

## **COMPETENT AUTHORITY AGREEMENT ON THE EXCHANGE OF COUNTRY- BY- COUNTRY REPORTS**

Whereas, the States of Guernsey and Bermuda intend to increase international tax transparency and improve access by tax authorities to information regarding the global allocation of the income, the taxes paid, and certain indicators of the location of economic activity among tax jurisdictions in which Multinational Enterprise (MNE) Groups operate through the automatic exchange of annual CbC Reports, with a view to assessing high-level transfer pricing risks and other base erosion and profit shifting related risks, as well as for economic and statistical analysis, where appropriate;

Whereas, the laws of their respective Jurisdictions require or are expected to require the Reporting Entity of an MNE Group to annually file a CbC Report;

Whereas, the CbC Report is intended to be part of a three-tiered structure, along with a global master file and a local file, which together represent a standardised approach to transfer pricing documentation which will provide tax administrations with relevant and reliable information to perform an efficient and robust transfer pricing risk assessment analysis;

Whereas, Paragraph 4 of the Arrangement between The States of Guernsey and Bermuda for the Automatic Exchange of Information Relating to Tax Matters (the “AEOI Arrangement”), authorises the automatic exchange of information, and allows the competent authorities of Guernsey and Bermuda (the “Competent Authorities”) to mutually agree on additional procedures for the purposes of that Paragraph ;

Whereas, Guernsey and Bermuda have, or are expected to have, in place by the time the first exchange of CbC Reports takes place (i) appropriate safeguards to ensure that the information received pursuant to this Agreement remains confidential and is used for the purposes of assessing high-level transfer pricing risks and other base erosion and profit shifting related risks, as well as for economic and statistical analysis, where appropriate, in accordance with Section 5 of this Agreement. (ii) the infrastructure for an effective exchange relationship (including established processes for ensuring timely, accurate, and confidential information exchanges, effective and reliable communications, and capabilities to promptly resolve questions and concerns about exchanges or requests for exchanges and to administer the provisions of Section 4 of this Agreement) and (iii) the necessary legislation to require Reporting MNEs to file the CbC Report;

Whereas, the Competent Authorities intend to conclude this Agreement on non-reciprocal automatic exchange pursuant to the AEOI Arrangement and subject to the confidentiality and other protections provided for in the AEOI Arrangement, including the provisions limiting the use of the information exchanged thereunder;

Now, therefore, the Competent Authorities have agreed as follows:

### ***SECTION 1*** ***Definitions***

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the following terms have the following meanings:

- a) the term **“Guernsey”** means the States of Guernsey and, when used in a geographical sense, means the islands of Guernsey, Alderney and Herm, and the territorial sea adjacent to those islands, in accordance with international law, save that any reference to the law of Guernsey is to the law of the island of Guernsey as it applies there and in the islands of Alderney and Herm;
- b) the term **“Bermuda”** means the islands of Bermuda;
- c) the term **“Competent Authority”** means in the case of Guernsey, the Director of the Revenue Service, or her delegate, and in the case of Bermuda, the Minister of Finance or an authorised representative of the Minister;
- d) The term **“Group”** means a collection of enterprises related through ownership or control such that it is either required to prepare consolidated financial statements for financial reporting purposes under applicable accounting principles or would be so required if equity interests in any of the enterprises were traded on a public securities exchange;
- e) the term **“Multinational Enterprise (MNE) Group”** means any Group that,
  - (i) includes two or more enterprises the tax residence for which is in different jurisdictions, or includes an enterprise that is resident for tax purposes in one jurisdiction and is subject to tax with respect to the business carried out through a permanent establishment in another jurisdiction, and
  - (ii) is not an Excluded MNE Group;
- f) the term **“Excluded MNE Group”** means a Group that is not required to file a CbC Report on the basis that the consolidated group revenue of the Group during the fiscal year immediately preceding the reporting fiscal year, as reflected in its consolidated financial statements for such preceding fiscal year, is below the threshold defined in domestic law by the Jurisdiction and being consistent with the 2015 Report, as may be amended following the 2020 review contemplated therein;
- g) the term **“Constituent Entity”** means
  - (i) any separate business unit of an MNE Group that is included in the consolidated financial statements for financial reporting purposes, or would be so included if equity interests in such business unit of an MNE Group were traded on a public securities exchange,
  - (ii) any separate business unit that is excluded from the MNE Group’s consolidated financial statements solely on size or materiality grounds, and
  - (iii) any permanent establishments of any separate business unit of the MNE Group included in (i) or (ii) above provided such business unit prepares a separate financial statement for such permanent establishment for financial reporting, regulatory, tax reporting or internal management control purposes;

- h) the term “**Reporting Entity**” means the Constituent Entity that, by virtue of domestic law in its jurisdiction of tax residence, files the CbC Report in its capacity to do so on behalf of the MNE Group;
- i) the term “**CbC Report**” means the Country-by-Country Report to be filed annually by the Reporting Entity in accordance with the laws of its jurisdiction of tax residence and with the information required to be reported under such laws covering the items and reflecting the format set out in the 2015 Report, as may be amended following the 2020 review contemplated therein; and
- j) the term “**2015 Report**” means the consolidated report, entitled *Transfer Pricing Documentation and Country-by-Country Reporting*, on Action 13 of the OECD/G20 Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

2. As regards to the application of this Agreement at any time by a Competent Authority of a Jurisdiction, any term not otherwise defined in this Agreement will, unless the context otherwise requires or the Competent Authorities agree to a common meaning (as permitted by domestic law), have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of the Jurisdiction applying this Agreement, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Jurisdiction prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Jurisdiction.

## **SECTION 2**

### ***Exchange of Information with Respect to MNE Groups***

Pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 4 of the AEOI Arrangement, the Bermuda Competent Authority will annually exchange with the Guernsey Competent Authority on an automatic basis the CbC Report received from each Reporting Entity that is resident for tax purposes in Bermuda, provided that, on the basis of the information provided in the CbC Report, one or more Constituent Entities of the MNE Group of the Reporting Entity are resident for tax purposes in Guernsey or are subject to tax with respect to the business carried out through a permanent establishment situated in Guernsey.

## **SECTION 3**

### ***Time and Manner of Exchange of Information***

1. For the purposes of the exchange of information in Section 2, the currency of the amounts contained in the CbC Report will be specified.
2. With respect to Section 2, a CbC Report is first to be exchanged with respect to fiscal years of MNE Groups commencing on or after 1 January 2018. Such CbC Report is to be exchanged as soon as possible and no later than 18 months after the last day of the fiscal year of the Reporting Entity of the MNE Group to which the CbC Report relates. CbC Reports with respect to subsequent fiscal years are to be exchanged as soon as possible and no later than 15 months after the last day of the fiscal year of the MNE Group to which the CbC Report relates.
3. The Competent Authorities will automatically exchange the CbC Reports through a common schema in Extensible Markup Language.

4. The Competent Authorities will work towards and agree on one or more methods for electronic data transmission including encryption standards.

#### **SECTION 4** ***Collaboration on Compliance and Enforcement***

The Guernsey Competent Authority will notify the Bermuda Competent Authority when it has reason to believe, with respect to a Reporting Entity that is resident for tax purposes in Bermuda, that an error may have led to incorrect or incomplete information reporting or that there is noncompliance of a Reporting Entity with the respect to its obligation to file a CbC Report. The Bermuda Competent Authority will take all appropriate measures available under its domestic law to address the errors or non-compliance described in the notice.

#### **SECTION 5** ***Confidentiality, Data Safeguards and Appropriate Use***

1. All information exchanged is subject to the confidentiality rules and other safeguards provided for in the AEOI Arrangement, including the provisions limiting the use of the information exchanged.

2. In addition to the restrictions in paragraph 1, the use of the information will be further limited to the permissible uses described in this paragraph. In particular, information received by means of the CbC Report will be used for assessing high-level transfer pricing, base erosion and profit shifting related risks, and, where appropriate, for economic and statistical analysis. The information will not be used as a substitute for a detailed transfer pricing analysis of individual transactions and prices based on a full functional analysis and a full comparability analysis. It is acknowledged that information in the CbC Report on its own does not constitute conclusive evidence that transfer prices are or are not appropriate and, consequently, transfer pricing adjustments will not be based on the CbC Report. Inappropriate adjustments in contravention of this paragraph made by local tax administrations will be conceded in any competent authority proceedings.

Notwithstanding the above, there is no prohibition on using the CbC Report data as a basis for making further enquiries into the MNE's transfer pricing arrangements or into other tax matters in the course of a tax audit and, as a result, appropriate adjustments to the taxable income of a Constituent Entity may be made.

3. To the extent permitted under applicable law, the Guernsey Competent Authority will notify the Bermuda Competent Authority immediately regarding any cases of non-compliance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Section, including any remedial actions, as well as any measures taken in respect of non-compliance with the above-mentioned paragraphs.

#### **SECTION 6** ***Consultations***

1. In case an adjustment of the taxable income of a Constituent Entity, as a result of further enquiries based on the data in the CbC Report, leads to undesirable economic outcomes, including if such cases arise for a specific business, both Competent Authorities shall consult each other and discuss with the aim of resolving the case.

2. If any difficulties in the implementation or interpretation of this Agreement arise, either Competent Authority may request consultations with the other Competent Authority to develop appropriate measures to ensure that this Agreement is fulfilled. In particular, the Guernsey Competent Authority shall consult with the Bermuda Competent Authority before it determines that there is a systemic failure of the Bermuda Competent Authority to exchange CbC Reports with Guernsey.

## ***SECTION 7***

### ***Amendments***

This Agreement may be amended by consensus by written agreement of the Competent Authorities. Unless otherwise agreed upon, such an amendment is effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date of the last signature of such written agreement.

## ***SECTION 8***

### ***Term of Agreement***

1. This Agreement will come into effect on the date of the notification provided by the Bermuda Competent Authority that Bermuda has the necessary laws in place to require Reporting Entities to file a CbC Report.

2. A Competent Authority may temporarily suspend the exchange of information under this Agreement by giving notice in writing to the other Competent Authority that it has determined that there is or has been significant non-compliance by the other Competent Authority with this Agreement. Before making such a determination, the first-mentioned Competent Authority shall consult with the other Competent Authority. For the purposes of this paragraph, significant non-compliance means non-compliance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Section 5 and paragraph 1 of Section 6 of this Agreement and the provisions of the Arrangement referred to therein, as well as a failure by the Competent Authority to provide timely or adequate information as required under this Agreement. A suspension will have immediate effect and will last until the second-mentioned Competent Authority establishes in a manner acceptable to both Competent Authorities that there has been no significant non-compliance or that the second-mentioned Competent Authority has adopted relevant measures that address the significant non-compliance.

3. Either Competent Authority may terminate this Agreement by giving notice of termination in writing to the other Competent Authority. Such termination will become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of 12 months after the date of the notice of termination. In the event of termination, all information previously received under this Agreement will remain confidential and subject to the terms of the Arrangement.

Signed in duplicate in St Peter Port, Guernsey, on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, and in  
Hamilton, Bermuda, on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.



Competent Authority for  
Guernsey

