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Revision of the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties

Note on the Revision of the Manual for Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties

Summary

This note comprises a part of the draft revision of the Manual for Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties prepared by the Subcommittee on revision of the Manual. It addresses basic approaches to tax treaty negotiations.

BASIC APPROACHES TO TAX TREATY NEGOTIATION

Introduction

Income tax treaties (technically “conventions”) begin with the recitation that they are entered into between countries for the purposes of avoiding double taxation of international income flows and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains. The problem of potential international double taxation arises each time an enterprise enters into an inter-country transaction or an individual steps across an international boundary. Taxing conflicts arise in these situations when the countries involved each lay claim to an income tax on resulting income or profits. Historically, the initial measures invoked to alleviate international double taxation were unilateral in nature. Some countries employ a foreign tax credit or offset mechanism. Other countries use an exemption mechanism whereby foreign source income earned by their residents is exempted from domestic taxation. Additional countries use either the tax credit or exemption methods in different tax contexts. Both of the foregoing unilateral tax relief measures recognize the primacy of other countries source taxation structures.

Nevertheless, many countries have found it necessary to supplement unilateral measures by entering into a network of bilateral tax treaties their principal commercial partners and other countries with which their taxpayers are involved in trade or investment. A principal goal of tax treaties is agreement on common definitions of income source, residency and a sufficient nexus (permanent establishment) to subject commercial and industrial profits to source country taxation. Other important goals include reduction of source country withholding rates on passive income such as interest, dividends and royalties, elimination of double taxation, prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains, tax administration cooperation, and a mechanism for resolving tax disputes between the treaty partners. Tax treaties between developed and developing countries frequently take into account differing levels of economic development, fiscal administration resources and tax structure complexities.

Any tax treaty negotiator must be aware that two major model treaties are used by most countries as a starting point for tax treaty negotiations. The model treaties (which are included in the Appendix) are:

1. OECD Model Convention on Income and on Capital
2. United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries

The United States employs its own U. S. Treasury Model Convention as a treaty negotiation starting point in particular with developing countries. Other countries have formally or informally published “Model” treaties setting forth the basic positions their treaty negotiators will take in an opening round of treaty discussions. The following discussion highlights the considerations involved in tax treaty negotiations and the

differences in approach between the most recent drafts of the OECD and UN model treaties.

In this portion of the Manual we will state the UN Model as it presently exists and follow it with a discussion of each Article. Where we discuss another treaty or the OECD Model Treaty we have attached copies of these treaties in the Appendix.

UN MODEL

Article 1

PERSONS COVERED

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

DISCUSSION

Article 1

PERSONS COVERED

Many older negotiated treaties used the prior model treaty title of Personal Scope for Article 1. Both model treaties recently changed the title of Article 1 to Persons Covered to more accurately convey the correct scope of a tax treaty by specifying the types of persons or taxpayers to which a tax treaty applies.

The text of Article 1 in recent tax treaties states that the treaty shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both Contracting States. Subsequent treaty articles specifically define the Article 1 terms. For instance, in typical recent treaties Article 3 defines the term “person” as including an individual, company or any other body of persons. Article 4 defines the term “resident of a Contracting State” as meaning any person who is liable to taxation therein on the basis of domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature.

SIGNIFICANCE: A primary purpose of tax treaties is to promote international commerce by eliminating bilateral international double taxation between treaty partners. However, the scope of a tax treaty is not limited to commercial and business activities. In broad terms Article 1 defines the outer scope of potential treaty benefits with regard to the imposition of both source and residency income taxing jurisdiction. Yet, unintended third country benefits may still potentially be derived through the use of bilateral tax treaties. In some cases, the “beneficial owner” rules are inserted in treaties to limit the improper use of treaties. As some countries view domestic anti-avoidance rules to conflict with treaty provisions treaty negotiators may wish to consider the effect of other treaty and domestic anti-avoidance measures.

EXAMPLE: United States treaties contain a “savings clause” which provides that the United States in determining its taxes of U.S. citizens, residents or corporations may, regardless of other treaty provisions, include all items of income taxable under U.S. revenue laws on the basis upon which the United States imposes taxes. Thus, U.S. citizens, residents and corporations may expect to benefit from a tax treaty only to the extent the foreign treaty partner makes concessions with respect to its own taxes not otherwise creditable for foreign tax credit purposes.

UN MODEL

Article 2

TAXES COVERED

1. *This Convention shall apply to taxes on income and on capital 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 and on capital all taxes imposed on total income, on total capital, or on elements of income or of capital, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises, as well as taxes on capital appreciation.*

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

(a) *(in State A):*

(b) *(in State B):*

1 States wishing to do so may follow the widespread practice of including in the title a reference to either the avoidance of double taxation or to both the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion.

2 The Preamble of the Convention shall be drafted in accordance with the constitutional procedures of the Contracting States.

4. *The Convention shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed after the date of signature of the Convention in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of significant changes made to their tax laws.*

DISCUSSION

Article 2

TAXES COVERED

The model treaties each contain 4 paragraphs, the first two of which broadly define what taxes, both income and capital, are covered by the treaty. However, most actually negotiated treaties dispense with inclusion of the first two paragraphs and move immediately to include the third paragraph of the model treaties. The third paragraph specifies exactly which taxes of each treaty partner are to be applicable to the treaty. (See the treaties in the Appendix)

EXAMPLE: New Zealand-South Africa

1. The existing taxes to which this Agreement shall apply are:

(a) in New Zealand

the income tax

(hereinafter referred to as “New Zealand tax”)

(b) in South Africa

(i) the normal tax

(ii) the secondary tax on companies; and

(iii) the withholding tax on royalties

Many treaties also contain a provision similar to paragraph 4 of the model treaties which provides that the treaty will also apply to any identical or similar taxes which are imposed after the treaty is in force. The paragraph requires the competent authorities of the Contracting States to notify each other within a reasonable time of any significant changes that have been made in their tax laws.

SIGNIFICANCE: The definition of taxes covered relates directly to which taxes are to be accorded unilateral tax relief via the credit or exemptions mechanisms pursuant to Article 23 of the model treaties, titled Methods for the Elimination of Double Taxation. Specificity in defining the taxes to be covered by the treaty is therefore critical as taxes of either country not included in the definition of taxes covered by the treaty will not qualify for foreign tax credit purposes. This is especially important where a tax is not a pure income tax, e.g. a trade tax or net worth tax.

UN MODEL

Article 3

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) The term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
- (b) The term “company” means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (c) The terms “enterprise of a Contracting State” and “enterprise of the other Contracting State” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- (d) The term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise that has its place of effective management in a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
- (e) The term “competent authority” means:
 - (i) (in State A):
 - (ii) (in State B):
- (f) 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.

2. As regards the application of the Convention by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has under the law of that State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Convention applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

DISCUSSION

Article 3

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

The model treaties use Article 3 to group a number of general definitions required for interpretation of the terms used in a treaty. They are “person”, “company”, “enterprise of a Contracting State”, “international traffic” and “national”. Actually negotiated treaties with countries which use place of incorporation to define corporate residence (e.g. United States, Mexico) may contain the term “resident” instead of “place of effective management” in the definition of “international traffic”

Space is also left for the designation of the “competent authority” of each Contracting State which is important for the settlement of treaty disputes under the mutual agreement procedure set forth in Article 25 of the model treaties. The terms “resident” and “permanent establishment” are defined in Articles 4 and 5 respectively, while the interpretation of certain terms used in the articles on special categories of income (e.g. immovable property, Article 6 and dividends, Article 10) is clarified in the articles concerned. Treaty negotiators are free to agree bilaterally on definitions of the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State”. Negotiators may also wish to include a reference to continental shelves in the definition of a Contracting State. Some existing treaties also include a definition of natural resources.

Under Article 3, paragraph 2, any treaty term not defined within the treaty takes its meaning from the domestic law of the Contracting State imposing the tax whether or not a tax law, unless the context demands otherwise. Where a term is defined differently for the purposes of different laws, the meaning given to that term for the purposes of the laws imposing the taxes to which the treaty applies predominates over all other laws, including those stated for purposes of other tax laws.

As paragraph 2 states the foregoing rule applies only if the context does not require another interpretation. The context consists of particular of the intention of the Contracting States when signing the treaty as well as the meaning given to the term in question in the legislation of the other Contracting State which is an implicit reference to the principle of reciprocity upon which a tax treaty is based, thereby allowing the competent authorities some interpretative leeway.

The question arises as to which legislation must be referred to in order to determine the meaning of terms not defined in a treaty, the choice being between the legislation in force when the treaty was signed or that in force when a tax is imposed under the treaty. Both model treaty commentaries were recently clarified to specify that in the event of a conflict the law in force when a tax is imposed will prevail.

Treaty negotiators should be aware that most countries do not allow domestic legislation to override treaty obligations. A few countries take the position that either in principle

tax treaties may be overridden by subsequent domestic legislation, or that domestic law and treaties are of equal status. As a consequence, in the case of conflict the latter in time prevails. Yet, domestic law treaty overrides are rare.

UN MODEL

Article 4

RESIDENT

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of incorporation, 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 or capital situated therein.

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 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 a habitual abode;*
- (c) If he has a habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State of which he is a national;*
- (d) If he is a national of both States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.*

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

DISCUSSION

Article 4

RESIDENT

The treaty term “resident of a Contracting State” as defined in Article 4 of the UN model treaty (which varies slightly from the OECD model) means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of incorporation, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. However, the term does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State or capital situated therein. Moreover, it should again be emphasized that under Article 3 of the model treaties the term “person” includes not only individuals, but also a company or any other body of persons.

Most actually negotiated treaties follow the model treaties by looking first to the internal law definition of residence of each State. However, where there is a conflict in those definitions Article 4 of the model treaties lists in decreasing order of relevance a number of subsidiary criteria to be applied when an individual is a resident of both countries under their internal laws to determine which State the individual is considered to be a resident for purposes of the treaty. If none of these criteria (See Article 4(2))is determinative of the individual’s residence status determination of residence is settled by the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

EXAMPLE: Assume X maintains permanent homes in both Australia and Mexico. However, X, a Mexican citizen, keeps his bank accounts and investments in Mexico. Under the Australia-Mexico Treaty, Article 4(b) X is deemed to have closer ties to Mexico (his centre of vital interests) and would be deemed a resident of Mexico for purposes of the treaty.

Note: Some treaties such as the China-United States Treaty dispense with the use of any subsidiary criteria in the event of a residence conflict and instead immediately invoke the competent authority procedure to determine residency.

SIGNIFICANCE: The concept of “resident of a Contracting State” is important in determining a treaty’s scope of application, e.g. reduction in source country withholding rates-See UN Model, Articles 10-12 dividends, interest and royalties. An objective determination of residence is also effective in solving cases where double taxation arises from double residence under the internal laws of the Contracting States. Finally, the concept is employed in treaties to solve cases where double taxation arises as a consequence of taxation in both the residence and source countries.

UN MODEL

Article 5

PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

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

2. *The term “permanent establishment” includes especially:*

- (a) A place of management;*
- (b) A branch;*
- (c) An office;*
- (d) A factory;*
- (e) A workshop;*
- (f) A mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.*

3. *The term “permanent establishment” likewise 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 six 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 State for a period or periods aggregating more than 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 of a preparatory or auxiliary character.*
- (f) *The maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.*

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 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 State or insures risks situated therein through a person other than an agent of 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.

DISCUSSION

Article 5

PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

Generally, each country will attempt to tax a non-resident enterprise that is engaged in the active pursuit of business in its territory when engaged with a certain degree of intensity or regularity. The differences in the rules concerning source of income, problems of allocating income to one or the other country and the undesirability or futility of taxing certain business activities of a non-recurring, preparatory or ancillary nature led to development of the permanent establishment concept. The concept provides that an enterprise of one treaty country shall be taxable in the other treaty country only if it maintains a permanent establishment. However, the lack of definitions for “business” and “enterprise” sometimes results in disagreement between taxpayers and tax administrations about whether an enterprise constitutes a permanent establishment.

SIGNIFICANCE: The definition of the term permanent establishment is central to source country taxation of business profits since under Article 7 no tax is imposed upon source country business profits unless a permanent establishment exists. (See UN Model, Article 7(1) taxing business profits attributable to a permanent establishment) Further, gain from the sale of merchandise is generally exempt from source country taxation unless such property forms part of a permanent establishment.

Paragraph 1 of Article 5 of both the models and treaties actually in force set forth the basic principle that a permanent establishment means a “fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.” In paragraph 2 of the model treaties this principle is illustrated with the following non-exhaustive specific examples: a place of management, a branch, an office, workshop, and a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or other place of extraction of natural resources. Additional examples added by some recently negotiated treaties between developed and developing countries include an agricultural, pastoral or forestry property; a store or other sales outlet. Note, the list of examples does not necessarily signify a permanent establishment, as the conditions of Article 5(1) must also be met for them to constitute a permanent establishment.

Under Article 5(3) of OECD based treaties construction jobs, assembly projects and building sites are considered permanent establishments, if they last more than 12 months in duration. By contrast the UN Model uses durations of more than six months. Most treaties between developed and developing countries use the more than six months criteria. Some treaties also employ the more than six month criteria in regard to the exploration for or exploitation of natural resources located in a source country, as well as use of substantial equipment in taxing state by, for or under contract with the enterprise. Other treaties provide the use of substantial equipment in the taxing state at any time shall constitute a permanent establishment even in the absence of a fixed place of business.

The UN model and some treaties (e.g. New Zealand-South Africa, Article 5(5)(a)) negotiated by developing countries use a time criteria of more than six months within any twelve-month period with regard to permanent establishments arising from the furnishing of services, including consulting services, by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose. Under the provision the furnishing of any service may lead to taxation as a deemed service permanent establishment even if an enterprise has no fixed place of business in the taxing state as required under Article 5(1). Some developed country negotiators view the provision as at odds with treaty provisions addressing independent personal services, as well as being difficult to administer, and in certain cases having a potential adverse effect on the transfer of technology.

Under Article 5(4) of the model treaties certain preparatory and auxiliary business activities or functions will not cause a fixed place of business to be deemed a permanent establishment. They include:

- (a) the use of facilities solely for the storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise. Generally, this limitation would include facilities used for packaging and dispatch, but not for sale. The UN Model deletes the word “delivery” on the basis that a continuous connection and hence the existence of such a supply of goods should be a permanent establishment, despite the small amount of income which would normally be attributed to such activity.
- (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery. As previously noted the UN Model deletes the word “delivery” although the UN commentary on Article 5 states that almost 75 percent of tax treaties entered into by developing countries have included delivery of goods in their treaties.
- (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 purchasing goods or merchandise or for collecting (not evaluating or editing) information for the enterprise,
- (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any other activity of a preparatory or ancillary nature of the enterprise. Under this subparagraph all preparatory and ancillary activities are exempted from permanent establishment taxation. Hence, the list of exceptions under subparagraphs (a) to (d) are specific examples and not intended to be exclusive. By contrast, an activity cannot be considered as preparatory or auxiliary, if it is similar to the essential and significant part of the activity of the enterprise as a whole. A permanent establishment would also exist if any of the exempt functions were performed for other enterprises or with core activities.
- (f) The UN Model does not include the provision set forth in Article 5(4)(f) of the OECD Model which excludes from permanent establishment status the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in (a) through (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

Under Article 5(5) of the model treaties, regardless of the existence of an office or other fixed place of business, a permanent establishment will exist if business activities are carried on through a dependent agent who habitually exercises an authority to conclude contracts on behalf of an enterprise. Note, the provision does not require any special business activity as long as the activity is essential and significant to the principal's business. An exception is made for a dependent agent's activities limited to those permissible if carried on through a fixed place of business mentioned in the Art 5(4) exclusion provision. Moreover, the OECD Model, Art 5(6) and UN Model Art 5(7) negate permanent establishment status for independent agents, providing they are acting in the ordinary course of their business. Independent agents acting outside the ordinary course of their business when acting for a principal are treated as dependent agents.

The UN Model expands the scope of its Articles 5(5) and 5(7) in two respects. An addition is made to 5(5) which results in permanent establishment status where a dependent agent maintains a regular stock of goods from which the dependent agent makes regular deliveries and additional sales related activities are conducted in the source state on behalf of the foreign enterprise which have contributed to the sale of such goods. A further addition is made to 5(7) (Article 5(6) of the OECD Model) which has the effect of restricting the category of independent agent. Under the provision, an agent will not be considered independent if its activities are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of an enterprise. However, it is as yet unclear what standard would be employed to determine whether the agent's activities are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of an enterprise.

Article 5(6) of the UN Model does not have a counterpart in the OECD Model. It provides that the collection of premiums or insurance of risks, except re-insurance transactions, in the other State by an insurance company of a Contracting State will be deemed to be an agency permanent establishment unless the activities are performed through an independent agent.

OECD Model Art 5(7) and UN Model Article 6(8) both provide that the existence of a subsidiary company in a treaty country does not of itself constitute that subsidiary a permanent establishment of its parent company. However, it should be noted that a subsidiary company may constitute a permanent establishment of its parent if the subsidiary satisfies the dependent agent requirements under Art 5(5).

UN MODEL

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, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.*
- 3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also 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.*

DISCUSSION

Article 6

INCOME FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Article 6(1) of the model treaties recognizes that there is always a very close economic connection between an immovable property (real estate) income source and the country of such source. Thus, the source country is accorded the primary right to tax income from immovable property located therein. Negotiated treaties frequently allow the owner of immovable property located in another treaty country to be taxed on net income basis by the source country. The UN Model commentary notes that the objective should not be to preclude the use of a withholding tax on rents from real property based upon gross income; in such cases the withholding rate should take into account the fact that expenses have been incurred. The UN Model commentary takes the further position that Article 6 is not intended to preclude a country which taxes income from agriculture or other immovable property on an estimated or similar basis from utilizing that basis.

This treaty article applies only to income which a resident of one treaty partner country derives from immovable property located in the other treaty partner country. The article has no application where the income recipient is a resident within the meaning of Article 4, or a resident of a third country. In such cases the income recipient is taxed under Article 21(1).

Under Article 6(2) with certain exceptions, the definition of “immovable property” is left up to the internal law of the country in which the immovable property is located. The model treaties and most negotiated treaties specifically mention assets and rights which have always been regarded as immovable property, e.g. property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry (sometimes dealt with under Article 7), mineral deposits and other natural resources. Ships, boats and aircraft are not regarded as immovable property. Income from indebtedness secured by immovable property is covered by the Article 11 interest provision.

Article 6(3) provides that the general rules set out in Article 6(1) will apply regardless of the form of the exploitation of the immovable property. Under Article 6(4) the provisions of Articles 6(1) and 6(3) also apply to income from immovable property of industrial, commercial and other enterprises and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services. Although income from immovable property if derived from a permanent establishment may be treated as income of the enterprise, in the absence of a permanent establishment immovable property income will be source country taxed under Article 6.

UN MODEL

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*

aforsaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State, but only so much of them as is attributable to (a) that permanent establishment; (b) sales in that other State of goods or merchandise of the same or similar kind as those sold through that permanent establishment; or (c) other business activities carried on in that other State of the same or similar kind as those effected through 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 the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the 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 for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission, for specific services performed or for management or, except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of interest on moneys lent to the permanent establishment. Likewise, no account shall be taken in 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. 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 principles contained in this article.

5. For the purpose 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.

6. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other articles of this Convention, then the provisions of those articles shall not be affected by the provision of this article.

[NOTE: The question of whether profits should be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods and merchandise for the enterprise was not resolved. It should therefore be settled in bilateral negotiations.]

DISCUSSION

Article 7

BUSINESS PROFITS

Under traditional treaty rules if an enterprise of treaty partner country A has no permanent establishment (see Article 5 for the definition of permanent establishment) in treaty partner country B, the country A foreign enterprise will be exempted from country B source income taxation on business profits (industrial and commercial profits) arising in country B. Under Article 7(1) of both model treaties, if an enterprise of treaty partner country A does have a permanent establishment in treaty partner country B, then the profits of the enterprise may be sourced income taxed by country B to the extent the profits are attributable to the permanent establishment located in country B. The UN model additionally employs a modified force of attraction principle whereby a foreign enterprise is exposed to source country income taxation on some business profits derived by a foreign enterprise arising outside the permanent establishment. In the above example Also, the UN model extends country B source income taxation to: (1) sales in country B of goods or merchandise of the same or similar kind as those sold through the permanent establishment, and (2) other business activities carried in country B of the same or similar nature as those effected through the permanent establishment located in country B. Unless characterized as business profits attributable to a permanent establishment other income sources such as interest, dividends and royalties would not be subjected to source taxation under Article 7 of either model treaty (See UN model Article 7(6) and OECD model Article 7(7)). Finally, the UN model deletes Article 7(5) of the OECD model which states “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.” However, the UN model commentary provides that the issue of permanent establishment income attribution due to mere purchases should be settled by bilateral negotiations. Almost all actually negotiated treaties include a provision containing the substance of Article 7(5) of the OECD model.

In further Article 7 sections the model treaties deal with operational principles for determination of income attributable to a permanent establishment. There is general acceptance of the so called “arm’s length” rule by tax treaty negotiators. According to this fundamental rule (Article 7(2) of the model treaties), the profits attributable to a permanent establishment shall be those which would be earned by the establishment if it were a wholly independent entity dealing with its head office as if it were a distinct and separate enterprise operating under conditions and selling at prices prevailing in the

regular market. The Commentary to the OECD model indicates that the profits so attributable are normally the profits shown on the books of the establishment. The tax authorities of the country in which the permanent establishment is located are, however, permitted to use the provisions of its own internal laws to rectify the accounts of the enterprise so as to properly reflect income which the establishment would have earned if it were an independent enterprise dealing with its head office at arm's length. Moreover, Article 7(4) of both model treaties provides that in so far as it has been customary for a treaty country in which a permanent establishment is located to determine profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing contained in Article 7(2) shall preclude the use of such apportionment method if it accords with the Article 7 principles. However, the profits attributed to a permanent establishment must be determined by using the same method year by year unless there is a good and sufficient reason to the contrary. (UN model Article 7(5), OECD model Article 7(6)).

The model treaties differ substantially regarding the difficult and complex problems of the deductions allowed to the permanent establishment. Both model treaties in Article 7(3) provide that in determining the profits of a permanent establishment, allowance shall be made for expenses, wherever incurred, for purposes of the business of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses. However, the UN model recognizes that there are some classes of expenditures that give rise to special problems. These include interest and royalties, etc., paid by the permanent establishment to its head office in return for money loaned or patent rights licensed by the head office to the permanent establishment. Also included are commissions (except for the reimbursement of actual expenses) for specific services or for the exercise of management services by the enterprise for the benefit of the permanent establishment. In these cases, the payments are not allowed as deductions in computing the profits of the permanent establishment. Conversely, such payments if made to a permanent establishment by the head office are excluded from the profits of the permanent establishment. In the event an allocable share borne by the permanent establishment of such payments, e.g. interest and royalties, paid by the enterprise to third parties is an allowable permanent establishment deduction. Note, the foregoing complex problems of permanent establishment deductions are pointed out in the UN commentary on Article 25 concerning the mutual agreement procedure as being among the most common cases for invoking the procedure.

UN MODEL

Article 8

SHIPPING, INLAND WATERWAYS TRANSPORT AND AIR TRANSPORT

Article 8 (alternative A)

1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

2. Profits from the operation of boats engaged in inland waterways transport shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

3. If the place of effective management of a shipping enterprise or of an inland waterways transport enterprise is aboard a ship or a boat, then it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State in which the home harbour of the ship or boat is situated or, if there is no such home harbour, in the Contracting State of which the operator of the ship or boat is a resident.

4. 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 8 (alternative B)

1. Profits from the operation of aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

2. Profits from the operation of ships in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated unless the shipping activities arising from such operation in the other Contracting State are more than casual. If such activities are more than casual, such profits may be taxed in that other State. The profits to be taxed in that other State shall be determined on the basis of an appropriate allocation of the overall net profits derived by the enterprise from its shipping operations. The tax computed in accordance with such allocation shall then be reduced by ___ per cent. (The percentage is to be established through bilateral negotiations).

3. Profits from the operation of boats engaged in inland waterways transport shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

4. If the place of effective management of a shipping enterprise or of an inland waterways transport enterprise is aboard a ship or boat, then it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State in which the home harbour of the ship or boat is situated or, if there is no such home harbour, in the Contracting State of which the operator of the ship or boat is a resident.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

DISCUSSION

Article 8

SHIPPING, INLAND WATERWAYS TRANSPORT AND AIR TRANSPORT

Article 8 of both model treaties limits taxation of profits from the operation of aircraft to the treaty partner country in which the effective place of management of the enterprise is situated. The OECD model applies the same approach to the taxation of profits from the operation of ships, the rationale being that shipping enterprises should not be exposed to the tax laws of the numerous countries to which their operations extend, potentially subjecting the enterprise to taxation on amounts exceeding its total income. This approach, used in treaties between developed countries as well as some treaties between developed and developing countries, creates a major exception to the taxation of business profits on the basis of the permanent establishment principle set forth in Article 7. However, some developing countries have entered into tax treaties that adopt the principle of source taxation and of sharing the revenue at an agreed percentage. This latter approach is consistent with the UN model, Article 8 (2) Alternative B. The UN model article allows taxation of shipping profits by a treaty partner in the case where shipping activities in that country are more than casual. In such cases taxable profits shall be determined on the basis of an appropriate allocation of the overall net shipping profits derived by the enterprise. The tax computed in accordance with such allocation shall then be reduced by ____ per cent. (The percentage is to be established by bilateral negotiations)

Under both model treaties, Article 8(2) the place of effective management criterion is also employed to determine the exclusive right to tax the profits from the operation of boats engaged in inland waterways transport. However, if the effective place of management of either a shipping enterprise or of an inland waterways transport enterprise is aboard a ship or a boat, then the effective place of management shall be deemed to situated in the treaty partner country in which the home harbor of the ship or boat is situated, or if there is no such home harbor, in the treaty partner country of which the operator of the ship or boat is a resident. Finally, it should be noted that Article 8 is also applicable to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint venture business or an international operating agency.

UN MODEL

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 the Convention and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall, if necessary, consult each other.

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not apply where judicial, administrative or other legal proceedings have resulted in a final ruling that by actions giving rise to an adjustment of profits under paragraph 1, one of the enterprises concerned is liable to penalty with respect to fraud, gross negligence or wilful default.

DISCUSSION

Article 9

ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES

Article 9 deals with the complex problems of allocating business profits between controlled entities of the same business enterprise where:

- (a) an enterprise of a treaty partner country participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise located in another treaty partner country, or**
- (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise in each of two treaty partner countries.**

The basic rule applied in internal tax laws and in treaties, as crystallized by the model treaties, is that profits of the various parts of an enterprise (i.e., branches or subsidiaries in relation with the home office) should be those profits which would result if the various units were dealing with each other at arm's length, as wholly independent enterprises,

charging prevailing market prices to each other (see related discussion under Article 7). Although such profits might at first be assumed to be those shown on the books of the establishments, Article 9 of the model treaties permits a treaty partner tax authority to rectify the accounts of the enterprise when necessary.

EXAMPLE: Subsidiary (S) located in Mexico sells automobile mufflers to its parent company (P) located in Germany for \$40 per muffler. S also sells exactly the same muffler to an independent third party (I) for \$50 per muffler. Under Article 9 of their tax treaty Mexican tax authorities may make an adjustment to S's profit from sales to P to reflect the same profit margin earned by S on its sales to I.

An allocation of additional profit to S by Mexico may give rise to economic double taxation if P has already reported and been taxed upon such profit in Germany. Article 9(2) of the model treaties provides that in these circumstances, Germany shall make an appropriate adjustment so as to relieve the double taxation. However, an adjustment is not automatically to be made by Germany simply because the profits in Mexico have been increased. The adjustment is due only if Germany considers that the figure of adjusted profits correctly reflects what the profits would have been had the transactions been at arm's length. Consequently, transfer pricing is an issue of primary importance, both to developed and developing countries, in connection with the proper international treatment of multinational corporations and their complex network of subsidiaries and branches. Thus, it is important to consider Article 9 in conjunction with Article 25 on mutual agreement procedures intended to resolve double taxation conflicts and Article 26 on exchange of information.

In 1999 the UN model inserted a new Article 9(3). It provides that Article 9(2) shall not apply where judicial administrative or other legal proceedings have resulted in a final ruling that, by giving rise to an adjustment of profits under paragraph 1, one of the enterprises is liable to penalty with respect to fraud, gross negligence or willful default. A taxpayer may be subject to both tax and non-tax penalties under the article.

UN MODEL

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 beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed:*

- (a) ___ per cent (the percentage is to be established through bilateral negotiations) of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 10 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
- (b) ___ per cent (the percentage is to be established through bilateral negotiations) of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

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

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

3. The term “dividends” as used in this article means income from shares, “jouissance” shares or “jouissance” rights, mining shares, founders’ shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other 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 in so far as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or in so far as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment 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.

DISCUSSION

Article 10

DIVIDENDS

All countries impose a tax on the business profits generated within their boundaries by a corporation. In addition, profits distributed by a domestic corporation as dividends are generally subject to tax in the hands of a shareholder, either by way of a flat rate withholding tax at the time the dividends are paid or when the shareholder's total tax liability is determined, or both. As foreign shareholders are normally beyond the reach of a country, the dividends they receive are subject in most countries to a withholding tax regardless of whether resident shareholders are subject to such a form of taxation.

When the foreign shareholder is a parent corporation, owning a significant portion of the stock of the dividend-paying subsidiary corporation, the combination of the corporation tax on the subsidiary and the dividend source withholding tax may exceed the tax payable by the parent corporation on the same amount of income from operations within the country of its residence. If significant, the excess burden may constitute a barrier to capital movement and interfere with the international allocation of resources. Moreover, in the absence of a branch profits remittance withholding tax, the withholding tax on dividends tends to encourage branch rather than subsidiary operations and constitutes an obstacle to a form of organization that would afford local shareholders the opportunity to participate in the venture.

In the case of a foreign portfolio investor the dividend withholding tax may raise several concerns. Statutory withholding taxes, imposed at flat rates, are sometimes high compared with the average effective tax likely to apply to the investor in his home country, or more important to a unit trust or investment company. Moreover, capital exporting countries seek to collect some tax on the income received by their residents from foreign as well as domestic investments. If, as a result of unilateral measure to eliminate double taxation (i.e., credits or exemptions) little or no tax is collected on foreign portfolio investments, the foreign investments of their residents are of uncertain value compared with domestic investments. If a residence country tax is imposed, in addition to the tax imposed in the source country, the combined burden may constitute an undesirable barrier to capital investments.

Article 10 of both model treaties provides a framework for dealing with the foregoing issues. Under the OECD model dividends are sourced taxed at a reduced withholding rate not exceeding 15% if the beneficial owner of the dividends is not a resident of and does not have a permanent establishment in the source country. A special 5% withholding rate is imposed when the dividend is paid to a parent corporation which is the beneficial owner of at least 25 percent of the capital of the company paying the dividend. By contrast, the UN model Article 10 does not provide the maximum dividend withholding rates to be applied by the source country treaty partner, but rather leaves these percentages to be established by bilateral negotiations. Also, under the U.S. Treasury and UN models the minimum ownership necessary for direct investment dividends is reduced from 25 percent to 10 percent. The UN model commentary states that the 10 percent threshold which determines the level of shareholding qualifying as a direct investment is illustrative only. However, the 10 percent threshold is contained in a significant percentage of recently negotiated treaties. Finally, it should be noted that while the treaty partner country of which the recipient is a resident may tax such dividends, it must deduct

the withholding tax paid in the source treaty partner country from the amount of tax the resident country charges on the dividend. (See Articles 23A and 23B of the model treaties)

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 ___ per cent (the percentage is to be established through bilateral negotiations) of the gross amount of the interest. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.*

3. *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.*

4. *The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 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 (a) such permanent establishment or fixed base, or with (b) business activities referred to in (c) of paragraph 1 of article 7. In such cases the provisions of article 7 or article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.*

5. *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.*

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 interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the*

provisions of this article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

DISCUSSION

Article 11

INTEREST

On a national level interest income is not liable to double taxation, as it is taxed only at the level of the lender; or, if the payer is obliged to withhold a certain portion of the interest as a tax, the recipient can, under provisions of the national law, deduct the amount withheld from the amount of tax due from him and obtain reimbursement of any sum by which the amount withheld exceeds the amount of the tax that is finally payable. Internationally, double taxation of interest may arise from the fact that the interest income is taxed in the State in which it arises and also in the State of the residence of the beneficial recipient. Such international double taxation may considerably reduce the amount of interest income received by the beneficiary, or if the payer has agreed to bear the cost of the interest source withholding tax, will increase the financial burden on the payer.

Article 11(3) of both model treaties define the term “interest” for Article 11 purposes to mean 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 are not interest.

In practice, differences exist between the kinds of capital on which interest is payable. It may be payable on investments such as bonds or on loans granted by savers, thereby representing net income for the recipient. Interest may also be paid to financial institutions which may borrow money on capital markets and pay interest as remuneration for the capital obtained. Consequently, both model treaties adopt a split jurisdiction approach to taxation of interest income in Article 11(1) allowing both source country and residence country taxation. In Art 11(2) the OECD model provides that if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other contracting state source country taxation shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest. By contrast, the UN model leaves the percentage of source country withholding on interest income to be established by bilateral negotiations. Article 11(4) of both model treaties excludes from Art 11(1) and (2) interest income received by beneficial owners in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated in the source country or performance of independent personal services from a fixed base therein to which the interest paid is effectively connected. In such cases the provisions of Article 7 (business profits) or Article 14 (independent personal services) are applicable. Under a modified force of attraction rule the UN model also makes Article 11(1) and (2) inapplicable is a

debt claim is effectively connected with the permanent establishment or fixed base or business in the source country of the same or similar kind as those effected through the permanent establishment. Finally, Article 11(6) restricts application of Article 11 in the case of related parties to the amount of interest that would have been paid had the parties been operating at arm's length.

The rationale for the UN model bilateral negotiation approach is that withholding rates for interest adopted in developed/developing country tax treaties range between complete exemption and 25 per cent with some developing countries reducing interest withholding rates in order to attract foreign investment. Prospective tax treaty negotiators may wish to take the following factors into account in determination of a precise level of source country withholding rates for interest: (1) that the capital originated in the residence country, (2) a high source country interest withholding rate might cause lenders to pass all or a part of the interest withholding tax on to the source country borrowers, thereby effectively increasing source country revenue at the expense of its own residents, (3) a source country interest withholding rate higher than the foreign tax credit limit in the residence country might deter investment in the source country, (4) a lowering of the source country interest withholding rate has revenue and foreign exchange consequences for the source country, (5) the direction of interest flows from developing to developed countries, (6) the potential expenses involved in the earning of the interest income, and (7) interest paid to government agencies, financial institutions, export finance and long-term loans as the predominant treaty practice is to exempt certain governmental interest from source country taxation.

UN MODEL

Article 12

ROYALTIES

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

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed ___ per cent (the percentage is to be established through bilateral negotiations) of the gross amount of the royalties. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

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

4. *The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other 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 (a) such permanent establishment or fixed base, or with (b) business activities referred to in (c) of paragraph 1 of article 7. In such cases 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 State when the payer is 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 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 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, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.*

DISCUSSION

Article 12

ROYALTIES

For tax treaty negotiators the topic of royalties requires careful consideration especially with regard to (1) source country taxation and (2) the definition of what constitutes a royalty. For instance, the OECD model in Article 12 (1) precludes source country royalty taxation and allows only for the exclusive taxation of royalties in the State of the beneficial owner's residence. Yet, more than 50% of all actually negotiated tax treaties allow for some royalty taxation in the source country. Also, no fewer than thirteen OECD member states have entered a reservation against the zero source withholding rate provided in Article 12(1) of the OECD model. Hence, in practice, the split jurisdiction concept contained in the UN model seems to be a more realistic approach to international royalty taxation. Articles 12(1) and (2) of the UN model allow both residency country taxation and source country taxation by withholding at a rate not exceeding a percentage to be established by bilateral negotiations. Unlike the OECD model, the UN model does not contain the term beneficial owner in Article 12(1) which deals with royalty taxation

by a residency state. Instead, it is incorporated in Article 12(2) which allows source country taxation of royalty income.

Both models exclude Article 12 coverage in the case of royalties received by beneficial owners in which the royalties arise, though a permanent establishment situated in the source country or the performance of 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 the permanent establishment or base. The UN model broadens the exclusion to also include business activities referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the UN model. In such cases the provisions of Article 7 or 14, as the case may be, shall apply. Also, both models restrict the application of Article 12 in the case of related parties to the amount of royalties that would have been paid had the parties been operating at arm's length. Finally, the UN model contains Article 12(5) an innovation not found in Article 12 of the OECD model. The paragraph provides that royalties are considered income from sources in the residence country of the payer of the royalties. Where, however, the right or property for which the royalty was paid was used in a state having a place of use rule, the royalty would be deemed to arise in that state.

Article 12(3) of the UN model defines the term “royalties” to mean payments of any kind received as consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright or literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trademark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience. The OECD model Article 12(2) is almost equivalent, but eliminates from the definition of royalty: equipment rental, i.e. films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting, and the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment. No fewer than 13 of the OECD member states have entered reservations concerning OECD Article 12(2) definition of royalty. Most of the reservations reflect an adherence to the scope of inclusion under the UN model Article 12(3). Many recent actual treaties show a great degree of divergence from the OECD model. For instance, practically all treaties include remuneration for the use of, or the right to use equipment. Treaties with developing countries tend to soften the concept of royalties in relation to consulting activities or similar services, such as by including commercial or technical assistance in the enumeration of subjects capable of being licensed. Treaty negotiators continue to struggle with the concept of know-how which can be pure royalties for the use of intangible property under Article 12, pure technical assistance which generally falls under Articles 7 or 14, or a mixed contract which may need to be apportioned.

UN MODEL

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 of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other State.

3. Gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic, boats engaged in inland waterways transport or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships, aircraft or boats, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

4. Gains from the alienation of shares of the capital stock of a company, or of an interest in a partnership, trust or estate, the property of which consists directly or indirectly principally of immovable property situated in a Contracting State may be taxed in that State. In particular:

(a) Nothing contained in this paragraph shall apply to a company, partnership, trust or estate, other than a company, partnership, trust or estate engaged in the business of management of immovable properties, the property of which consists directly or indirectly principally of immovable property used by such company, partnership, trust or estate in its business activities.

(b) For the purpose of this paragraph, "principally" in relation to ownership of immovable property means the value of such immovable property exceeding fifty per cent of the aggregate value of all assets owned by the company, partnership, trust or estate.

5. Gains from the alienation of shares other than those mentioned in paragraph 4 representing a participation of ___ per cent (the percentage is to be established through bilateral negotiations) in a company which is a resident of a Contracting State may be taxed in that State.

6. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

DISCUSSION

Article 13

CAPITAL GAINS

Domestically, taxation of capital gains varies considerably from country to country based upon factors such as whether capital gains are taxed at all; the rate at which capital gains are taxed (i.e., as ordinary income or at a lower rate); the method of calculating capital gains (e.g. is basis adjusted for inflation) and the capital gains treatment of differing types of property (e.g. business versus investment). Thus, tax treaties leave the decision of whether capital gains should be taxed and, if they are taxable how they are to be taxed to the domestic law of each treaty partner. Except as provided otherwise in Article 13, the model treaties state that as a general rule gains from the alienation of property are taxable only in the State of which the alienator is a resident. (UN Model Article 13(6) and OECD Model Article 13(5)). Both model treaties agree on the following two split jurisdiction exceptions to the foregoing general rule:

(1) Under Article 13(1) of both models gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 of the model treaties may be taxed in the State where the property is situated.

(2) Article 13(2) of both models applies both residency and source capital gains taxation exposure to the alienation of movable property forming a part of a permanent establishment as well as the alienation of the permanent establishment itself. The UN model Article 13(2) also extends such treatment to the alienation 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 as well as alienation of the fixed base itself.

A third exception, set forth in Article 13(3) of both models, grants the exclusive right to tax capital gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic, boats engaged in inland waterways transport or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships, aircraft or boats to the State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

UN model Article 13(4) allows a Contracting State to tax a gain on the alienation of shares of a company, or of an interest in a partnership, trust or estate, the property of which consists directly or indirectly principally of immovable property situated in that State. This provision is designed to prevent source country tax avoidance on the gains from the sale of immovable property through the incorporation of such property or the use of partnerships, trusts or estates. Excluded from application of this provision are such entities whose property consists, directly or indirectly, of immovable property used by the entity in its business activity. The UN model, Art 13(4) paragraph 2 defines the term “principally” as used in Article 13(4) to mean the value of such immovable property exceeding 50 per cent of the aggregate value of all assets owned by the company,

partnership, trust or estate. A substantial number of actually negotiated tax treaties contain a provision that reflects, but may broaden or narrow, the substance of Article 13(4) of the UN model. Recently, the OECD inserted a new Article 13(4) in its model. It provides that gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares deriving more than 50 per cent of their value directly or indirectly from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that State.

UN MODEL

Article 14

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State except in the following circumstances, when such income may also be taxed in the other Contracting State:

- (a) If he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities; in that case, only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other Contracting State; or*
- (b) If his stay in the other Contracting State is for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in 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.

DISCUSSION

Article 14

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

Under Article 14 of the UN model income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from professional services and other activities of an independent character may be taxed exclusively by the residence State unless a split jurisdiction approach with the source State applies because: (1) he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the source State for the purpose of performing his activities or (2) his stay in the source State exceeds 183 days in any 12 month period during the fiscal year concerned. Then such income may be taxed in the source State as far as it is attributable to the fixed base or the

year of presence in the source State. If he has no fixed base or does not meet the source State presence requirement he will enjoy exemption from source State taxation. A substantial number of actually negotiated treaties contain an Article 14 type provision essentially adopting the UN position that there may be some uncertainty that the criteria for establishing a fixed base as opposed to a permanent establishment ought to be identical or whether a fixed base might be comparable to a permanent establishment yet consist of some lesser activity in certain cases.

The OECD deleted Article 14 from its model treaty in 2000. The OECD stated that its position reflected the fact that there were no intended differences between the concept of permanent establishment, as used in Article 7, and fixed base as used in Article 14, or between how profits are computed and tax was calculated according to which of Articles 7 or 14 applied. In addition, it was not always clear which activities fell within Article 14 as opposed to Article 7. The effect of the deletion of Article 14 is that under the OECD model income from professional services or other activities of an independent character is now dealt with under Article 7 as business profits. Thus, for OECD model purposes the rules defining a fixed base are identical to the rules defining a permanent establishment.

UN MODEL

Article 15

DEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. 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.

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 any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned; and*
- (b) The remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State; and*
- (c) The remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.*

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international

traffic, or aboard a boat engaged in inland waterways transport, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

DISCUSSION

Article 15

DEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES (UN Model)

INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT (OECD Model)

Under Art 15(1) of both model treaties, as a general rule, salaries, wages and similar remuneration (usually including fringe benefits) from employment is taxable in the State where the employment is actually exercised. Under Article 23 the State of the residence of the employee must provide relief from the exposure to international double taxation. However, the following exceptions apply:

(1) The Article 15(1) general rule is subject to the provisions of Article 16 (Directors Fees), Article 18 (Pension and Social Security Payments) and Article 19 (Government Service).

(2) Under Article 15(2) remuneration paid to an employee in the other Contracting State is exclusively taxable by his State of residence if he is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding 183 days in any 12 month period, and the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not resident in the State where the employment is exercised, and the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment (i.e. the UN Model adds the phrase “or fixed base”) of the employer in the State where the employment is exercised.

Art 15(3) deals with remuneration derived in respect of employment exercised abroad a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic (as defined in Article 3(1)(d) of the models), or abroad a ship engaged in inland waterways transport. Such remuneration may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management is situated.

UN MODEL

Article 16

DIRECTORS' FEES AND REMUNERATION OF TOP-LEVEL MANAGERIAL OFFICIALS

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

2. Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as an official in a top-level managerial position of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

DISCUSSION

Article 16

DIRECTORS' FEES AND REMUNERATION OF TOP-LEVEL MANAGERIAL OFFICIALS (UN Model)

DIRECTORS' FEES (OECD Model)

Article 16 of both model treaties overrides the jurisdictional principles contained in Articles 15 (both models) and Art 14 (UN model) in the following cases. Directors' fees and other similar payments (including payments in kind and fringe benefits such as health insurance and club memberships) are not limited to taxation in the State of residence of the director or in the State where the services are performed and may be taxed in the State where the company is resident. The State of residency will grant relief from international double taxation under Article 23. The director may be an individual or a legal person, and the fees need not necessarily be paid by the company but can be paid by a third party.

Article 16(2) of the UN model includes an additional paragraph not found in the OECD model. It subjects remuneration paid to top-level managerial officials to the same principle as directors' fees. Under the UN model salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as an official in a top-level managerial position of a company which is resident in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State. The term "top-level position" refers to a limited group of positions that involve primary responsibility for the general direction of the affairs of the company, apart from the activities of the directors. However, the term covers a person acting as both a director and a top-level manager. A significant number of actually negotiated treaties, especially treaties between developing countries, contain a provision dealing with remuneration paid to top-level managers.

UN MODEL

Article 17

ARTISTES AND SPORTS PERSONS

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 sports person, 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 sports person in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sports person 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 sports person are exercised.

DISCUSSION

Article 17

ARTISTES AND SPORTSPERSONS (UN Model)

ARTISTES AND SPORTSMEN (OECD Model)

Article 17(1) of the model treaties provides that income derived by an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or a sportsperson may be taxed in the State where their personal activities are exercised. Where Article 17(1) applies, Articles 7, 14 (UN model) and 15 are overridden. Hence, the taxpayer is not exempted from tax in the State where his personal activities are exercised with regard to the fact that he has no permanent establishment. (the UN model adds the phrase “or fixed base”) in that State or that he is present there for a period not exceeding 183 during any 12 month period. Article 17(2) provides that where income in respect of personal activities exercised by the entertainer or 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 (UN model) and 15 be taxed where the activities are exercised. This provision is aimed in part at a particular form of tax avoidance where a performer contracts with another person that the other person will have the right to the performer’s services, (sometimes referred to as loan out companies).

UN MODEL

Article 18

PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS

Article 18 (alternative A)

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, pensions paid and other payments made under a public scheme which is part of the social security of a Contracting State or political subdivision or a local authority thereof shall be taxable only in that State.

Article 18 (alternative B)

1. *Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment, may be taxed in that State.*
2. *However, such pensions and other similar remuneration may also be taxed in the other Contracting State if the payment is made by a resident of that other State or a permanent establishment situated therein.*
3. *Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, pensions paid and other payments made under a public scheme which is part of the social security system of a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof shall be taxable only in that State.*

DISCUSSION

Article 18

PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS (UN Model)
PENSIONS (OECD Model)

Article 18 of the OECD model requires that, subject to Article 19(2), private pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only by his country of residence regardless of the country in which the pension rights may have accrued. Yet, even the OECD commentary notes the reluctance of some OECD States to adopt an exclusive residence country taxation approach to pension benefits and suggests the possibility of a split jurisdiction approach as set forth in the UN model. A significant number of actually negotiated treaties employ one of the following UN model alternatives.

The UN model sets forth two alternative approaches regarding the taxation of pensions and social security payments:

(1) Article 18(1) (Alternative A) adopts the OECD exclusive residency country taxation approach for taxation of pensions and other similar remuneration. Art 18(2) provides a limitation to Article 18(1) by providing for exclusive source country taxation where the pensions paid and other payments are made under a public scheme that is part of the social security system of a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof. The rationale for assigning exclusive source country taxing jurisdiction to government pension plan payment is that those payments are wholly or largely financed out of the revenues of the source country.

(2) Article 18 (Alternative B) contains the same paragraphs as Alternative A except inserting a new paragraph as Article 18(2) and renumbering Article 18(2) as Article 18(3). The newly inserted Article 18(2) in Alternative B adopts a limited split

jurisdiction tax approach by providing that pensions and other similar payments may also be taxed in the other Contracting State if the payment is made by a resident of that other State or a permanent establishment situated therein. The State where a permanent establishment is situated may thereby indirectly recoup the prior tax benefit it extended to the permanent establishment by allowing deductions for contributions to its pension plans.

UN MODEL

Article 19

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

1.
 - (a) *Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.*
 - (b) *However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:*
 - (i) *is a national of that State; or*
 - (ii) *did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.*
2.
 - (a) *Any pension 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 shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that other State.*
3. *The provisions of articles 15, 16 and 18 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration and to pensions, in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.*

DISCUSSION

Article 19

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

The provisions of Article 19 regarding taxation of government service are virtually identical in both model treaties. Under Articles 19(1)(a) and (2)(a) as a general principle remuneration for, and pensions in respect of, services rendered to a Government, or political subdivision or local authority are taxable exclusively in the paying State. In this regard Article 19 overrides Articles 15, 16 and 18. However, the following exceptions apply to the application of the foregoing general principle:

(1) Articles 19(1)(b) and 2(b) provide for exclusive taxing jurisdiction by the State where the services are performed, instead of the paying State, in the case of remuneration, and pensions in respect thereof, paid by one Contracting State to an individual in respect of services rendered in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of the latter State and also a national of that State or who did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the service. This approach is consistent with the Vienna Conventions according to which a receiving State is allowed to tax remuneration paid to certain categories of personnel of foreign diplomatic missions and consular posts who are permanent residents or nationals of that State.

(2) Under Article 19(3), Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 shall apply if the services were rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State. This result is consistent with the principle of international law that States may not enjoy taxation immunity when they engage in commercial or industrial activities.

UN MODEL

Article 20

STUDENTS

Payments which a student or business 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.

DISCUSSION

Article 20

STUDENTS

Article 20 of both models does not allocate taxing jurisdiction. Article 20 actually provides an exemption from taxation in order to encourage the cross border flow of students. Thus, students and business trainees or apprentices are exempted from taxation for payments for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training in the country in

which they are studying provided the sources for payments arise from sources outside that State. Some actually negotiated treaties add a provision dealing with visiting academics.

UN MODEL

Article 21

OTHER INCOME

- 1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing articles 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 or 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 Convention and arising in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.*

DISCUSSION

Article 21

OTHER INCOME

Art. 21(1) of the models sets forth the residual and exclusive right (with the exceptions subsequently detailed) of the State of residence to tax any items of income, wherever arising, not dealt with in the other taxing jurisdiction allocation rules of the found in the treaty. The income concerned is not only the income of a class not expressly dealt with, but also income from sources not expressly mentioned. The Article especially applies to income having its source in a third State and paid to a resident of one contracting State, or income having its source in one Contracting State and paid to a resident of the same State.

Art. 21(2) of both models provides for an exception to the foregoing general rule where the other income is effectively connected with the activity of a permanent establishment (or fixed base UN model) which a resident of one of the Contracting

States has in the other Contracting State. In such event the provisions of Art.7 (or Art. 14 UN model), as the case may be shall apply. Art. 21(2) does not apply to immovable property, as defined in Art.6(2). The OECD Commentary states that immovable property situated in a Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State in which the property is situated and of which the recipient thereof is a resident.

Art. 21(3) of the UN model is an addition not found in the OECD model. It states that notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Art. 21, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not otherwise dealt with in the other treaty articles and arising in the other Contracting State may also be taxed in that other State. It is intended to permit the country in which the income arises to tax such income if its law so provides while the provision of Art. 21(1) would permit taxation only in the country of residence. The concurrent application of Arts.21(1) and 21(3) may generate international double taxation subject to elimination under Art. 23.

Finally, the UN Group of Experts noted that there are very artificial devices entered into by persons seeking to take advantage of Art. 21, especially if Art. 21(3) is omitted. The issue may specifically be addressed by adding the following clause:

“The provisions of this article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any individual concerned with the creation or assignments of the rights in respect of which income is paid to take advantage of this article by means of that creation or assignment”

UN MODEL

Article 22

CAPITAL

- 1. Capital represented by immovable property referred to in article 6, owned by a resident of a Contracting State and situated in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.*
- 2. Capital represented by 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 by 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, may be taxed in that other State.*
- 3. Capital represented by ships and aircraft operated in international traffic and by boats engaged in inland waterways transport, and by movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships, aircraft and boats, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.*

[4. All other elements of capital of a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.]

(The Group decided to leave to bilateral negotiations the question of the taxation of the capital represented by immovable property and movable property and of all other elements of capital of a resident of a Contracting State. Should the negotiating parties decide to include in the Convention an article on the taxation of capital, they will have to determine whether to use the wording of paragraph 4 as shown or wording that leaves taxation to the State in which the capital is located.)

DISCUSSION

Article 22

CAPITAL

Art. 22 applies to taxes on the possession or ownership of capital, not the income or gains from capital. (e.g. net wealth taxes) as well as the exclusion of taxes on estates and inheritances and on gifts and of transfer duties. The first three paragraphs of Art.22 are identical in structure to the first three paragraphs of Art. 13. Therefore, capital is taxable exclusively in the State of residence, subject to the same three exceptions found in Art. 13. They are:

- (1) A resident of a Contracting State who owns immovable property referred to in Art. 6 which is situated in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.
- (2) Capital represented by 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 may be taxed by that other State. The UN model Art. 22(2) also extends such treatment to 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.
- (3) In the case of capital represented by ships or aircraft operated in international traffic, boats engaged in inland waterways transport or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships, aircraft or boats, such capital may only be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

The UN model places brackets around Art.22(4) which states the general rule of exclusive State of residence taxation of capital. In a footnote the UN model leaves it to bilateral negotiation to determine if capital should be taxed on the basis of the State of residency or the State in which the capital is located.

UN MODEL

Article 23 A

EXEMPTION METHOD

- 1. Where a resident of a Contracting State derives income or owns capital which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in the other Contracting State, the first-mentioned State shall, subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3, exempt such income or capital from tax.*
- 2. Where a resident of a Contracting State derives items of income which, in accordance with the provisions of articles 10, 11 and 12, 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 tax paid in that other State. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to such items of income derived from that other State.*
- 3. Where in accordance with any provision of this Convention income derived or capital owned by a resident of a Contracting State is exempt from tax in that State, such State may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income or capital of such resident, take into account the exempted income or capital.*

Article 23 B

CREDIT METHOD

- 1. Where a resident of a Contracting State derives income or owns capital which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, 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; and as a deduction from the tax on the capital of that resident, an amount equal to the capital tax paid in that other State. Such deduction in either case shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax or capital tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable, as the case may be, to the income or the capital which may be taxed in that other State.*
- 2. Where, in accordance with any provision of this Convention, income derived or capital owned by a resident of a Contracting State is exempt from tax in that State, such State may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income or capital of such resident, take into account the exempted income or capital.*

DISCUSSION

Article 23

METHODS FOR ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

Double taxation may arise when a national or resident of a country derives income from foreign sources and such income is potentially subjected to both source country and residency country tax exposure. For instance, double taxation may occur where: (a) a country of residency imposes tax on its residents or nationals on a worldwide basis, (b) a resident of a country derives income from a foreign country and both countries impose a tax on the income, (c) two countries utilize different methods for determining the amount of income allocable to each country from transaction between related parties, or (d) variations exist between countries in income concepts. In such cases countries of residence may unilaterally employ exemption or credit mechanisms to eliminate the double taxation.

Both model treaties employ the same approaches to elimination of double taxation in Article 23, namely Article 23A, the exemption method and Article 23B, the credit method. The two methods contained in Article 23 are alternatives to be selected by the Contracting States. In practice, both the exemption and credit methods are used in actually negotiated treaties, although the credit method is used more extensively.

Articles 23A(1) and (2) concern the situation where income may be taxed according to the Convention in both the State of source and the State of the residence of its recipient. Article 23A(1) requires the State of residence to exempt from taxation income of its residents derived from the source Contracting State, subject to the provisions of Articles 23A(2) and (3). Article 23A(2) concerns source Contracting State investment income (dividends, interest and royalties) withholding tax. It requires the residency Contracting State to provide a deduction (offset) from its tax on the income of its resident in the amount of the source State withholding tax. Under Article 23A(3) income which is exempt from tax in the State of residence of its recipient in accordance with the Convention may nevertheless be taken into account by that State in determining the amount of tax payable on the resident's other income (exemption with progression).

Article 23B(1), as an alternative credit method, requires the State of residency to allowance a credit (offset) from the tax of the income of its resident equal to the income tax paid in the source Contracting State. However, the credit amount is limited to that part of the income or capital tax attributable to the income, as computed before the credit is given. Article 23B(2) like Article 23A(3) provides that income which is exempt from tax in the State of residence under the terms of the treaty may nevertheless be taken into account by that State in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income or capital of the resident. The State of residence must therefore provide double taxation relief using the credit or exemption method even though the State of source taxes the income in an earlier or later year.

UN MODEL

Article 24

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. Stateless persons who are residents of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in either 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 the State concerned in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected.*
- 3. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.*
- 4. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 9, paragraph 6 of article 11, or paragraph 6 of article 12 apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned State. Similarly, any debts of an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable capital of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been contracted to a resident of the first-mentioned State.*
- 5. 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.*
- 6. The provisions of this article shall, notwithstanding the provisions of article 2, apply to taxes of every kind and description.*

DISCUSSION

Article 24

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Article 24 is identical in both model treaties. Non-discrimination clauses, such as Article 24, have historically formed the backbone of tax treaties. Under Article 24(1) each treaty country must not discriminate against nationals of the other Contracting State resident in its territory by taxing them more severely than its own nationals. Designed to assure equal tax treatment in each treaty country for its own citizens and the citizens of its treaty partner, the non-discrimination clause offers protection for the nationals of both countries from differential tax treatment by supplementing internal laws against discrimination.

Modern income tax conventions typically express the non-discrimination principle in three specific provisions, each designed to protect a distinct class of treaty partner nationals: individuals, enterprises and permanent establishments of enterprises. However, the protection specifics vary in coverage. For instance, under Articles 24(1), (2) and (5) treaty partner individuals and enterprises are protected from other or more burdensome taxation and connected requirements to which nationals or other similar enterprises, of the State concerned in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence in the case of individuals, are or may be subjected. By contrast, Article 24(3) shields a permanent establishment only from less favorably levied taxation. Also, Article 24(3) focuses on taxes imposed by each treaty country alone and prohibits each from levying a higher tax than on a hypothetical domestic enterprise carrying on the same activities. Finally, Article 24(4) dispense the State of source of the dividends, interest or royalties received by a permanent establishment from applying any limitation contained in treaty Articles 10,11 and 12. This provision allows the State of source, where the permanent establishment is situated to apply its withholding tax at the full rate.

UN MODEL

Article 25

MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of article 24, 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 the Convention.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with this Convention. 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 Convention. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Convention.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly, including through a joint commission consisting of themselves or their representatives, for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs. The competent authorities, through consultations, shall develop appropriate bilateral procedures, conditions, methods and techniques for the implementation of the mutual agreement procedure provided for in this article. In addition, a competent authority may devise appropriate unilateral procedures, conditions, methods and techniques to facilitate the above-mentioned bilateral actions and the implementation of the mutual agreement procedure.

DISCUSSION

Article 25

MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

Difficulties of interpretation or application occur in connection with the implementation of all tax treaties. In such cases the model treaties in Art. 25, as well as in almost all actually negotiated treaties, create a mutual agreement procedure outside the domestic law of the Contracting States for resolving treaty implementation disagreements. Art. 25(1) of the models provides that where a person considers the actions of one or both the Contracting States results or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the treaty provisions, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by domestic law, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of he is a resident or national. Under the models the case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the treaty. Some actually negotiated treaties extend the time limit for filing. (E.g. Brazil-India Treaty, 5 years)

Under Arts.25(2) and (4) the competent authorities are authorized to communicate directly with each other to implement the provisions of the treaty and to endeavour to resolve the situation of taxpayers subjected to taxation not in accordance with the treaty provisions, as well as, under Art. 25(3), to endeavour to settle any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the treaty. The UN model in Art. 25(4)

contains two additional sentences allowing the competent authorities to develop both unilateral and bilateral measures to implement the mutual agreement procedure. They are also to consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the treaty. The UN model commentary, as well as some actually negotiated treaties, specifically authorize the competent authorities to endeavor to agree in the area of allocation of income and expenses between related enterprises or units of the same business enterprise operating in both Contracting States. (E.g. U.S.- France treaty, Art. 25(2))

As advantageous as the current competent authority structure is, in practice its use may be limited. For instance, the competent authority to which a claim is made has to determine the request merits consideration. A negative determination affords the taxpayer no further recourse for the avoidance of double taxation. Also, no remedy exists if the competent authorities do not happen to agree. The UN Commentary suggests the possibility of adding an arbitration clause in such cases. A large number of recent actual negotiated treaties have inserted optional or mandatory arbitration clauses in their mutual agreement procedure articles.

UN MODEL

Article 26

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 Convention or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by the Convention, in so far as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention, in particular for the prevention of fraud or evasion of such taxes. The exchange of information is not restricted by article 1. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State. However, if the information is originally regarded as secret in the transmitting State, it 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 which are the subject of the Convention. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes but 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 and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;*
- (b) *To supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;*
- (c) *To supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).*

DISCUSSION

Article 26

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

In order to serve the goal of preventing international double taxation without creating enhanced opportunities for tax evasion and avoidance, tax treaties include a provision to ensure the cooperation between the Contracting States, through an exchange by the competent authorities, of the supply of information necessary to apply the provisions of the treaty or to enforce the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning the taxed covered by the treaty. (Model treaties Art. 26(1))

The information that will be made available is that which would be provided under the tax laws and normal administrative procedures of the country furnishing the information. No information that would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process may be exchanged if its disclosure would be contrary to public policy (ordre public) (UN model, Art. 26(2), OECD model Art. 26(3)) The information obtained may be disclosed only to persons and authorities involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, taxes covered by the Convention.

The major categories of information being exchanged under actually negotiated treaties are as follows:

- (a) information concerning items of income (e.g. compensation, dividends, interest)
- (b) information concerning taxpayers' financial activities (e.g. bank and brokerage accounts, insurance policies, loans, etc)
- (c) price data on goods and services
- (d) expense deductions

(e) taxpayers' travel and residence activities

UN MODEL

Article 27

MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND CONSULAR POSTS

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

DISCUSSION

Article 27 (UN Model)

Article 28 (OECD Model)

MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND CONSULAR POSTS

In many countries domestic law contains provisions to the effect that members of diplomatic missions and consular posts while abroad shall for tax purposes be deemed to be residents of the sending State. Thus, both model treaties provide that nothing in the Convention shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of diplomatic missions or consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

DISCUSSION

Article 27

ASSISTANCE IN THE COLLECTION OF TAXES (OECD Model ONLY)

The OECD model treaty contains a separate article dealing assistance in the collection of taxes in those countries where domestic law allows such assistance. Tax treaty partners may assist each other in collecting taxes, but frequently only in such cases where it is necessary to insure that an exemption or rate reduction granted by the treaty will not be availed of by a person who is ineligible for such benefits. The Article should only be included in a Convention where each State concludes that, based upon a number of factors, they can agree to provide assistance in the collection of taxes levied by the other State.

Also of significance is the historic multilateral Convention on Assistance in Tax Matters entered into by the Nordic countries. A more recent multilateral Convention is the Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters Convention which was prepared by the OECD and went into force in 1995. It has been ratified by a number of countries.

OECD MODEL

Article 29 (OECD Model ONLY)

TERRITORIAL EXTENSION

1. This Convention may be extended, either in its entirety or with any necessary modifications [to any part of the territory of (State A) or of (State B) which is specifically excluded from the application of the Convention or], to any State or territory for whose international relations (State A) or (State B) is responsible, which imposes taxes substantially similar in character to those to which the convention applies. Any such extension shall take effect from such date and subject to such modifications and conditions, including conditions as to termination, as may be specified and agreed between the Contracting States in notes to be exchanged through diplomatic channels or in any other manner in accordance with their constitutional procedures.

2. Unless otherwise agreed by both Contracting States, the termination of the Convention by one of them under Article 30 shall also terminate, in the manner provided for in that Article, the application of the Convention [to any part of the territory of (State A) or of (State B) or] to any State or territory to which it has been extended under this Article.

DISCUSSION

This Article, present in only the OECD model, allows State A to extend the Convention in its entirety or with modifications to any State or territory for whose international relations State A is responsible, which imposes taxes substantially similar in character to those to which the Convention applies. The Article is of value to States that have territories overseas or are responsible for the international relations of other States or territories. Such extension may be effectuated by the exchange of diplomatic notes, or in any other manner in accordance with the constitutional procedure of the States.

UN MODEL/OECD MODEL

Article 28 (OECD MODEL)

Article 30 UN MODEL

ENTRY INTO FORCE

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

at _____ as soon as possible.

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

(a) *(in State A):*

(b) *(in State B):*

DISCUSSION

ENTRY INTO FORCE

Under the terms of this Article it is up to Contracting States to agree that a Convention shall enter into force when a specified period has elapsed after the exchange of the instruments of ratification or after the confirmation that each State has completed the procedures required for entry into force.

UN MODEL

Article 29

TERMINATION

This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting State. Either Contracting State may terminate the Convention, through diplomatic channels, by giving notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year after the year _____. In such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect:

(a) *(in State A):*

(b) *(in State B):*

DISCUSSION

Article 29 (UN Model)
Article 31 (OECD Model)

TERMINATION

As it is desirable that a tax treaty should remain in force at least for a certain period, this Article provides that termination can only be given after a certain year to be fixed by bilateral agreement. It is up to the Contracting States to decide upon the earliest year such notice can be given or even to agree not to fix any such year.