

**L.N. 62 of 2016**

**Inland Revenue (Double Taxation Relief and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income) (Russian Federation) Order**

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 49(1A) of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112))

**1. Commencement**

This Order comes into operation on 29 July 2016.

**2. Declaration under section 49(1A)**

For the purposes of section 49(1A) of the Ordinance, it is declared—

- (a) that the arrangements specified in section 3(1) have been made with the Government of the Russian Federation; and
- (b) that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect.

**3. Arrangements specified**

- (1) The arrangements specified for the purposes of section 2(a) are the arrangements in—
  - (a) Articles 1 to 29 of the agreement titled “Agreement between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Russian Federation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income”, done in duplicate at Hong Kong

on 18 January 2016 in the Chinese, Russian and English languages; and

- (b) Paragraphs 1 to 3 of the protocol to the agreement, done in duplicate at Hong Kong on 18 January 2016 in the Chinese, Russian and English languages.
  - (2) The English text of the Articles referred to in subsection (1)(a) is reproduced in Part 1 of the Schedule.
  - (3) The English text of the Paragraphs referred to in subsection (1)(b) is reproduced in Part 2 of the Schedule.
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## **Schedule**

[s. 3]

### **Part 1**

#### **Articles 1 to 29 of the Agreement between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Russian Federation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income**

##### **Article 1**

###### **Persons Covered**

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

##### **Article 2**

###### **Taxes Covered**

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting Party 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.
3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are:
  - (a) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,
    - (i) profits tax;
    - (ii) salaries tax;
    - (iii) property tax;whether or not charged under personal assessment;
  - (b) in the case of Russia,
    - (i) the tax on profits of organizations;
    - (ii) the tax on income of individuals.
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, as well as any other taxes falling within paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article which a Contracting Party may impose in future. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their taxation laws.

5. The existing taxes, together with the taxes imposed after the signature of the Agreement, are hereinafter referred to as “Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax” or “Russian tax”, as the context requires.

### **Article 3**

#### **General Definitions**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) (i) the term “Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” means any place where the tax laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China apply;
  - (ii) the term “Russia” means the Russian Federation; when used in a geographical sense, means all the territory of the Russian Federation, including internal waters and territorial sea, in which the Russian laws relating to taxation apply, and also its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, in which the Russian Federation has sovereign rights and jurisdiction in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982);
  - (b) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
  - (c) the term “competent authority” means:

- (i) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue or his authorized representative;
  - (ii) in the case of Russia, the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation or its authorized representative;
- (d) the term “Contracting Party” or “Party” means the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or the Russian Federation, as the context requires;
- (e) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting Party” and “enterprise of the other Contracting Party” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting Party and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting Party;
- (f) the term “fixed base” means a fixed place which a resident of a Contracting Party has in the other Contracting Party for the purpose of performing independent personal services;
- (g) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting Party, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting Party;
- (h) the term “national” in relation to Russia means:
  - (i) any individual possessing the citizenship of Russia;
  - (ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in Russia; and

- (i) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons, and in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region also includes a trust and a partnership.
- 2. In the Agreement, the terms “Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax” and “Russian tax” do not include any penalty or interest imposed under the laws of either Contracting Party relating to the taxes to which the Agreement applies by virtue of Article 2.
- 3. As regards the application of the Agreement at any time by a Contracting Party, 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 Party for the purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Party prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Party.

## **Article 4**

### **Resident**

- 1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting Party” means:
  - (a) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,
    - (i) any individual who ordinarily resides in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;

- (ii) any individual who stays in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for more than 180 days during a year of assessment or for more than 300 days in two consecutive years of assessment one of which is the relevant year of assessment;
  - (iii) a company incorporated in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or, if incorporated outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, being normally managed or controlled in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
  - (iv) any other person constituted under the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or, if constituted outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, being normally managed or controlled in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
- (b) in the case of Russia, any person who, under the laws of Russia, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of incorporation, place of effective management or any other criterion of a similar nature. This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in Russia in respect only of income from sources in Russia;
- (c) in the case of either Contracting Party, the Government of that Party and any political subdivision or local authority thereof.
2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1, an individual is a resident of both Contracting Parties, then his status shall be determined as follows:



- (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both Parties, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party with which his personal and economic relations are closer (“centre of vital interests”);
  - (b) if the Party 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 Party, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which he has an habitual abode;
  - (c) if he has an habitual abode in both Parties or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which he has the right of abode (in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or of which he is a national (in the case of Russia);
  - (d) if he has the right of abode in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is also a national of Russia, or if he does not have the right of abode in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region nor is he a national of Russia, the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall settle the question by mutual agreement. If the competent authorities are unable to reach such agreement, such person shall not be entitled to any relief from tax provided by the Agreement.
3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1, a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting Parties, then it shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which its place of effective management is situated.

## **Article 5**

### **Permanent Establishment**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.
2. The term “permanent establishment” includes especially:
  - (a) a place of management;
  - (b) a branch;
  - (c) an office;
  - (d) a factory;
  - (e) a workshop; and
  - (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.
3. The term “permanent establishment” also encompasses:
  - (a) a building site, a construction, assembly or installation project or supervisory activities in connection therewith, but only if such site, project or activities last more than 12 months;
  - (b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose, but only if activities of that nature continue (for the same or a

connected project) within a Contracting Party for a period or periods aggregating more than 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the taxable period 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 or display of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
  - (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage or display;
  - (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
  - (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
  - (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;
  - (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person – other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies – is acting in a Contracting Party on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting Party, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting Party in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, if such a person:
  - (a) has, and habitually exercises, in the first-mentioned Contracting Party an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph, or
  - (b) has no such authority, but habitually maintains in the first-mentioned Party a stock of goods or merchandise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise on behalf of the enterprise.
6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting Party merely because it carries on business in that Party 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 Party controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting Party, or which carries on business in that other Party (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 Party from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting Party may be taxed by that other Party.
2. The term “immovable property” shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting Party 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, quarries, sources and other natural resources; 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 Party shall be taxable only by that Party unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting Party through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed by the other Party, but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.
2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting Party carries on business in the other Contracting Party through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting Party 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 Party in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.
4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting Party 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 Party 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 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 Party from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only by that Party.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

3. For the purposes of this Article, profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall include in particular:
- (a) revenues and gross receipts from the operation of ships or aircraft for the transport of persons, livestock, goods, mail or merchandise in international traffic including:
    - (i) income derived from the lease of ships or aircraft on a bareboat charter basis where such lease is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic;
    - (ii) income derived from the sale of tickets and the provision of services connected with such transport whether for the enterprise itself or for any other enterprise, provided that in the case of provision of services, such provision is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic;
  - (b) interest on funds directly connected with the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic;
  - (c) profits from the lease of containers by the enterprise, when such lease is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic.

## **Article 9**

### **Associated Enterprises**

1. Where:



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

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 Party includes in the profits of an enterprise of that Party - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting Party has been charged to tax in that other Party and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned Party if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Party 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 Parties shall, if necessary, consult each other.

## **Article 10**

### **Dividends**

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting Party to a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed by that other Party.
2. However, such dividends may also be taxed by the Contracting Party of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that Party, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting Party, the tax so charged shall not exceed:
  - (a) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 15 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.

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

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, dividends arising in a Contracting Party are exempt from tax in that Party, if they are paid:
  - (a) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:
    - (i) to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;

- (ii) to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority;
    - (iii) to the Exchange Fund;
    - (iv) to any entity wholly or mainly owned by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and mutually agreed upon by the competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties;
  - (b) in the case of Russia:
    - (i) to the Government of Russia or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof;
    - (ii) to the Central Bank of Russia;
    - (iii) to any entity wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Russia and mutually agreed upon by the competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties.
4. The term “dividends” as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Party of which the company making the distribution is a resident.
5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party of which the company paying the dividends is a resident through a permanent establishment situated therein, or

performs in that other Party independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

6. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting Party derives profits or income from the other Contracting Party, that other Party 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 Party 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 Party, 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 Party.
7. The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of the shares or other rights in respect of which the dividend is paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

## **Article 11**

### **Interest**

1. Interest arising in a Contracting Party and paid to a resident of the other Contracting Party shall be taxable only by that other Party.

2. 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 purpose of this Article.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Party independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
4. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting Party when the payer is a resident of that Party. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting Party or not, has in a Contracting Party 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 Party in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.
5. 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 exceeds, for whatever

reasons, 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 Party, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

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

## **Article 12**

### **Royalties**

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting Party and paid to a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed by that other Party.
2. However, such royalties may also be taxed by the Contracting Party in which they arise and according to the laws of that Party, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting Party, the tax so charged shall not exceed 3 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.
3. The term “royalties” as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, or films or tapes used for radio

or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Party independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting Party when the payer is a resident of that Party. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting Party or not, has in a Contracting Party 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 Party in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.
6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties exceeds, for whatever reasons, 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 Party, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

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

### **Article 13**

#### **Capital Gains**

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting Party from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting Party may be taxed by that other Party.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting Party has in the other Contracting Party or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting Party in the other Contracting Party 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 a fixed base, may be taxed by that other Party.
3. Gains derived by an enterprise of a Contracting Party 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 by that Party.
4. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting Party from the alienation of shares of a company deriving more than 50 per



cent of its asset value directly or indirectly from immovable property situated in the other Contracting Party may be taxed by that other Party. However, the provisions of this paragraph do not apply to gains derived from the alienation of shares:

- (a) quoted on such stock exchange as may be agreed between the Parties; or
  - (b) alienated or exchanged in the framework of a reorganisation of a company, a merger, a scission or a similar operation; or
  - (c) in a company deriving more than 50 per cent of its asset value from immovable property in which it 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 by the Contracting Party of which the alienator is a resident.
  6. The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the alienation in respect of which the gain is realised, to take advantage of this Article by means of that alienation.

## **Article 14**

### **Income from Independent Personal Services**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting Party in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only by that Party unless he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting

Party for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has such a fixed base, the income may be taxed by the other Party but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base.

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

## **Article 15**

### **Income from Employment**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 19, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting Party in respect of an employment shall be taxable only by that Party unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting Party. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed by that other Party.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting Party in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting Party shall be taxable only by the first-mentioned Party if:
  - (a) the recipient is present in the other Party for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the taxable period concerned, and
  - (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other Party, and

- (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other Party.
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 by an enterprise of a Contracting Party shall be taxable only by that Party.

## **Article 16**

### **Directors' Fees**

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

## **Article 17**

### **Income of Artistes and Sportsmen**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15, income derived by a resident of a Contracting Party 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 Party, may be taxed by that other Party.
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, 14 and 15, be taxed by the Contracting Party in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

## **Article 18**

### **Pensions**

Pensions and other similar remuneration (including a lump sum payment) arising in a Contracting Party and paid to a resident of the other Contracting Party in consideration of past employment or self-employment and social security pensions shall be taxable only by the first-mentioned Party.

## **Article 19**

### **Income from Government Service**

1. (a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration paid by the Government of a Contracting Party or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to the Government of that Party or subdivision or authority, shall be taxable only by that Party.
- (b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only by the other Contracting Party if the services are rendered in that Party and the individual is a resident of that Party who:
  - (i) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, has the right of abode therein and in the case of Russia, is a national thereof; or

- (ii) did not become a resident of that Party solely for the purpose of rendering the services.
2. The provisions of Articles 15, 16 and 17 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by the Government of a Contracting Party or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

## **Article 20**

### **Payments to Students**

Payments which a student who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting Party a resident of the other Contracting Party and who is present in the first-mentioned Party solely for the purpose of his education receives for the purpose of his maintenance or education shall not be taxed by that Party, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that Party.

## **Article 21**

### **Other Income**

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting Party, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only by that Party.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party through a permanent establishment situated

therein, or performs in that other Party independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

## **Article 22**

### **Methods for Elimination of Double Taxation**

1. In the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

Subject to the provisions of the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region relating to the allowance of a credit against Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax of tax paid in a jurisdiction outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (which shall not affect the general principle of this Article), Russian tax paid under the laws of Russia and in accordance with this Agreement, whether directly or by deduction, in respect of income derived by a person who is a resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from sources in Russia, shall be allowed as a credit against Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax payable in respect of that income, provided that the credit so allowed does not exceed the amount of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax computed in respect of that income in accordance with the tax laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

2. In the case of Russia, double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

Where a resident of Russia derives income from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the amount of tax on that income paid in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement may be credited against the Russian tax imposed on that resident. The amount of credit, however, shall not exceed the amount of the Russian tax on that income computed in accordance with the taxation laws and regulations of Russia.

## **Article 23**

### **Non-Discrimination**

1. Persons who, in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, have the right of abode or are incorporated or otherwise constituted therein, and, in the case of Russia, are Russian nationals, shall not be subjected in the other Contracting Party to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith, which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which persons who have the right of abode or are incorporated or otherwise constituted in that other Party (where that other Party is the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or nationals of that other Party (where that other Party is Russia) 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 Parties.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting Party has in the other Contracting Party shall not be less favourably levied in that other Party than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Party carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting Party to grant to residents of the other Contracting Party 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 5 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting Party to a resident of the other Contracting Party 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 Party.
4. Enterprises of a Contracting Party, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting Party, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned Party 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 Party are or may be subjected.
5. The provisions of the 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 Parties result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the internal laws of those Parties, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting Party of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 23, to that of the Contracting Party in which he has the right of abode or is incorporated or otherwise constituted (in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or of which he is a national (in the case of Russia). 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 Agreement.
2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting Party, 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 internal laws of the Contracting Parties.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

## **Article 25**

### **Exchange of Information**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the internal laws of the Contracting Parties concerning taxes covered by this Agreement and the Protocol, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1.
2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting Party shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the internal laws of that Party 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. 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 paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting Party the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting Party;
  - (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 Party;
  - (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 Party in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting Party shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other Party 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 Party 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 Party 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**

### **Members of Government Missions**

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

## **Article 27**

### **Anti-Abuse Measures**

Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice the right of each Contracting Party to apply its internal laws and measures concerning tax avoidance, whether or not described as such.

## **Article 28**

### **Entry into Force**

1. Each of the Contracting Parties shall notify the other in writing of the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the later of these notifications.
2. The provisions of the Agreement shall thereupon have effect:
  - (a) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:

in respect of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax, for any taxable periods beginning on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the Agreement enters into force;

(b) in Russia:

in respect of Russian tax, for any taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January in the calendar year next following that in which the Agreement enters into force.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 of Article 12 of the Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Russian Federation signed in Hong Kong on the 22 January 1999, that Article shall cease to have effect in respect of any tax, from the date upon which this Agreement shall have effect in respect of that tax in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2.

## **Article 29**

### **Termination**

This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting Party. Either Contracting Party may terminate the Agreement by giving the other Contracting Party written notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year. In such event, the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

(a) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:

in respect of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax, for any taxable periods beginning on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given;

(b) in Russia:

in respect of Russian tax, for any taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given.

## Part 2

### **Paragraphs 1 to 3 of the Protocol to the Agreement between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Russian Federation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income**

1. With reference to the Agreement

It is understood that the term “political subdivisions” means, in the case of the Russian Federation, subjects (субъекты) of the Russian Federation, defined as such according to its Constitution.

2. With reference to Article 4 (Resident) and Article 25 (Exchange of Information)

It is understood that any document received under Article 25 of the Agreement or a certificate of residence issued by the competent authority of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or its authorized representative shall not require legalization or any apostille for the purposes of application in Russia, including their use in the courts and administrative bodies.

3. With reference to Article 25 (Exchange of Information)

It is understood that:

(a) in addition to the taxes covered by the Agreement, the provisions of this Article also apply to the following taxes that are administrated and enforced in Russia, for any taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January in the calendar year next following that in which the Agreement enters into force:

- (i) value added tax;
- (ii) tax on property of organizations;
- (iii) tax on property of individuals;

in case of termination under Article 29 of the Agreement, the provisions of this Article shall cease to apply to the above mentioned taxes for any taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given;

Inland Revenue (Double Taxation Relief and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income) (Russian Federation) Order

Schedule—Part 2

L.N. 62 of 2016

B1441

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- (b) the Article does not require the Contracting Parties to exchange information on an automatic or a spontaneous basis;
- (c) information exchanged shall not be disclosed to any third jurisdiction.

Kinnie WONG  
Clerk to the Executive Council

COUNCIL CHAMBER

26 April 2016

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## Explanatory Note

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Government of the Russian Federation signed an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income (*Agreement*) together with a protocol to the Agreement (*Protocol*) on 18 January 2016.

2. This Order specifies the arrangements in Articles 1 to 29 of the Agreement and Paragraphs 1 to 3 of the Protocol (*arrangements*) as double taxation relief arrangements under section 49(1A) of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112), and declares that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect. The Agreement and Protocol were signed in the Chinese, Russian and English languages.
3. The effects of the declaration are—
  - (a) that the arrangements have effect in relation to tax under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) despite anything in any enactment; and
  - (b) that the arrangements, for the purposes of any provision of the arrangements that requires disclosure of information concerning tax of the Russian Federation, have effect in relation to any tax of the Russian Federation that is the subject of that provision.