personal activities as such, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which these activities are exercised.
2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsperson in that person's capacity as such accrues not to that entertainer or sportsperson but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsperson are exercised.
3. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from activities exercised in the other Contracting State as envisaged in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, shall be exempt from tax in that other State if the visit to that other State is supported wholly or mainly by public funds of the first-mentioned Contracting State, a political subdivision or a local

authority thereof, or takes place under a cultural agreement or arrangement between the Governments of the Contracting States.

## ARTICLE 17

### PENSIONS AND ANNUITIES

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 18, pensions and other similar remuneration, and annuities, arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State, may be taxed in the first-mentioned State.
2. The term "annuity" as used in this Article 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.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, pensions paid and other payments made under a public scheme which is part of the social security system of a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof shall be taxable only in that State.

## ARTICLE 18

### GOVERNMENT SERVICE

- 1.(a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration 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 salaries, wages and other similar 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) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, pensions and other similar remuneration 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 pensions and other similar remuneration 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 14, 15, 16 and 17 shall apply to salaries, wages, pensions and other similar remuneration in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision, local authority thereof.

## ARTICLE 19

### STUDENTS AND BUSINESS APPRENTICES

A student or business apprentice who is present in a Contracting State solely for the purpose of the student's education or training and who is, or immediately before being so present was, a resident of the other Contracting State, shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned State on payments received from outside that first-mentioned State for the purposes of the student's maintenance, education or training.

## ARTICLE 20

### PROFESSORS AND TEACHERS

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 14, a professor or teacher who makes a temporary visit to one of the Contracting States for a period not exceeding two years for the purpose of teaching or carrying out research at a university, college, school or other educational institution in that State and who is, or immediately before such visit was, a resident of the other Contracting State shall, in respect of remuneration for such teaching or research, be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned State.
2. The provisions of this Article shall not apply to income from research if such research is undertaken not in the public interest but wholly or mainly for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

## ARTICLE 21

### OTHER INCOME

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

and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

3 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of the Agreement and arising in the other Contracting State may also be taxed in that other State.

## ARTICLE 22

### ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

1. Double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

(a) in the case of Mauritius:

- (i) subject to the provisions of the law of Mauritius regarding the allowance as a credit against Mauritius tax of tax payable in a territory outside Mauritius (which shall not affect the general principle hereof), where a resident of Mauritius derives profits or income from sources within South Africa and which, under the laws of South Africa and in accordance with this Agreement are taxable or may be taxed in South Africa, whether directly or by deduction, Mauritius shall allow the South African tax payable as a credit against any Mauritius tax computed by reference to the same profits or income by reference to which the South African tax payable is computed;
- (ii) in the case of a dividend, the credit referred to in subparagraph (a)(i) shall only take into account such tax in respect thereof as is additional to any tax payable in South Africa by the company on the profits out of which the dividend is paid and is ultimately borne by the recipient of the dividend without any reference to any tax so payable;
- (iii) where a company which is a resident of South Africa pays a dividend to a company which is a resident of Mauritius and which controls, directly or indirectly, at least 10 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividend, the credit shall take into account (in addition to any South African tax for which credit may be allowed under the provisions of subparagraph (a)(i) of this paragraph) the South African tax payable by the first-mentioned company in respect of the profits out of which such dividend is paid;

Provided that any credit allowed under this subparagraph shall not exceed the Mauritius tax (as computed before allowing any such credit) which is appropriate to the profits or income derived from sources within South Africa;

(b) in South Africa, subject to the provisions of the law of South Africa regarding the deduction from tax payable in South Africa of tax payable in any country other than South Africa (which shall not affect the general principle hereof), Mauritius tax paid by residents of South Africa in respect of income taxable in Mauritius in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, shall be deducted from the taxes due according to South African fiscal law. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed an amount which bears to the total South African tax payable the same ratio as the income concerned bears to the total income.

2. For the purposes of allowing South African tax as a credit in terms of subparagraph (a) of paragraph 1, the tax payable in South Africa shall be deemed to include the tax which is otherwise payable in South Africa but has been reduced or waived by South Africa in order to promote economic development.

## ARTICLE 23

### NON-DISCRIMINATION

1. Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

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. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 8 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.

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 that first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.

5. Nothing contained in this Article shall prevent South Africa from imposing on the profits attributable to a permanent establishment in South Africa of a company, which is a resident of Mauritius, a tax at a rate which does not exceed the rate of normal tax on companies by more than five percentage points.

6. The provisions of this Article shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2, apply to taxes of every kind and description.

## ARTICLE 24

### MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for that person in taxation not in accordance with this Agreement, that person may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present a case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which the person is a resident or, if the case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 23, to that of the Contracting State of which the person is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at an appropriate solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in this Agreement.
4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs. When it seems advisable in order to reach agreement to have an oral exchange of opinions, such exchange may take place through a commission consisting of representatives of the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

## ARTICLE 25

### EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions in so far as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.
2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1, or the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.
3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:
  - (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws or the administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
  - (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
  - (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*).
4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.
5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.

## ARTICLE 26

### ASSISTANCE IN COLLECTION OF TAXES

1. The Contracting States shall lend assistance to each other in the collection of revenue claims. This assistance is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this Article.
2. The term "revenue claim" as used in this Article means an amount owed in respect of taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the

taxation thereunder is not contrary to this Agreement or any other instrument to which the Contracting States are parties, as well as interest, administrative penalties and costs of collection or conservancy related to such amount.

3. When a revenue claim of a Contracting State is enforceable under the laws of that State and is owed by a person who, at that time, cannot, under the laws of that State, prevent its collection, that revenue claim shall, at the request of the competent authority of that State, be accepted for purposes of collection by the competent authority of the other Contracting State. That revenue claim shall be collected by that other State in accordance with the provisions of its laws applicable to the enforcement and collection of its own taxes as if the revenue claim were a revenue claim of that other State.

4. When a revenue claim of a Contracting State is a claim in respect of which that State may, under its law, take measures of conservancy with a view to ensure its collection, that revenue claim shall, at the request of the competent authority of that State, be accepted for purposes of taking measures of conservancy by the competent authority of the other Contracting State. That other State shall take measures of conservancy in respect of that revenue claim in accordance with the provisions of its laws as if the revenue claim were a revenue claim of that other State even if, at the time when such measures are applied, the revenue claim is not enforceable in the first-mentioned State or is owed by a person who has a right to prevent its collection.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4, a revenue claim accepted by a Contracting State for purposes of paragraphs 3 or 4 shall not, in that State, be subject to the time limits or accorded any priority applicable to a revenue claim under the laws of that State by reason of its nature as such. In addition, a revenue claim accepted by a Contracting State for the purposes of paragraph 3 or 4 shall not, in that State, have any priority applicable to that revenue claim under the laws of the other Contracting State.

6. Proceedings with respect to the existence, validity or the amount of a revenue claim of a Contracting State shall not be brought before the courts or administrative bodies of the other Contracting State.

7. Where, at any time after a request has been made by a Contracting State under paragraph 3 or 4 and before the other Contracting State has collected and remitted the relevant revenue claim to the first-mentioned State, the relevant revenue claim ceases to be:

- (a) in the case of a request under paragraph 3, a revenue claim of the first-mentioned State that is enforceable under the laws of that State and is owed by a person who, at that time, cannot, under the laws of that State, prevent its collection, or
- (b) in the case of a request under paragraph 4, a revenue claim of the first-mentioned State in respect of which that State may, under its laws, take measures of conservancy with a view to ensure its collection.

the competent authority of the first-mentioned State shall promptly notify the competent authority of the other State of that fact and, at the option of the other State, the first-mentioned State shall either suspend or withdraw its request.

8. In no case shall the provisions of this Article 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 carry out measures which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*);
- (c) to provide assistance if the other Contracting State has not pursued all reasonable measures of collection or conservancy, as the case may be, available under its laws or administrative practice;
- (d) to provide assistance in those cases where the administrative burden of that State is clearly disproportionate to the benefit to be derived by the other Contracting State.

## ARTICLE 27

### MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND CONSULAR POSTS

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

## ARTICLE 28

### ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. Each of the Contracting States shall notify to the other in writing, through the diplomatic channel, of the completion of the procedures required by its legislation for the entry into force of this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later of these notifications.

2. The provisions of the Agreement shall have effect:

- (a) in Mauritius,
  - on income for any income year beginning on or after the first day of January next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force; and
- (b) in South Africa:
  - (i) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of January next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force; and
  - (ii) with regard to other taxes, in respect of taxable years beginning on or after the first day of January next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force.

3. The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, signed at Pretoria on 5 July 1996, shall be terminated with effect from the date of entry into force of this Agreement and shall cease to have effect for any period thereafter for which the provisions of this Agreement shall apply.

## ARTICLE 29

### TERMINATION

1. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely but either of the Contracting States may terminate the Agreement through diplomatic channels, by giving to the other Contracting State written notice of termination not later than 30 June of any calendar year starting five years after the year in which the Agreement entered into force.

2. In such event the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

- (a) in Mauritius,
  - on income for any income year beginning on or after the first day of January next following the calendar year in which such notice is given; and
- (b) in South Africa:
  - (i) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of January next following the calendar year in which such notice is given; and
  - (ii) with regard to other taxes, in respect of taxable years beginning on or after the first day of January next following the calendar year in which such notice is given.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement in two originals, in the English language.

**DONE** at [Maputo] on this [17th] day of [May] in the year 20[13].

## PROTOCOL

At the signing of the Agreement concluded between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, the undersigned have agreed that the following provisions shall form an integral part of the said Agreement:

1. If, in an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation that may subsequently be concluded between South Africa and a third State, the rates for taxation of dividends in the source State are lower than those specified in subparagraphs 2 (a) and (b) of Article 10, South Africa shall immediately inform the Government of Mauritius in writing through the diplomatic channel and shall promptly enter into negotiations with the Government of Mauritius with a view to providing comparable treatment as may be provided for the third State.
2. With reference to Article 23, paragraph 5, it is understood that should South Africa abolish the secondary tax on companies without replacing it with a similar tax, the provisions of that paragraph shall cease to have effect from the date on which the secondary tax on companies is abolished.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol in two originals, in the English language.

**DONE** at [Maputo] on this [17th] day of [May] in the year 20[13].



**Mauritius**  
**Memorandum of Understanding to the 2013 Treaty (2015)**

**Status:** In Force

**Conclusion Date:** 22 May 2015.

**Entry into Force:** 28 May 2015.

**Effective Date:** 28 May 2015 (see Paragraph 4).

**Note:** Both treaty partners have signed the OECD Multilateral Convention (MLI) and included the agreement in their list of Covered Tax Agreements under Article 2(1)(a)(ii), which may affect the text and interpretation of this agreement.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN**  
**THE MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY AND**  
**THE SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE**  
**CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 4(3)**  
**OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS AND**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**  
**FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND**  
**THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION**  
**WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**  
**SIGNED ON 17 MAY 2013 IN MAPUTO**  
**(HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "THE AGREEMENT")**

1. Where a person, other than an individual, is a resident in both Contracting States under the provisions of Article 4(1) of the Agreement, the Competent Authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to determine by mutual agreement the Contracting State of which such person will be deemed to be a resident for the purposes of the Agreement, having regard to its place of effective management, the place in which it is incorporated or otherwise constituted and any other relevant factors. In the absence of such agreement, such person shall not be entitled to any relief or exemption from tax provided by the Agreement except to the extent and in such manner as may be agreed upon by the Competent Authorities of the Contracting States.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, in determining the Contracting State of which such person is deemed to be resident for the purposes of the Agreement, the Competent Authorities shall take into account the following factors:
  - (a) where the meetings of the person's board of directors or equivalent body are usually held;
  - (b) where the Chief Executive Officer and other senior executives usually carry on their activities;
  - (c) where the senior day to day management of the person is carried on;
  - (d) where the person's headquarters are located;
  - (e) which country's laws govern the legal status of the person;
  - (f) where its accounting records are kept;
  - (g) any other factors listed in paragraph 24.1 of the 2014 OECD Commentary (Article 4, paragraph 3), as may be amended by the OECD BEPS Action 6 final report; and
  - (h) any such other factors that may be identified and agreed upon by the Competent Authorities in determining the residency of the person.
3. The Parties may, at any time, amend this Memorandum of Understanding by mutual consent in writing.
4. This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into effect on the date of entry into force of the Agreement.

5. This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force until terminated by either Party by giving three months written notice to the other Party.  
Date: 22 May 2015

**Mauritius  
Multilateral Instrument (MLI)**

**Status:** In Force

**Conclusion Date:** 7 June 2017.

**Note:** Both treaty partners have signed the OECD Multilateral Convention (MLI) and included the agreement in their list of Covered Tax Agreements under Article 2(1)(a)(ii), which may affect the text and interpretation of this agreement.

**Multilateral Instrument (MLI)**

The treaty signatories have signed the OECD Multilateral Convention (MLI).

See Mauritius - Reservations and Notifications.

See South Africa - Reservations and Notifications.