Subcommittee on the Relationship of Tax, Trade and Investment Agreements – *Final Report*

> Paper <u>CRP.2</u> 30th Session UN Tax Committee 24-27 March 2025

Workstream B -

Relationship of Tax Treaties and WTO General Agreement on

Trade in Services (GATS)

GATS provision in tax treaties

- Relevant to developing and developed countries.
- The Committee agreed at the 27th Session that the GATS provision currently found in the UN Model Tax Convention Commentary on Article 25 (at para 53) should be given greater visibility by including it directly into the text of the Model Article.
- Text of the provision was approved at 29th Session.

Workstream B -

Relationship of Tax

Treaties and WTO

General Agreement on

Trade in Services (GATS)

An extended provision

- The Subcommittee has been exploring the possibility of a so-called "extended provision" in the Model that addresses the relationship with other agreements such as Free Trade Agreements.
- At the 28th session it was agreed to include such a provision in the Model, but the decision as to whether the extended paragraph would be included as a new provision in Article 25 of the Model Convention or, instead, would only be an option provided for in the Commentary, was taken at the 29th Session, in favour of a provision in Article 25 itself.

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- The Annex to the report represents the result of work since the 29th Session.
- In particular, the draft Commentary now includes minority positions and the option of the extended provision applying to "any other treaty of which the Contracting States are, or become, parties" is retained, but as an option in the Commentary, rather than being provided for specifically in the text of the Article.

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- The text of the article applies to those International Investment Agreements (IIAs) identified in bilateral negotiations.
- The Subcommittee has liaised with the Subcommittee on the Update of the UN Model Tax Convention as the work has progressed.

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Summary of what is sought

- The Subcommittee submits draft text to the Thirtieth Session for:
 - (i) finalization of the commentary for the GATS clause (the text of the provision itself was already approved at the last session) ; and
 - (ii) finalization of the "extended provision" in Article 25 and the associated commentary.

Workstream A – Tax and Investment Agreements (IIAs)

Guidance on tax and investment agreements

- Draft guidance on tax (policy and administrative measures) and its relationship with International Investment Agreements (IIAs) for tax officials:
 - Guidance for *negotiations* of IIAs;
 - Domestic law interactions with IIAs; and
 - Guidance for *dispute prevention and guidance in the event of a dispute occurring.*
- Approved at the 29th Session currently being edited.
- Special thanks to Subcommittee Members and the consultant (Alain Castonguay) for the successful outcomes.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS?