

(TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN EXTRAORDINARY PART.I)

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
REVENUE DIVISION**

Islamabad, the January 31st, 2019

**NOTIFICATION
(Income Tax)**

S.R.O.187(I)/2019.- WHEREAS the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Swiss Confederation signed the Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income on 21st March, 2017 at Islamabad, as set out in the Annexure to this Notification (the Convention);

AND WHEREAS, in terms of Article 28, Convention shall enter into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 107 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 (XLIX of 2001), the Federal Government is pleased to direct that the provisions of the said Convention shall come into force from 29th November, 2018 and shall have effect,

- (a) in Pakistan for any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of July of the calendar year next following that of the entry into force of the Convention;
- (b) in Switzerland for any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that of the entry into force of the Convention;
- (c) in respect of Article 25, the exchange of information will be applicable for information concerning facts that relate to any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of January of the year next following the date of signature of the Convention; and
- (d) in respect of paragraph 5 of Article 24, to mutual agreement procedures that are
 - (i) pending between the competent authorities of the Contracting States at the entry into force of the Convention (in that case, the three year period begins with the entry into force of this Convention); or
 - (ii) initiated after that date.

Convention
between
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
and
the Swiss Confederation
for the Avoidance of Double Taxation
with respect to Taxes on Income

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Swiss Federal Council,

Desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income

have agreed as follows:

CHAPTER I
Scope of the Convention

Article 1
Personal scope

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

Article 2
Taxes covered

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

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

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

a) in Pakistan:

the income tax,
the super tax, and
the surcharge

(hereinafter referred to as "Pakistan tax");

b) in Switzerland:

the federal, cantonal and communal taxes on income (total income, earned income, income from capital, industrial and commercial profits, capital gains, and other items of income)

(hereinafter referred to as "Swiss tax").

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

CHAPTER II

Definitions

Article 3

General definitions

1. For the purposes of this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a) The term "Pakistan" when used in a geographical sense means the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and includes any area outside the territorial waters of Pakistan which under the laws of Pakistan and international law is an area within which Pakistan exercises sovereign rights and exclusive jurisdiction with respect to the natural resources of the seabed and subsoil and superjacent waters;
 - b) the term "Switzerland" means the territory of the Swiss Confederation as defined by its laws in accordance with international law;
 - c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Pakistan or Switzerland as the context requires;
 - d) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
 - e) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
 - f) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
 - g) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise which has its place of effective management in a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
 - h) the term "nationals" means:
 - (i) all individuals possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
 - (ii) all legal persons, partnerships and associations deriving their status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State.
 - i) the term "tax" means Swiss tax or Pakistan tax as the context requires;
 - j) the term "competent authority" means:
 - (i) in the case of Pakistan, the Federal Board of Revenue or its authorised representative;

(ii) in the case of Switzerland, the Head of the Federal Department of Finance or his authorised representative.

2. As regards the application of the Convention 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 Convention 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 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, and also includes that State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. But this term does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:

- a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
- b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has an habitual abode;
- c) if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State of which he is a national;
- d) if he is a national of both States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which its place of effective management is situated.

Article 5 Permanent establishment

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

2. The term "permanent establishment" includes especially:
 - a) a place of management;
 - b) a branch;
 - c) an office;
 - d) a factory;
 - e) a workshop;
 - f) a warehouse in relation to a person providing storage facilities for others; and
 - g) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.

3. The term "permanent establishment" is deemed to include:
 - a) a building site, a construction, assembly, installation or supervisory activities in connection therewith, but only where such site, project or activities continue for a period of more than nine months;
 - b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by an enterprise for such purposes, 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) an installation or structure used for the extraction or exploitation of natural resources for a period of more than 90 days.

4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:
 - a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage or display of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
 - b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage or display;
 - c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
 - d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
 - e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of advertising, for the supply of information, for scientific research or for similar activities which have a preparatory or auxiliary character, for the enterprise.

5. A person acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State-other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 7 applies-shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned State if:

- a) he has, and habitually exercises in that State, an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless his activities are limited to the purchase of goods or merchandise for the enterprise; or
- b) he has no such authority, but he or the enterprise habitually maintains in the first-mentioned State a stock of goods or merchandise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise on behalf of the enterprise.

6. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, an insurance enterprise of a Contracting State shall, except in regard to re-insurance, be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if it collects premiums in the territory of that other State or insures risks situated therein through a person other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 7 applies.

7. An enterprise 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. However, when the activities of such an agent are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of that enterprise, he will not be considered an agent of an independent status within the meaning of this paragraph.

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

CHAPTER III Taxation of Income

Article 6 Income from immovable property

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (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 resource; ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of 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 directly or indirectly attributable to that permanent establishment.

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

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions all expenses of the enterprise (including executive and general administrative expenses) which would be deductible if the permanent establishment were an independent enterprise and which are reasonably allocable to the permanent establishment, whether such expenses were incurred in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

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

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

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

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

Article 8 **Shipping and air transport**

1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, profits derived from the operation of ships in international traffic may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such operation is carried on; but the tax so charged shall not exceed 50 per cent of the tax otherwise imposed by the internal law of that State.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 and 2 shall likewise apply in respect of the participation in a pool, in a joint business or in an international operations agency of any kind by enterprises engaged in the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic.
4. If the place of effective management of a shipping enterprise is aboard a ship, then it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State in which the home harbour of the ship is situated, or, if there is no such home harbour, in the Contracting State of which the operator of the ship is a resident.

Article 9 **Associated enterprises**

Where:

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

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

Article 10 **Dividends**

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- a) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the recipient is a company (excluding partnerships) which owns directly at least 20 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends; and
- b) 20 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, "jouissance" shares or "jouissance" rights, mining shares, founders' shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting 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, 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 Contracting 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 Contracting 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 Contracting State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other Contracting State.

Article 11 **Interest**

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest the tax so charged shall not exceed 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 Pakistan and paid to a resident of Switzerland shall be exempt from Pakistan tax if the loan or other indebtedness in respect of which the interest is paid is an approved loan. The term "approved loan" means any loan or other indebtedness approved by the Government of Pakistan.

4. 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, 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 purpose of this Article.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting 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, as the case may be, shall apply.

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

Article 12

Royalties

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalties, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 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, or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting 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, as the case may be shall apply.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting 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 having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 13
Fees for technical services

1. Fees for technical services 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 fees for technical services may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner thereof, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the fees.
3. The term "fees for technical services" as used in this Article means any consideration (including any lump sum consideration) for the provision of rendering of any managerial, technical or consultancy services (including the provision by the enterprise of the services of technical or other personnel) but does not include consideration for any construction, assembly or like project undertaken by the recipient or consideration which would be income falling under Article 15 of the Convention.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the payments, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the payments arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the activity in respect of which the payments are made is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 15, as the case may be, shall apply.
5. Payments for the furnishing of services shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying for the furnishing of services, 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 services are rendered, and the payment is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such payment 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 beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the payments for furnishing of services, having regard to the activity for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 14

Capital gains

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
3. Gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
4. Gains 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. The provisions of the preceding sentence shall not apply to gains:
 - a) from the alienation of shares quoted on a stock exchange established in either Contracting State or on a stock exchange as may be agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting States; or
 - b) from the alienation of shares in a company the value of which consist of more than 50 per cent of immovable property, in which the company carries on its business.
5. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

Article 15

Independent personal services

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State except in the following circumstances, when such income may also be taxed in the other Contracting State:
 - a) if he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities; in that case, only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other Contracting State; or
 - b) if his stay in the other Contracting State is for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the fiscal year concerned; in that case, only so

much of the income as is derived from his activities performed in that other State may be taxed in that other State.

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

Article 16 **Dependent personal services**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 17, 19, 20, and 21, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.

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

- a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the 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 in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

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 16, 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, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

Article 19 Pensions

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 20, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that State. However, where such pensions and other similar remuneration arising in the other Contracting State are not liable to tax in the first-mentioned State, that other Contracting State may tax such income.

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) However, 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) 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 16, 17 and 19 shall apply to remuneration and pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

Article 21
Students

1. Payments which a student or business trainee or apprentice who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that State.
2. An individual 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 for the purpose of study, research or training or of acquiring technical, professional or business experience, shall be exempt from tax in that State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate twelve months on remuneration in respect of an employment in such State provided that such employment is directly related to his studies, research, training or acquiring of experience and that the remuneration from the employment does not exceed 18'000 Swiss francs or the equivalent thereof in Pakistan currency at the official rate of exchange.

CHAPTER IV
Methods for elimination of double taxation

Article 22
Elimination of double taxation

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

Subject to the provisions of the laws of Pakistan regarding the allowance as a credit against Pakistan tax, the amount of Swiss tax payable, under the laws of Switzerland and in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, whether directly or by deduction, by a resident of Pakistan, in respect of income from sources within Switzerland which has been subjected to a tax both in Pakistan and Switzerland, shall be allowed as a credit against the Pakistan tax payable in respect of such income but in an amount not exceeding that proportion of Pakistan tax which such income bears to the entire income chargeable to Pakistan tax.

2. In the case of Switzerland, double taxation shall be avoided as follows:

- a) Where a resident of Switzerland derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Pakistan, Switzerland shall, subject to the provisions of sub-paragraphs b) of this paragraph, exempt such income from tax but may, in calculating tax on the remaining income of that resident, apply the rate of tax which would have been applicable if the exempted income had not been so exempted; provided, however, that where profits derived by a resident of Switzerland from sources within Pakistan which in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 8 are subject to tax in Pakistan, the Swiss tax charged on those profits shall be reduced by one half. However, such exemption shall apply to gains referred to in paragraph 4 of Article 14 only if actual taxation of such gains in Pakistan is demonstrated.

- b) Where a resident of Switzerland derives dividends, interest, royalties or fees for technical services which, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 10, 11, 12 or 13, may be taxed in Pakistan, Switzerland shall allow, upon request, a relief to such resident. The relief may consist of:
- (i) a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident of an amount equal to the tax levied in Pakistan in accordance with the provisions of Articles 10, 11, 12 and 13; such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the Swiss tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is appropriate to the income which may be taxed in Pakistan; or
 - (ii) a lump sum reduction of the Swiss tax determined by standardized formulae which have regard to the general principles of the relief referred to in sub-paragraph (i); or
 - (iii) a partial exemption of such dividends, interest, royalties or fees for technical services from Swiss tax, in any case consisting at least of the deduction of the tax levied in Pakistan from the gross amount of the dividends, interest, royalties or fees for technical services.

Switzerland shall determine the applicable relief and regulate the procedure in accordance with the Swiss provisions relating to the carrying out of international conventions of the Swiss Confederation for the avoidance of double taxation.

- c) A company which is a resident of Switzerland and which derives dividends from a company which is a resident of Pakistan shall be entitled, for the purposes of Swiss tax with respect to such dividends, to the same relief which would be granted to the company if the company paying the dividends were a resident of Switzerland.

CHAPTER V **Special provisions**

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 Article 9, paragraph 7 of Article 11, paragraph 6 of Articles 12 or 13 apply, interest, royalties, fees for technical services 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. 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 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 either Contracting State. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Convention.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Convention. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in 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.

5. Where,

- a) under paragraph 1, a person has presented a case to the competent authority of a Contracting State on the basis that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States have

resulted for that person in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, and

- b) the competent authorities are unable to reach an agreement to resolve that case pursuant to paragraph 2 within three years from the presentation of the case to the competent authority of the other Contracting State,

any unresolved issues arising from the case shall be submitted to arbitration if the person so requests. Unless a person directly affected by the case does not accept the mutual agreement that implements the arbitration decision or the competent authorities and the persons directly affected by the case agree on a different solution within six months after the decision has been communicated to them, the arbitration decision shall be binding on both States and shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic laws of these States.

6. The Contracting States may release to the arbitration board, established under the provisions of paragraph 5, such information as is necessary for carrying out the arbitration procedure. The members of the arbitration board shall be subject to the limitations of disclosure described in paragraph 2 of Article 25 with respect to the information so released.

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 Convention or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention. 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, or 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. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information received by a Contracting State may be used for other purposes when such information may be used for such other purposes under the laws of both States and the competent authority of the supplying State authorises such use.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;

- b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
 - c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).
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 **Entitlement to benefits**

1. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Convention, a benefit under this Convention shall not be granted in respect of an item of income if it is reasonable to conclude, having regard to all relevant facts and circumstances, that obtaining that benefit was one of the principal purposes of any arrangement or transaction that resulted directly or indirectly in that benefit, unless it is established that granting that benefit in these circumstances would be in accordance with the object and purpose of the relevant provisions of this Convention.
2. Where a benefit under this Convention is denied to a person under paragraph 1, the competent authority of the Contracting State that would otherwise have granted this benefit shall nevertheless treat that person as being entitled to this benefit, or to different benefits with respect to a specific item of income, if such competent authority, upon request from that person and after consideration of the relevant facts and circumstances, determines that such benefits would have been granted to that person, or to another person, in the absence of the transaction or arrangement referred to in paragraph 1. The competent authority of the Contracting State to which the request has been made will consult with the competent authority of the other State before rejecting a request made under this paragraph by a resident of that other State.

Article 27 **Diplomatic agents and consular officers**

Nothing in this Convention 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.

CHAPTER VI
Final provisions

Article 28
Entry into force

1. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged as soon as possible.

2. The Convention shall enter into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification and its provisions shall have effect:

- a) in Pakistan for any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of July of the calendar year next following that of the entry into force of the Convention;
- b) in Switzerland for any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that of the entry into force of the Convention;
- c) in respect of Article 25, the exchange of information will be applicable for information concerning facts that relate to any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of January of the year next following the date of signature of the Convention;
- d) in respect of paragraph 5 of Article 24, to mutual agreement procedures that are
 - (i) pending between the competent authorities of the Contracting States at the entry into force of the Convention (in that case, the three year period begins with the entry into force of this Convention); or
 - (ii) initiated after that date.

3. The Convention between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Swiss Confederation for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income signed on 19 July 2005 and entered into force on 24 November 2008 shall terminate upon the entry into force of this Convention and shall cease to have effect for the fiscal year next following that of the entry into force of this Convention.

Article 29
Termination

This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting State. 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. In such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect:

- a) in Pakistan for any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of July of the calendar year next following that in which such notice has been given;

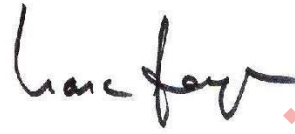
b) in Switzerland for any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following that in which such notice has been given.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done in duplicate at Islamabad, this 21st of March 2017, in the English and German languages, both texts being equally authentic.



For the
Government of the Islamic Republic of
Pakistan



For the
Swiss Federal Council

FBR, Government of Pakistan

Protocol

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
and
the Swiss Federal Council

have agreed at the signing of the Convention between the two States for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income upon the following provisions which shall form an integral part of the said Convention:

1. With reference to Article 5-

With respect to sub-paragraphs a) and b) of paragraph 4, it is understood that the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise for the purpose of delivery or facilities used for delivery of goods and merchandise do not constitute a permanent establishment as long as the conditions of sub-paragraph b) of paragraph 5 are not fulfilled.

2. With reference to Article 7-

Subject to Article 26:

- a) It is understood that the words "directly or indirectly" as used in paragraph 1 of Article 7 mean, that where a permanent establishment takes an active part in negotiating, concluding or fulfilling contracts entered into by the enterprise, then, notwithstanding that other parts of the enterprise have also participated in those transactions, there shall be attributed to the permanent establishment that proportion of profits of the enterprise arising out of those contracts as the contribution of the permanent establishment to those transactions bears to that of the enterprise as a whole. It is also understood that profits shall be regarded as attributable to the permanent establishment to the above-mentioned extent, even when the contracts in question are made directly with the head office of the enterprise rather than with the permanent establishment.
- b) In the case of contracts for the survey, supply, installation or construction of industrial, commercial or scientific equipment or premises, or of public works, when the enterprise has a permanent establishment, as defined in paragraph 3 of Article 5, the profits of such permanent establishment shall not be determined on the basis of the total amount of the contract, but shall be determined only on the basis of that part of the contract which is effectively carried out by the permanent establishment in the State where the permanent establishment is situated. The profits related to that part of the contract which is carried out by the head-office of the enterprise shall be taxable only in the State in which the enterprise is a resident.
- c) With respect to paragraph 3 of Article 7, it is understood that the Contracting States will apply the principles referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Commentaries on Article 7 of the OECD Model Convention 1977 and reproduced in the UN Model Convention 1980.

3. *With reference to Article 9-*

it is understood that where profits on which an enterprise of a Contracting State has been charged to tax in that State are also included in the profits of an enterprise of the other Contracting State and taxed accordingly, and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to that enterprise of the other State if the conditions made between the enterprises have been those which would have been between independent enterprises, then the competent authorities of the Contracting States may consult together with a view to reach an agreement (on the adjustments of profits) in both Contracting States.

4. *With reference to Article 13-*

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, as long as Switzerland does not according to its inland law, levy a tax at source on payments for services paid to nonresidents, the rate of tax levied on such payments shall not exceed 7%.

5. *With reference to Articles 19 and 20-*

it is understood that the term "pensions" as used in Articles 19 and 20, respectively, does not only cover periodic payments, but also includes lump sum payments.

6. *With reference to paragraph 5 of Article 24-*

- a) it is understood, that the costs of the arbitration procedure shall, in any case, be borne by the person requesting the arbitration procedure;
- b) The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of paragraph 5 as soon as possible through appropriate means.

7. *With reference to Article 25-*

- a) it is understood that an exchange of information will only be requested once the requesting Contracting State has exhausted all regular sources of information available under the internal taxation procedure.
- b) it is understood that the tax authorities of the requesting State shall provide the following information to the tax authorities of the requested State when making a request for information under Article 25:
 - (i) the identity of the person under examination or investigation;
 - (ii) the period of time for which the information is requested;
 - (iii) a statement of the information sought including its nature and the form in which the requesting State wishes to receive the information from the requested State;

- (iv) the tax purpose for which the information is sought;
- (v) to the extent known, the name and address of any person believed to be in possession of the requested information.
- c) it is understood that the reference to "foreseeable relevance" is intended to provide for exchange of information in tax matters to the widest possible extent and, at the same time, to clarify that the Contracting States are not at liberty to engage in "fishing expeditions" or to request information that is unlikely to be relevant to the tax affairs of a given taxpayer. While subparagraph (b) contains important procedural requirements that are intended to ensure that "fishing expeditions" do not occur, clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (b) nevertheless are not to be interpreted in order to frustrate effective exchange of information.
- d) it is understood that Article 25 does not require the Contracting States to exchange information on an automatic or a spontaneous basis, neither does it prevent such forms of exchange of information if the Contracting States so agree later.
- e) it is understood that in case of an exchange of information, the administrative procedural rules regarding taxpayers' rights provided for in the requested Contracting State remain applicable. It is further understood that these provisions aim at guaranteeing the taxpayer a fair procedure and not at preventing or unduly delaying the exchange of information process.

8. *With reference to Article 28-*

it is understood that the term "concerning facts" means account-balance as per a certain date; balance transferred; income accrued, paid or credited; and goods sold, etc. that relate to the fiscal year concerned by subparagraph c) of paragraph 2.

Done in duplicate at Islamabad, this 21st of March 2017, in the English and German languages, both texts being equally authentic.


**For the
Government of the Islamic Republic of
Pakistan**


**For the
Swiss Federal Council**

[C.No.2(67)Int.Taxes/12]


(Seema Shakil)
Additional Secretary/Member (IR- Operations)