

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS 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**

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Russian Federation.

Desiring to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1
Personal Scope**

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

Article 2

Taxes Covered

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed in a Contracting State irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. These shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income of on elements of income.

3. The existing taxes in which this Agreement shall apply are in particular

(a) in Mauritius, the income tax:

(hereinafter referred to as "Mauritius tax")

(b) in the case of Russia, due to taxes on income and profits imposed in accordance with the following Laws of the Russian Federation;

(i) "On taxes on profits of enterprise and organisations. and

(ii) "On the income tax on individuals".

(thereafter referred to as "Russian Tax").

4. This Agreement shall also apply to any other taxes of substantially similar character which are imposed by either Contracting State after the date of signature of this Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes.

5. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any substantial changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

Article 3 General Definitions

1. In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) the term "Mauritius" means the Republic of Mauritius and includes:

(i) all the territories and islands which, in accordance with the laws of Mauritius, constitute the State of Mauritius;

(ii) the territorial sea of Mauritius; and

(iii) any area outside the territorial sea of Mauritius which has been or may hereafter be designated, in accordance with international law and under the laws of Mauritius as an area, including the continental shelf, within which the sovereign rights of Mauritius with respect to the sea-bed and sub-soil and their natural resource may be exercised:

(b) the term "Russia" means the Russian Federation and when used in a geographical sense, means its territory, including internal waters and territorial sea, air space above them as exclusive economic zone and continental shelf where the Russian Federation exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction in conformity with federal and international law;

(c) the term "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Mauritius or Russia as the context require;

(d) the term "person" includes an individual, an enterprise, company, a trust and any other body of persons;

(e) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a company or body corporate purpose;

(f) the term "enterprises 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 of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting Sale;

(h) the term "competent authority" means:

(i) in Mauritius, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative; and

(ii) in Russia, the Minister of Finance of the Russian Federations or its authorised representative.

(i) the term "national" means any individual having the citizenship of a Contracting State.

2. In the application of the provisions of this Agreement by a Contracting State, any term not otherwise defined shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the laws of that State.

In case of any divergence between the law of that State relating to the taxes which are the subject of this Agreement and the other branches of the law of that State, the law relating to the taxes which are the subject of this Agreement shall prevail.

Article 4 Resident

1. For the purpose of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of registration, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature. This term does not include any person who is liable to tax 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 in accordance with the following rules:

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

(b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he does not have a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed resident of the State in which he has an habitual abode;

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

(d) if each State considers him to be its national or if he is a national of neither of the two States, the competent authority 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 Agreement, the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the activities of the enterprise of one State is wholly or partly carried on in the other State.

2. The term "permanent establishment" shall include:

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

3. The term "permanent establishment" likewise encompasses:

- (a) a building site or a construction, installation or assembly project, or supervisory activities in connection therewith only if the site, project or activity lasts more than 12 months;
- (b) the furnishing of services including consultancy services by an enterprise of a Contracting State through employees or other personnel engaged in the other Contracting State, provided that such activities continue for the same or a connected project for a period or periods aggregating to more than 6 months within any 12 month period.

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

- (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage or display of good 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 processing by another enterprise;
- (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or for collecting information, for the enterprise;

(e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of advertising, for the supply of information, for scientific research or for similar activities which have a preparatory or auxiliary character, for the enterprise; and

(f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (e), provided that the 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, 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 6 of this Article applies) notwithstanding that he has no fixed place of business in the first-mentioned State shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment that State if:

(a) he has, and habitually exercises, a general authority in the first-mentioned State 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 maintains in the first-mentioned state a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise 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 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 course of their business.

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

Article 6

Income From Immovable Property

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property, including income from agriculture or forestry, is taxable in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.

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

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

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

Article 7 Business Profits

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

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

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. In so far as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 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 general principles contained in this Agreement.

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 profit 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. Any dispute shall be settled in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 24.

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

Profits from International Traffic

1. Profits on an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of rental of ships or aircraft in international traffic and the rental of containers and related equipment which is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.

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.

Article 9

Adjustments to Taxable Profits

1. Where:

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

(b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State, and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State -- and taxes accordingly -- profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first mentioned State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting State shall if necessary consult each other.

Article 10

Dividends

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

2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but if the

recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends, the tax so charged to the beneficial owner shall not exceed:

(a) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the resident of the other Contracting State has directly invested in the authorised capital of the company paying the dividends not less than 500,000 United States dollars, or the equivalent in the currency of the first-mentioned Contracting State;

(b) 10 percent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

3. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights, not being debt claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident; through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the provisions of Article 8 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

www.jlsgroup.com **Article 11** **Interest**

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

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 part income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purposes of this Article. The term "interest" shall not include any item which is treated as a dividend under the provisions of Article 10 of this Agreement.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 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 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 a 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 State when the payer is that State itself, a public authority created therein, or a resident of that State. Where however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting

State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State 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, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such a case, the excess part of the payment shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

Article 12

Royalties

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

2. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payment of any kind received as a consideration for the use of or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work (including cinematograph films and films, tapes or discs for radio or television broadcasting), any patent, trade mark, design or model, computer software, 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.

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

4. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a public authority created therein or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base with which the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State 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 royalties paid, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such a case, the

excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

Article 13

Gains From Alienation of Property

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 together with the whole enterprise) of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other State.

3. Gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State in an international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.

4. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

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Article 14

Income From 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 unless he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has such a fixed base, the income may be taxed in the other State but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base.

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

Article 15

Income From Employment

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

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

- (a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned; and
- (b) the remuneration is paid by or on behalf of an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and
- (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State in international traffic be taxed in that State.

Article 16 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 that other State.

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Article 17 Income of Entertainers and Sportsmen

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 14, 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, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which these activities are exercised.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a 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 in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

Article 18 Pensions

Pensions and other similar remunerations paid from sources in a Contracting State in consideration of past employment may be taxed only in that State.

Article 19

Income From Government Service

1: (a) Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by, or out of funds created by, one of the Contracting State or a public authority created therein to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or authority in the discharge of governmental functions shall be taxable only in that State.

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

(i) is a national of the State, or

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

2. The provisions of Articles 15, 16 and 18 shall apply to remuneration and pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a public authority created therein.

Article 20

Payments to Students and Business Apprentices

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

Article 21

Other Income

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement in respect of which he is subject to tax in that State, shall be taxable only in that State.

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

Article 22

Methods of Elimination of Double Taxation

Double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

1. In the case of Mauritius:

(a) Where a resident of Mauritius derives income referenced to in Article 10 from Russia, Mauritius shall exempt that income from tax.

(b) Where a resident of Mauritius derives income other than that referred to in subparagraph (a) above, from Russia, the amount of tax on that income payable in Russia in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement may be credited against the Mauritius tax imposed on that resident provided that any credit allowed shall not exceed the Mauritius tax (as computed before allowing any such credit) which is appropriate to the profits or income derived from sources within Russia.

2. In the case of Russia, where a resident of Russia derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in Mauritius, the amount of tax on that income payable in Mauritius may be credited against the tax imposed on the resident of Russia. The amount of credit, however, shall not exceed the amount of the tax on that income computed in accordance with the taxation laws and regulations of Russia.

Article 23

Non-Discrimination

1. The nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances are or may be subjected. 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.

3. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of that first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.

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

5. In this Article the term "taxation" means taxes which are the subject of this Agreement.

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 this Agreement, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 23, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at an appropriate solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting State may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs. When it seems advisable in order to reach agreement to have an oral exchange of opinions, such exchange may take place through representatives of the competent authorities.

Article 25

Exchange of Information

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Agreement in so far as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement, in particular for the prevention of fraud or evasion of such taxes. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1. Any information so exchanged shall be treated as confidential in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic law of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts or administrative bodies) involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by this Agreement. 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. The competent authorities shall, through consultation, develop appropriate conditions, methods and techniques concerning the matters in respect of which such exchanges of information shall be made, including, where appropriate, exchanges of information regarding tax avoidance.

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

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

(b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;

(c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy.

3. For the purposes of this Article the term "competent authorities" includes, in the case of Russia, the State Tax Service of the Russian Federation.

Article 26

Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts

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

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Article 27

Entry into Force

1. Each of the Contracting States shall notify to the other in writing through the diplomatic channel the completion of the internal procedures for the entering into force of this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the later of these notifications.

2. The provisions of this Agreement shall apply:

(a) in Mauritius, on income for any income year beginning on or after the first day of July next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force; and

(b) in Russia, in respect of income derived on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that of the entry into force of the Agreement.

Article 28 Termination

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

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

(a) in Mauritius, on income for any income, year beginning on or after the first day of July next following the calendar year in which such notice is given; and

(b) in Russia, in respect of income derived on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which such notice is given.

Done at Moscow this twenty-fourth day of August 1995, in duplicate, in Russian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Ramakrishna Sithanen

Minister of Finance

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

S. Shakalov

Deputy Minister of Finance