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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

**INLAND REVENUE ACT, No. 24 OF 2017**

**Notice**

IT is hereby notified under Section 75 (1) of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017, that the bilateral agreement for affording relief from double taxation and prevention of tax evasion and avoidance, entered into on February 03, 2023 between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Czech Republic as set out in the Schedule hereto, has been approved by parliament by resolution passed on May 25, 2023.

K. M. MAHINDA SIRIWARDANA,  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization  
and National Policies.

Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization  
and National Policies,  
Colombo 01,  
October 30, 2023.



A G R E E M E N T

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION  
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND  
FOR THE PREVENTION OF TAX EVASION AND AVOIDANCE

The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Government of the Czech Republic,  
desiring to conclude an Agreement for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and  
intending to eliminate double taxation with respect to taxes on income without creating opportunities for non-taxation or  
reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance (including through treaty-shopping arrangements aimed at obtaining  
reliefs provided in this Agreement for the indirect benefit of residents of third jurisdictions) and  
desiring to further develop economic relations between both States and to enhance co-operation in tax matters,  
have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**

**PERSONS COVERED**

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

**Article 2**

**TAXES COVERED**

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or 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 and taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises.
3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are in particular:
  - (a) in the case of the Czech Republic:
    - (i) the tax on income of individuals;
    - (ii) the tax on income of legal persons;

(b) in the case of Sri Lanka:

the income tax, including the income tax based on the turnover of enterprises that entered into agreements with the Board of Investment.

4. The Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their taxation laws.
5. The taxes covered by the Agreement do not include any amount which represents penalties, fines or interest imposed under the laws of either Contracting State.

### ARTICLE 3

#### GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) the term “the Czech Republic” means the territory of the Czech Republic over which, under Czech legislation and in accordance with international law, the sovereign rights of the Czech Republic are exercised;
  - (b) the term “Sri Lanka” means the territory of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as defined in the Constitution, including its land territory, internal waters and territorial sea, air space above them, as well as the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf where the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka exercises or may hereafter exercise sovereign rights and jurisdiction in conformity with international law and its national legislation;
  - (c) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean the Czech Republic or Sri Lanka, 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 that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
  - (f) the terms “enterprise of a contracting” 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 “national” means:
    - (i) any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
    - (ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;
  - (h) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
  - (i) the term “competent authority” means:
    - (i) in the Czech Republic, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative;
    - (ii) in Sri Lanka, the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue or an authorised representative of the Commissioner General.
2. As regards the application of the Agreement at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that State for the

purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

#### Article 4

#### RESIDENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of incorporation or registration, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State.
2. where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 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, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to determine by mutual agreement the Contracting State of which such person shall be deemed to be a resident for the purposes of the Agreement, having regard to its place of effective management, the place where it is incorporated or otherwise constituted and any other relevant factors. In the absence of such agreement, such person shall not be entitled to any relief or exemption from tax provided by the Agreement.

#### 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;
  - (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of exploration, development or extraction, of natural resources, and
  - (g) a sales outlet.
3. The term “permanent establishment” likewise encompasses:
- (a) a building site or a construction, assembly or installation project or supervisory activities in connection therewith, but only where such site, project or activities continue for a period of more than six months;
  - (b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy or managerial services, by an enterprise of a Contracting State through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose, but only where activities of that nature continue in the territory of the other Contracting State for a period or periods exceeding in the aggregate six months within any twelve 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 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;
  - (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e),
- provided that such activity or, in the case of sub-paragraph f), the overall activity of the fixed place of business, 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 7 applies - is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, if such a person:
- (a) has and habitually exercises in that State 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 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 of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that other 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, and conditions are made or imposed between that enterprise and the agent in their commercial and financial relations which differ from those which would have been made between independent enterprises, 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.

#### Article 6

#### INCOME FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. The term “immovable property” shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form or immovable property.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income 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 purposes of the business of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere, However, no such deduction shall be allowed in respect of amounts, if any, paid (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses) by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return or the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission for specific services performed or for management, or , except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of interest on moneys lent to the permanent establishment. Likewise, no account shall be taken, in the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, for amounts charged (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses) by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission for specific services performed or for management, or , except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of interest on moneys lent to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices.
4. 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 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 derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State from sources within the other Contracting State derived from the operation of ships in the international traffic may also be taxed in that other state according to the laws of that State, but the tax so charged shall be reduced by an amount equal to 50 per cent thereof.
3. The provision of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency but only to so much of the profits so derived as is attributable to the participant in proportion to its share in the joint operation.
4. For the purposes of this Article and notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12, profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic include:
  - (a) profits from the rental on a bare boat basis of ships or aircraft and
  - (b) profits from the use, maintenance or rental of containers (including trailers and related equipment for the transport of containers) used for the transport of goods,  
where such rental or such use, maintenance or rental, as the case may be, is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic.

**Article 9**

**ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES**

1. Where

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

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

2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State – and taxes accordingly – profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the 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 States shall if necessary consult each other.
3. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not apply in the case of fraud, gross negligence or willful default.

**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 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 beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall be exceed:
  - (a) 7.5 per cents of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company which holds directly at least 10 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
  - (b) 10 per cents 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. 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:
  - (a) income from other corporate rights; and



(b) other income,

provided that such income is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company making the distribution or the payment is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a residents of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on 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 state.

#### Article 11

#### INTEREST

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State and beneficially owned by a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State if such interest is paid:
  - (a) to the Government of the other Contracting State, including any political subdivision or local authority thereof;
  - (b) to the Central Bank of the other Contracting State;
  - (c) to any institution owned or controlled by the Government of the other Contracting State if the purpose of the existence of such an institution is the promotion of export or investment; or
  - (d) in connection with any loan or credit guaranteed:
    - (i) by the Government of the other Contracting state, including any political subdivision or local authority thereof, or
    - (ii) by the Central Bank of the other Contracting State, or
    - (iii) by any institution owned or controlled by the Government of the other Contracting state if the purpose of the existence of such an institution is the promotion of export or investment.
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, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds of 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 of income which is considered as a dividend under the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 10.

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 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 14, 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 State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.
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 Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 12

#### ROYALTIES AND FEES FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

1. Royalties and 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 royalties and 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 beneficial owner of the royalties or fees for technical services is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties or fees for technical services.
3. (a) The term “royalties” as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work, including cinematograph films, and films, tapes or other means of image or sound reproduction, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, any industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.
- (b) The term “fees for technical services” as used in this Article means any payments in consideration for any service of technical, consultancy or managerial nature, but does not include payments for services mentioned in subparagraph (a) of paragraph 3 of Article 5 and in Articles 8, 15, 16, 17 and 19. The term does not include also payments made by an individual for services furnished for the purpose of the personal use of the individual and payments for teaching made to or by educational institutions.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties or fees for technical services, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties or fees for technical services 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, property of service in respect of which the royalties or fees for technical services 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 and fees for technical shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties or fees for technical 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 liability to pay the royalties or fees for technical services was incurred, and such royalties or fees for technical services are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties or fees for technical services shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties or fees for technical services, having regard to the use, right, information or service 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 Agreement.

### Article 13

#### CAPITAL GAINS

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State 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 or 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 State.
3. Gains from the alienation of property forming part of the business property of an enterprise of a Contracting State and consisting of ships or aircraft operated by such enterprise in international traffic or of movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in that State.
4. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares or other interests in a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
5. Gains from the alienation of any property, other than that referred to in the preceding paragraphs, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

### Article 14

#### INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Income derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State from the performance 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 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 any twelve month period commencing or ending 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.

3. In the computation of the periods mentioned in sub-paragraph b) of paragraph 1, the following days shall be included:
- all days of physical presence including days of arrivals and departures, and
  - days spent outside the State of activity such as Saturdays and Sundays, national holidays, holidays, and business trips directly connected with the performance of the activity of the recipient in that State, after which the activity was resumed in the territory of that State.

### Article 15

#### DEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

- Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 19, 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.
- 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 all the following conditions are met:
  - the recipient exercises the employment in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned, and
  - the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and
  - the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.
- In the computation of the periods mentioned in sub-paragraph a) of paragraph 2, the following days shall be included:
  - all days of physical presence including days of arrivals and departures, and
  - days spent outside the State of activity such as Saturdays and Sundays, national holidays, holidays, and business trips directly connected with the employment of the recipient in that State, after which the activity was resumed in the territory of that State.
- The term “employer” mentioned in sub-paragraph b) of paragraph 2 means the person having right on the work produced and bearing the responsibility and risk connected with the performance of the work.
- Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived by a resident of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State in international traffic, may 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 or any other similar organ of a company which is a resident of the other contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

**ARTICLE 17**

**ARTISTES AND SPORTSPERSONS**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15, 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 sportsperson, 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 sportsperson in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsperson 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 sportsperson are exercised.

**Article 18**

**PENSIONS AND ANNUITIES**

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, any pensions, other similar remuneration and annuities paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that State.
2. The term “annuity” means a stated sum payable to an individual periodically at stated times during his life or during a specified or ascertainable period of time under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money’s worth.

**Article 19**

**GOVERNMENT SERVICE**

1. (a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.  
(b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that 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, other similar remuneration and annuities 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, other similar remuneration and annuities 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 15, 16, 17 and 18 shall apply to salaries, wages, pensions, other similar remuneration and annuities 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 20

#### STUDENTS AND APPRENTICES

Payments which a student 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, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that State.

#### Article 21

#### OTHER INCOME

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that State.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, 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 State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment of fixed base, In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement and arising in the other Contracting State may also be taxed in that other State.

#### Article 22

#### ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

1. Where a resident of a Contracting State derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in the other Contracting State, the first-mentioned State shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the income tax paid in that other State Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in that other State.
2. Where, in accordance with any provision of the Agreement, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State is exempt from tax in that State, such State may nevertheless, in calculating that amount of tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, the exemption method may also be applicable in a Contracting State provided that its domestic laws allow so and in accordance with these laws.

#### 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 or a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises or residents of that other State carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status, or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.
3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 7 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12, 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 Agreement, 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 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 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 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 States may communicate with each other directly for the purposes of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

#### **Article 25**

#### **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.

2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1, or the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions. 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 (order 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**

#### **MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND CONSULAR POSTS**

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

#### **Article 27**

#### **ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFITS**

1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, a benefit under the Agreement shall not be granted in respect of an item or 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 the Agreement.
2. Where a benefit under this Agreement is denied to a person under the provisions of 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 in the absence of such transaction or arrangement. The



Competent Authority of the Contracting State to which a request has been made under this paragraph by a resident of the other Contracting State shall consult with the competent authority of that other State before rejecting the request.

3. The provisions of the Agreement shall in no case prevent either Contracting State from applying the provisions of its domestic laws that are aimed at the prevention of fiscal avoidance or evasion.

#### ARTICLE 28

#### ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. Each of the Contracting States shall notify to the other, through the diplomatic channels, the completion of the procedures required by its domestic law for the bringing into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later of these notifications and its provisions shall have effect.
  - a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income paid or credited on or after 1st January in the calendar year next following that in which the Agreement enters into force.
  - b) in respect of other taxes on income, to income in any taxable year beginning on or after 1st January in the calendar year next following that in which the Agreement enters into force.
2. The Convention between the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the Republic of Sri Lanka for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and property signed at Colombo on July 26, 1978, shall cease to be in force and in effect in relation between the Czech Republic and Sri Lanka on the date of the entry into effect of this Agreement.

#### Article 29

#### TERMINATION

This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting State, Either Contracting State may terminate the Agreement, through the diplomatic channels, by giving notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year following after the period of five years from the date on which the Agreement enters into force, in such event, the Agreement shall cease to have effect :

- a) in respect of taxes withheld at sources, to income paid or credited on or after 1st January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given ;
- b) in respect of other taxes on income, to income in any taxable year beginning on or after 1st January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given.

IN WITNESS WHERE OF THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY AUTHORIZED THERETO, HAVE SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT.

Done in duplicate at Colombo this 03rd day of February, 2023 in the Sinhala, Czech and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

Kanakarathna Mudiyansele Mahinda Siriwardana  
Secretary  
Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and  
National Policies  
For the Government of the  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Dr. Eliska Zigova  
Ambassador of Czech Republic  
to Sri Lanka  
For the Government of the  
Czech Republic

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