

**CONVENTION BETWEEN  
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND  
THE REPUBLIC OF GABON  
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION  
AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION  
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

The Republic of Korea and the Republic of Gabon,

Desiring to promote and strengthen the economic relations between the two countries and to enter into a convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion and fraud with respect to taxes on income,

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**

**Persons covered**

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 imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, 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 Korea:

(i) the income tax;

(ii) the corporation tax;

(iii) the special tax for rural development; and

(iv) the local income tax;

(hereinafter referred to as “Korean tax”); and

(b) in Gabon:

(i) the company tax and the flat-rate minimum tax;

(ii) the tax on income of natural persons;

(iii) the complementary tax on salaries;

(iv) the special immovable property tax on rentals; and

(v) the tax on income from movable capital;

as well as any withholding, prepayment or advance payment with respect to the aforesaid taxes;

(hereinafter referred to as “Gabonese tax”).

4. The Convention shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that 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 significant changes that have been made in their taxation laws.

### **Article 3**

#### **General definitions**

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

(a) the term “Korea” means the Republic of Korea, and when used in a geographical sense, the territory of the Republic of Korea including its territorial sea, and any area adjacent to the territorial sea of the Republic of Korea which, in accordance

with international law, has been or may hereafter be designated under the laws of the Republic of Korea as an area within which the sovereign rights or jurisdiction of the Republic of Korea with respect to the sea-bed and sub-soil, and their natural resources may be exercised;

- (b) the term “Gabon” means the national territory of the Republic of Gabon, including territorial waters and beyond those zones over which and in compliance with international law, the Republic of Gabon has sovereign rights for the purpose of the exploration and exploitation of natural resources of the ocean depths, of their substratum and of superjacent waters;
- (c) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean Korea or Gabon, as the context requires;
- (d) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
- (e) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (f) the term “enterprise” applies to the carrying on of any business;
- (g) 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;
- (h) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
- (i) the term “competent authority” means:
  - (i) in Korea: the Minister of Strategy and Finance or his authorized representative;
  - (ii) in Gabon: the Minister in charge of Economy or his authorized representative;
- (j) the term “national”, in relation to a Contracting State, means:
  - (i) any individual possessing the nationality of that Contracting State; and
  - (ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in that Contracting State;
- (k) the term “business” includes the performance of professional services and of other activities of an independent character;
- (l) the term “tax” means Korean tax or Gabonese tax, as the context requires.

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

#### **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 head or main office, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:

- (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
- (b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he does not have 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.

**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; and
  - (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.
  
3. A building site, construction, assembly or installation project or supervisory activities in connection therewith constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than twelve months.
  
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, 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 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 6 applies - is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for 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.

6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, a 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.

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

## **Article 6**

### **Income from immovable property**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property

(including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

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

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

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise.

## **Article 7**

### **Business profits**

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

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

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

## **Article 8**

### **Shipping and air transports**

1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.
2. If the place of effective management of a shipping 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 where the operator of the ship or boat is a resident.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.
4. For the purposes of this Article the terms “profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic” shall include profits from:
  - (a) the occasional rental of a ship or aircraft on a bare boat charter basis; and
  - (b) the use, maintenance or rental of containers (including trailers and related



equipment for the transport of containers) used for the transport of goods and merchandise;

where such rental or such use, maintenance or rental, as the case may be, is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic; and

(c) the rental of ships or aircraft fully equipped, manned and supplied.

## **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.

## **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) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 25 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;

(b) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

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

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of 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 Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid

is effectively connected with a permanent establishment situated in that other State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

## **Article 11**

### **Interest**

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

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State. But if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the mode of application of this limitation by mutual agreement.

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

- (a) the interest is paid to the Government of the other Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof; or
- (b) the interest is paid to the central bank of the other Contracting State, or any financial institution performing functions of a governmental nature; or
- (c) the interest is paid in connection with the sale on credit of any industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or paid in connection with the sale on credit of any merchandise by one enterprise to another enterprise.

4. For purposes of paragraph 3, the phrase "the central bank of a Contracting State, or any financial institution performing functions of a governmental nature" means:

- (a) in Korea:
  - (i) the Bank of Korea;
  - (ii) the Korea Export-Import Bank;
  - (iii) the Korea Trade Insurance Corporation;
  - (iv) the Korea Finance Corporation;

- (v) the Korea Investment Corporation;
  - (vi) the Korea Development Bank; and
  - (vii) such other financial institutions performing functions of a governmental nature as may be specified and agreed upon in letters exchanged between the competent authorities of the Contracting States;
- (b) in Gabon:
- (i) the Bank of Central African States;
  - (ii) the Gabon Bank of Development; and
  - (iii) such other financial institutions performing functions of a governmental nature as may be specified and agreed upon in letters exchanged between the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

5. 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 purposes of this Article.

6. 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, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

7. 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 in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

8. 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.

## **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 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the mode of application of this limitation by mutual agreement.
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, tapes or discs for radio or television broadcasting), any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, 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 and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 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 a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the obligation to pay the royalties was incurred,

and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment 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.

### **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, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise), may be taxed in that 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 of which the enterprise is a resident.

4. 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 other State.

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

**Article 14**  
**Income from employment**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 15, 17, 18 and 20, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State, unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.
  
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:
  - (a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in 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 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 by an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

**Article 15**  
**Members of boards of directors or supervisory councils**

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

**Article 16**  
**Artistes and sportspersons**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsperson, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.
  
2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsperson in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsperson himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsperson are exercised.
  
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer or a sportsperson from that person's personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State, if those activities in the other State are supported wholly or mainly by public funds of the first-mentioned State or any political subdivision or local authority thereof, or take place under a cultural agreement or arrangement between the Governments of the Contracting States.

**Article 17**  
**Pensions and annuities**

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 18, pensions, annuities and other similar payments paid to a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxed only in the Contracting State in which they originate.
  
2. The term "annuities" means a stated sum payable periodically at stated times during life, or during a specified or ascertainable period of the time, under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth.



**Article 18**  
**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 or any other institution performing functions of a governmental nature to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority or institution 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 or any other institution performing functions of a governmental nature to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority or institution 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 resident and a national of that State.
  
3. The provisions of Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17 shall apply to salaries, wages, pensions and other similar remuneration, 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 or any other institution performing functions of a governmental nature.

**Article 19**  
**Students**

A student or business apprentice who is present in a Contracting State solely for the

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

## **Article 20**

### **Professors and teachers**

1. An individual who visits a Contracting State for the purpose of teaching or carrying out research at an university, college, school or other similar educational institution recognised as a non-profit organization by the Government of that Contracting State and who is or was immediately before that visit a resident of the other Contracting State shall be exempted from taxation in the first-mentioned Contracting State on any remuneration for such teaching or research for a period not exceeding 2 years from the date of his first visit for that purpose.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income from research if such research is undertaken not for public interest but primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

## **Article 21**

### **Other income**

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Convention 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 and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

**Article 22**  
**Elimination of double taxation**

Double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

(a) in Korea:

subject to the provisions of Korean tax law regarding the allowance as credit against Korean tax of tax payable in any country other than Korea (which shall not affect the general principle thereof):

- (i) where a resident of Korea derives income from Gabon which may be taxed in Gabon under the laws of Gabon in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, in respect of that income, the amount of Gabonese tax payable shall be allowed as a credit against the Korean tax payable imposed on that resident. The amount of credit shall not, however, exceed that part of Korean tax as computed before the credit is given, which is appropriate to that income;
- (ii) where the income derived from Gabon is dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Gabon to a company which is a resident of Korea which owns at least 10 per cent of the voting shares issued by the company paying the dividends, the credit shall take into account the Gabonese tax payable by the company in respect of the profits out of which such dividend is paid.

(b) in Gabon:

- (i) where a resident of Gabon derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Korea, Gabon shall, subject to the provisions of sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) exempt such income from tax;
- (ii) where in accordance with any provision of the Convention income derived by a resident of Gabon is exempt from tax in Gabon, Gabon may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income;
- (iii) where a resident of Gabon derives items of income which, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 10, 11 or 12, may be taxed in Korea, Gabon shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the tax paid in Korea. 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 Korea.

### **Article 23**

#### **Non-discrimination**

1. Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith, which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstance, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.
2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State 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 paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 8 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.
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 that first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.
5. The provisions of this Article shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2, apply

to taxes of every kind and description.

#### **Article 24**

##### **Mutual agreement procedure**

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this 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 23, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of 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 the 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.

#### **Article 25**

##### **Exchange of information**

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

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

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

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*).

4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information, solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.

## **Article 26**

### **Assistance in tax collection**

1. The Contracting States shall lend assistance to each other in the collection of revenue claims. This assistance is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this Article.

2. The term “revenue claim” as used in this Article means an amount owed in respect of taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to this Convention or any other instrument to which the Contracting States are parties, as well as interest, administrative penalties and costs of collection or conservancy related to such amount.

3. When a revenue claim of a Contracting State is enforceable under the laws of that State and is owed by a person who, at that time, cannot, under the laws of that State, prevent its collection, that revenue claim shall, at the request of the competent authority of that State, be accepted for purposes of collection by the competent authority of the other Contracting State. That revenue claim shall be collected by that other State in accordance with the provisions of its laws applicable to the enforcement and collection of its own taxes as if the revenue claim were a revenue claim of that other State.

4. When a revenue claim of a Contracting State is a claim in respect of which that State may, under its law, take measures of conservancy with a view to ensuring its collection, that revenue claim shall, at the request of the competent authority of that State, be accepted for the purposes of taking measures of conservancy by the competent authority of the other Contracting State. That other State shall take measures of conservancy in respect of that revenue claim in accordance with the provisions of its

laws as if the revenue claim were a revenue claim of that other State even if, at the time when such measures are applied, the revenue claim is not enforceable in the first-mentioned State or is owed by a person who has a right to prevent its collection.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4, a revenue claim accepted by a Contracting State for the purposes of paragraph 3 or 4 shall not, in that State, be subject to the time limits or accorded any priority applicable to a revenue claim under the laws of that State by reason of its nature as such. In addition, a revenue claim accepted by a Contracting State for purposes of paragraph 3 or 4 shall not, in that State, have any priority applicable to that revenue claim under the laws of the other Contracting State.

6. Proceedings with respect to the existence, the validity or the amount of a revenue claim of a Contracting State shall not be brought before the courts or administrative bodies of the other Contracting State.

7. Where, at any time after a request has been made by a Contracting State under paragraph 3 or 4 and before the other Contracting State has collected and remitted the relevant revenue claim to the first-mentioned State, the relevant revenue claim ceases to be:

(a) in the case of a request under paragraph 3, a revenue claim of the first-mentioned State that is enforceable under the laws of that State and is owed by a person who, at that time, cannot under the laws of that State, prevent its collection; or

(b) in the case of a request under paragraph 4, a revenue claim of the first-mentioned State in respect of which that State may, under its laws, take measures of conservancy with a view to ensuring its collection;

the competent authority of the first-mentioned State shall promptly notify the competent authority of the other State of that fact and, at the option of the other State, the first-mentioned State shall either suspend or withdraw its request.

8. In no case shall the provisions of this Article 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 carry out measures which would be contrary to public policy;
- (c) to provide assistance if the other Contracting State has not pursued all reasonable measures of collection or conservancy, as the case may be, available under its laws or administrative practice;
- (d) to provide assistance in those cases where the administrative burden of that State is clearly disproportionate to the benefit to be derived by the other Contracting State.

### **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.

### **Article 28**

#### **Entry into force**

1. Each of the Contracting State shall notify the other, through the diplomatic channel, of the completion of the procedures required by its law for the entry into force of this Convention. The Convention shall enter into force on the fifteenth date of the later of these notifications.
2. The provisions of this Convention shall have effect:
  - (a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, for amounts payable on or after the thirtieth day following the date upon which this Convention enters into force; and
  - (b) in respect of other taxes, for the taxable year beginning on or after the first day of January in the first calendar year following that in which this Convention enters into force.

**Article 29**  
**Termination**

1. This Convention shall remain in force indefinitely but either of the Contracting States may terminate the Convention through the diplomatic channel, by giving to the other Contracting State written notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year from the fifth year following that in which the Convention entered into force.
  
2. In such event the Convention shall cease to have effect:
  - (a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, for amounts payable from the first day of January in the first calendar year following that in which the notice is given; and
  - (b) in respect of other taxes, for the taxable year beginning from the first day of January in the first calendar year following that in which the notice is given.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention.

Done in duplicate at Seoul, on the 25th day of October 2010, in the Korean, French and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF GABON