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**Finland
and
Samoa**

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of Samoa concerning information on tax matters. Canberra, 16 December 2009

Entry into force: *20 October 2012, in accordance with article 11*

Authentic text: *English*

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**Finlande
et
Samoa**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République de Finlande et le Gouvernement de Samoa relatif aux renseignements en matière fiscale. Canberra, 16 décembre 2009

Entrée en vigueur : *20 octobre 2012, conformément à l'article 11*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

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**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA CONCERNING
INFORMATION ON TAX MATTERS**

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of Samoa,
desiring to conclude an Agreement concerning information on tax matters,
have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Object and Scope of the Agreement

The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall provide assistance through exchange of information that is foreseeably relevant to the administration and enforcement of the domestic laws of the Contracting Parties concerning taxes covered by this Agreement. Such information shall include information that is foreseeably relevant to the determination, assessment and collection of such taxes, the recovery and enforcement of tax claims, or the investigation or prosecution of tax matters. Information shall be exchanged in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and shall be treated as confidential in the manner provided in Article 8. The rights and safeguards secured to persons by the laws or administrative practice of the requested Party remain applicable to the extent that they do not unduly prevent or delay effective exchange of information.

Article 2
Jurisdiction

A Requested Party is not obligated to provide information which is neither held by its authorities nor in the possession or control of persons who are within its territorial jurisdiction.

Article 3
Taxes Covered

1. The taxes which are subject of this Agreement are taxes of every kind and description imposed by the Contracting Parties at the date of signature of the Agreement.
2. This Agreement shall also apply to any identical taxes imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to or in place of the existing taxes. This Agreement shall also apply to any substantially similar taxes imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to or in place of the existing taxes if the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties so agree. Furthermore, the taxes covered may be expanded or modified by mutual agreement of the Contracting Parties in the form of an exchange of letters. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall notify each other of any substantial changes to the taxation and related information gathering measures covered by the Agreement.

Article 4
Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless otherwise defined:
 - a) the term "Contracting Party" means Finland or Samoa as the context requires;
 - b) the term "Samoa" means the Independent State of Samoa and the territorial waters thereof;
 - c) the term "Finland" means the Republic of Finland and, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory of the Republic of Finland, and any area adjacent to the territorial waters of the Republic of Finland within which, under the laws of Finland and in accordance with international law, the rights of Finland with

- respect to the exploration for and exploitation of the natural resources of the sea bed and its sub-soil and of the superjacent waters may be exercised;
- d) the term "competent authority" means:
- (i) in Samoa, the Minister of Revenue or an authorised representative of the Minister of Revenue;
 - (ii) in Finland, the Ministry of Finance, its authorised representative or the authority which, by the Ministry of Finance, is designated as competent authority;
- e) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
- f) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- g) the term "publicly traded company" means any company whose principal class of shares is listed on a recognised stock exchange provided its listed shares can be readily purchased or sold by the public. Shares can be purchased or sold "by the public" if the purchase or sale of shares is not implicitly or explicitly restricted to a limited group of investors;
- h) the term "principal class of shares" means the class or classes of shares representing a majority of the voting power and value of the company;
- i) the term "recognised stock exchange" means any stock exchange agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties;
- j) the term "collective investment fund or scheme" means any pooled investment vehicle, irrespective of legal form. The term "public collective investment fund or scheme" means any collective investment fund or scheme provided the units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed by the public. Units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed "by the public" if the purchase, sale or redemption is not implicitly or explicitly restricted to a limited group of investors;
- k) the term "tax" means any tax to which the Agreement applies;
- l) the term "applicant Party" means the Contracting Party requesting information;
- m) the term "requested Party" means the Contracting Party requested to provide information;
- n) the term "information gathering measures" means laws and administrative or judicial procedures that enable a Contracting Party to obtain and provide the requested information;
- o) the term "information" means any fact, statement or record in any form whatever;
- p) the term "criminal tax matters" means tax matters involving intentional conduct which is liable to prosecution under the criminal laws of the applicant party;