

**CONVENTION BETWEEN  
THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA AND  
THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY  
TO AVOID DOUBLE TAXATION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND ON  
CAPITAL AND TO PREVENT FISCAL EVASION<sup>1</sup>.**

The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Italy, desiring to conclude a Convention to avoid double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital and to prevent fiscal evasion, have agreed as follows:

CHAPTER I - Scope of the Convention

*Article 1 - Personal scope*

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

*Article 2 - Taxes covered*

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income and on capital imposed on behalf of each Contracting State or of its political or administrative sub-divisions 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 this Convention shall apply are, in particular:
  - (a) In the case of Sri Lanka:
    - (i) the income tax, and
    - (ii) the wealth tax; (hereinafter referred to as "Sri Lanka tax").
  - (b) In the case of Italy:
    - (i) the personal income tax (imposta sul reddito delle persone fisiche),
    - (ii) the corporate income tax (imposta sul reddito delle persone giuridiche) whether or not they are collected by withholding at source; (hereinafter referred to as "Italian tax").

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<sup>1</sup> Date of Conclusion: 28 March 1984. Entry into Force: 9 May 1991. Effective Date: Retroactively, 1 January 1978 (see Article 30).

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

## CHAPTER II - Definitions

### *Article 3 - General definitions*

In this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the term "Sri Lanka" means the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka;
- (b) the term "Italy" means the Republic of Italy;
- (c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Sri Lanka or Italy as the context requires and, when used in a geographical sense, the territory in which the tax law of the State concerned is in force;
- (d) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
- (e) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (f) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- (g) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise which has its place of effective management in a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
- (h) the term "nationals" means:
  - (i) all individuals possessing the nationality of a Contracting State,
  - (ii) all legal persons, partnerships and associations deriving their status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;
- (i) the term "competent authority" means:
  - (i) in the case of Sri Lanka, the Commissioner-General of Inland Revenue,
  - (ii) in the case of Italy, the Ministry of Finance.

2. As regards the application of this Convention by a Contracting State any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the laws of that Contracting State relating to the taxes which are the subject of this Convention.

#### Article 4 - *Residence*

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the law of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature. But this term does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State or capital situated therein.

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

(b) if the Contracting State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has no permanent home available to him in either Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which he has an habitual abode;

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

(d) if he is a national of both Contracting States or neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

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

#### Article 5 - *Permanent establishment*

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

2. The term "permanent establishment" shall include especially:

(a) a place of management;

(b) a branch;

(c) an office;

(d) a factory;

(e) a workshop;

(f) a mine, oil or gas well, quarry or other place of extraction of natural resources;

(g) a building site or construction or assembly project which exists for more than 183 days;

(h) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise through employees or other personnel, where activities of that nature continue within the country for a period or periods aggregating more than 183 days within any twelve-month period.

3. The term "permanent establishment" shall not be deemed to include:

(a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery 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, display or delivery;

(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 for collecting information, for the enterprise;

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

4. A person acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State - other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 5 applies - shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned State if he has, and habitually exercises in that State, an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless his activities are limited to the purchase of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

5. 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 State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, where such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

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

### CHAPTER III - Taxation of income

#### *Article 6 - Income from immovable property*

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. The term "immovable property" shall be defined in accordance with 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 shall also be considered as "immovable property". Ships, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

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

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

#### Article 7 - *Business profits*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Article 8 - *Shipping and air transport*

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

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, profits derived from the operation of ships in international traffic may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such operation is carried on; but the tax so charged shall not exceed 50% of the tax otherwise imposed by the internal law of that State.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall likewise apply in respect of participations in pools, in a joint business or in an international operations agency of any kind by enterprises engaged in the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic.

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

#### Article 9 - *Associated enterprises*

Where:

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

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

#### Article 10 - *Dividends*

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

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

(a) in the case of the Republic of Italy, the tax so charged shall not exceed 15% of the gross amount of the dividends;

(b) in the case of Sri Lanka, the tax so charged shall not exceed 15% of the gross amount of the dividends.

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 taxation law 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 a case the dividends are taxable in that other Contracting State according to its own law.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

#### Article 11 - *Interest*

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

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises, and according to the law of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest the tax so charged shall, provided that the interest is taxable in the other Contracting State, not exceed:

(a) in the case of the Republic of Italy, 10% of the gross amount of the interest; and

(b) in the case of Sri Lanka, 10% of the gross amount of interest paid in respect of any debt-claim, bond, debenture or other security arising from money received from abroad after the coming into force of the Convention.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in that State if:

(a) the payer of the interest is the Government of that Contracting State or a local authority thereof; or

(b) the interest is paid to the Government of the other Contracting State or local authority thereof or any agency or instrumentality (including a financial institution) wholly owned by that other Contracting State or local authority thereof, or

(c) the interest is paid to any other agency or instrumentality (including a financial institution) in relation to loans made in application of an agreement concluded between the Governments of the Contracting States.

4. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from Government securities, bonds, or debentures, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in profits, and debt-claims of every kind as well as all other income assimilated to income from money lent by the taxation law of the State in which the income arises.

5. 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 such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the interest is taxable in that other Contracting State according to its own law.

6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political or administrative subdivision, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

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

#### Article 12 - *Royalties*

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

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise, and according to the law of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalty the tax so charged shall not exceed:

(a) 10% of the gross amount of the royalties in respect of payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary or artistic work including cinematograph films or tapes for television or broadcasting;

(b) 15% in all other cases.



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 tapes for television or 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 such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the royalties are taxable in that other Contracting State according to its own law.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political or an administrative subdivision, a local authority thereof or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base, 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 paid, 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 that case, the excess part of the payment shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

#### Article 13 - *Capital gains*

1. Gains from the alienation of immovable property, as defined in Article 6, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.

2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or together with the enterprise) or of such a fixed base, may be taxed in the other State.

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

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

#### Article 14 - *Independent personal services*

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other independent activities of a similar character shall be taxable only in that State unless he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has such a fixed base, the income may be taxed in the other State but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base.
2. The term "professional services" includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

#### Article 15 - *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 the fiscal year concerned, and
  - (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and
  - (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.
3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

#### Article 16 - *Directors' fees*

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

#### Article 17 - *Artistes and athletes*

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 an athlete, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in the other State.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or an athlete in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or athlete 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 athlete are exercised.

#### Article 18 - *Pensions*

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, pensions, annuities 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. The term "annuity" means a stated sum payable periodically at stated times during life or during a specified or ascertainable period of time, under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth.

#### Article 19 - *Government service*

1. (a) Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or an administrative or political subdivision or a local authority thereof to any individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State;

(b) however, such remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that 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 an administrative or political subdivision or a local authority thereof to any individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State;

(b) however, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a national of, and a resident of, that State.

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16 and 18 shall apply to remuneration or pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with any trade or business carried on by one of the Contracting States or an administrative or political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

#### Article 20 - *Professors and teachers*

A professor or teacher who makes a temporary visit to a Contracting State for a period not exceeding two years for the purpose of teaching or conducting research at a university, college, school or other educational institution, and who is, or immediately before such visit was, a resident of the other Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State in respect of remuneration for such teaching or research.

#### Article 21 - *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.

#### Article 22 - *Other income*

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Convention shall be taxable only in that State.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply if the recipient of the 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 a case the items of income are taxable in that other Contracting State according to its own law.

### CHAPTER IV - Taxation of capital

#### Article 23 - *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 movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships and aircraft 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.

## CHAPTER V - Method for elimination of double taxation

### *Article 24 - Elimination of double taxation*

1. It is agreed that double taxation shall be avoided in accordance with the following paragraphs of the Article.
2. If a resident of Italy owns items of income which are taxable in Sri Lanka, Italy, in determining its income taxes specified in Article 2 of this Convention, may include in the basis upon which such taxes are imposed the said items of income, unless specific provisions of this Convention otherwise provide. In such a case, Italy shall deduct from the taxes so calculated the Sri Lanka tax on such items of income, but in an amount not exceeding that proportion of the aforesaid Italian tax which such items of income bear to the entire income. On the contrary no deduction will be granted if the items of income are subjected in Italy to a final withholding tax by request of the recipient of the said items of income in accordance with the Italian law.
3. Subject to the laws of Sri Lanka regarding the allowance as a credit against Sri Lanka tax of tax payable in any country other than Sri Lanka, Italian tax payable in respect of income derived from Italy shall be allowed as a credit against Sri Lanka tax payable in respect of that income.
4. For the purposes of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, where tax on dividends, interest or royalties arising in a Contracting State is exempted or reduced for a limited period in accordance with the laws of that State, such tax which has been exempted or reduced shall be deemed to have been paid at an amount not exceeding:
  - (a) 15% of the gross amount of dividends referred to under Article 10;
  - (b) 10% of the gross amount of the interest referred to under Article 11;
  - (c) 10% of the gross amount of the royalties referred to under paragraph 2(a) of Article 12;
  - (d) 15% of the gross amount of the royalties referred to under paragraph 2(b) of Article 12.

## CHAPTER VI - Special provisions

### *Article 25 - 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, are or may be subjected.
2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

3. Except where the provisions of Article 9, paragraph 7 of Article 11, 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 purposes 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.

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

5. The provisions of this Article shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2, apply to taxes of every kind and description.

#### *Article 26 - Mutual agreement procedure*

1. Where a person considers that the action of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with this Convention, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic laws 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 25, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within two years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this 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 not in accordance with the Convention.

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

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

#### *Article 27 - 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 this Convention insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention, as well as to prevent fiscal evasion.

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 and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by the Convention. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

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*).

#### *Article 28 - Diplomatic agents and consular officials*

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

#### *Article 29 - Refunds*

1. Taxes withheld at the source in a Contracting State will be refunded by request of the taxpayer or of the State of which he is a resident if the right to collect the said taxes is affected by the provisions of this Convention.
2. Claims for refund, that shall be produced within the time limit fixed by the law of the Contracting State which is obliged to carry out the refund, shall be accompanied by an official certificate of the Contracting State of which the taxpayer is a resident certifying the existence of the conditions required for being entitled to the application of the allowances provided for by this Convention.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this Article, in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of this Convention.

### CHAPTER VII - Final provisions

#### *Article 30 - Entry into force*

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

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

(a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income arising on or after 1st January, 1978;

(b) in respect of other taxes on income and taxes on capital, to taxes chargeable for any taxable period beginning on or after 1st January, 1978.

3. Claims for refund or credits arising in accordance with this Convention in respect of any tax payable by residents of either of the Contracting States referring to the periods beginning on or after the 1st January 1978 and until the entry into force of this Convention shall be lodged within two years from the date of entry into force of this Convention or from the date the tax was charged whichever is later.

#### Article 31 - *Termination*

This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by one of the Contracting States. 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 period of five years from the date on which the Convention enters into force. In such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect:

(a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income arising on or after 1st January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given;

(b) in respect of other taxes on income, and taxes on capital, to taxes chargeable for any taxable period beginning on or after 1st January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given.

Done in duplicate at Colombo this 28th day of March 1984, in the Sinhala, Italian, and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
Hugh Molagoda

For the Government of the Republic of Italy  
Franco Micieli de Biase



## PROTOCOL

At the signing of the Convention concluded today between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Italy for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital and the prevention of fiscal evasion the undersigned have agreed upon the following additional provision which shall form an integral part of the said Convention.

It is understood:

- (a) that, in connection with the provisions of Article 2, where a tax on capital is subsequently introduced in Italy, the Convention shall also apply to such tax;
- (b) that the Sri Lanka tax on capital in accordance with the Convention shall be set off against any tax on capital subsequently introduced in Italy in the manner provided for in Article 24, paragraph 2;
- (c) that, with reference to Article 7, paragraph 3, the expression "expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment" means the expenses directly connected with the activity of the permanent establishment;
- (d) the level of taxation in respect of shipping will be identical to that to which shipping of other nationalities will be subject, after taking into account any reduction of tax granted by Sri Lanka under double taxation Conventions which provide for one-half of shipping profits or income to be taxed in Sri Lanka;
- (e) the level of tax in respect of royalties will be identical to that granted to royalties received by a resident of other countries under any Convention concluded by Sri Lanka that provides rates lesser than those mentioned in Article 12, paragraph 2, letters (a) and (b);
- (f) that, with reference to paragraph 1 of Article 26, the expression "irrespective of the remedies provided by the laws" means that the mutual agreement procedure is not alternative with the national contentious proceeding which shall be, in any case, preventively initiated, when the claim is related with an assessment of taxes not in accordance with this Convention;
- (g) the provision of paragraph 3 of Article 29 shall not affect the competent authorities of the Contracting States from the carrying out, by mutual agreement, of other practices for the allowance of the reductions for taxation purposes provided for in this Convention;
- (h) the remuneration paid to an individual in respect of services rendered to the Italian State Railway (FF.SS.), the Italian State Post undertaking (PP.TT.), the Italian Foreign Trade Institution (I.C.E.) and the Italian Tourism body (E.N.I.T.) are covered by the provisions concerning governmental functions and, consequently, by paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 19 of the Convention.

Done in duplicate at Colombo this 28th day of March 1984, in the Sinhala, Italian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
Hugh Molagoda

For the Government of the Republic of Italy  
Franco Micieli de Biase