



**GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS**

---

**On the signing of Agreements Concerning Information on Tax  
Matters between the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and  
the Nordic Countries**

Honourable Zhivargo S. Laing  
Minister of State for Finance  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

Today, it is a pleasure to be executing, on behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, these Tax Information Exchange Agreements with the Kingdom of Denmark, the Faroes, the Republic of Finland, the Government of Greenland, the Government of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden.

This signing ceremony is of particular significance to the Government of The Bahamas, as upon the execution of these Agreements, my country will meet and exceed the internationally agreed standard for substantial implementation of transparency and effective information exchange in tax matters. These Agreements will bring the total number concluded by the

Government of The Bahamas to eighteen, twelve of which will be with members of the OECD.

The Government of The Bahamas anticipates that, with the network of cooperation created by the tax information exchange agreements to which it is a party, our country will thrive as an International Financial Centre, as it embraces the changing international regulatory environment.

The Agreements that will be executed today between The Bahamas and the Nordic countries provide for an enhanced framework for economic cooperation between our respective countries. It also expands the longstanding cooperative relationship between our countries, which has traditionally existed in the contexts of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organisation.

The Government of The Bahamas commends the Nordic countries for being pioneers in the multilateral negotiation of information exchange agreements. This multilateral process, co-ordinated by the Nordic Council of Ministers, has been an immense facilitation to small states with limited resources and has served to relieve a considerable burden.

The Government of The Bahamas would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Per Olav Gjesti, Chair of the Nordic Steering Group, and all of the negotiators from the other

participating Nordic countries for the collaborative spirit in which the negotiations were conducted. Additionally, we would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Torsten Fensby, the Nordic Project Manager, for the active role he has played in the process which has led us to executing these Agreements today.

### **CLOSING STATEMENT**

I would like to reiterate how positively the Government of The Bahamas regards the execution of these Agreements Concerning Information on Tax Matters here today.

The Bahamas looks forward to continuing to strengthen its relationships with your respective countries.