

Panama Dispute Resolution Profile

(Last updated: 30 January 2017)

General Information

- **Panama's tax treaties are available at:**

<https://dgi.mef.gob.pa/Tributación-I/C-Firmados.html>

- **MAP request should be made to:**

Mr. Publio Cortes
General Director
General Directorate of Revenues – DGI
Ministry of Economy and Finance – MEF
pcortes@mef.gob.pa
Offices Address: Balboa Avenue and East 41st Street,
PH Torre Mundial, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 0816-02886
Phone: (507) 507- 7491

- **APA request should be made to:**

Mr. Publio Cortes
General Director
General Directorate of Revenues – DGI
Ministry of Economy and Finance – MEF
pcortes@mef.gob.pa
Offices address: Balboa Avenue and East 41st Street
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Panama Dispute Resolution Profile – Preventing Disputes

s/n		Response	Detailed explanation	Where publicly available information and guidance can be found
A. Preventing Disputes				
1.	Are agreements reached by your competent authority to resolve difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of your tax treaties in relation to issues of a general nature which concern, or which may concern, a category of taxpayers published?	See detailed explanation	So far no such agreements have been made. Panama is currently considering this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with Action 14 BEPS.	-
2.	Are bilateral APA programmes implemented? If yes:	No	-	-
a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are roll-back of APAs provided for in the bilateral APA programmes? 	-	-	-
b.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there specific timeline for the filing of an APA request? 	-	-	-
c.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are rules, guidelines and procedures on how taxpayers can access and use bilateral APAs, including the specific information and documentation that should be submitted in a taxpayer's request for bilateral APA assistance, publicly available? 	-	-	-
d.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any fees charged to taxpayers for a bilateral APA request? 	-	-	-

Panama Dispute Resolution Profile – Preventing Disputes

s/n		Response	Detailed explanation	Where publicly available information and guidance can be found
e.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are statistics relating to bilateral APAs publicly available? 	-	-	-
3.	Is training provided to your officials involved in the auditing /examination of taxpayers to ensure that any assessments made by them are in accordance with the provisions of your tax treaties?	Yes	-	-
4.	Is other information available on preventing tax treaty-related disputes?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with Action14 BEPS.	-

Notes:

1. An APA is an “arrangement that determines, in advance of controlled transactions, an appropriate set of criteria (e.g. method, comparables and appropriate adjustments thereto, critical assumptions as to future events) for the determination of the transfer pricing for those transactions over a fixed period of time”. (see definition of APA in the **OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and Tax Administrations** (“Transfer Pricing Guidelines”)).
2. Situations may arise in which the issues resolved through an APA are relevant with respect to previous filed tax years not included within the original scope of the APA. The concept of “roll-back” is further elaborated in paragraph 4.136 of Section F (Advance pricing arrangement) of Chapter IV of the Transfer Pricing Guidelines and in paragraph 69 of Section D.4.2 (Possible retrospective application (“Roll back”)) of the Annex to Chapter IV (Guidelines for Conducting Advance Pricing Arrangements under the Mutual Agreement Procedure (“MAP APAs”)) of the Transfer Pricing Guidelines. Simply put, the “roll-back” of the APA is understood to mean that the outcome of the APA is applied to previous filed tax years not included within the original scope of the APA.

Panama Dispute Resolution Profile – Availability and access to MAP

s/n		Response	Detailed explanation	Where publicly available information and guidance can be found
B. Availability and Access to MAP				
5.	Are transfer pricing cases covered within the scope of MAP?	Yes	-	-
6.	Are issues relating to the application of treaty anti-abuse provision covered within the scope of MAP?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
7.	Are issues relating to the application of domestic anti-abuse provision covered within the scope of MAP?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned.	-
8.	Are issues where there is already an audit settlement between the tax authority and the taxpayer covered within the scope of MAP?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
9.	Are double taxation cases resulting from bona fide taxpayer initiated foreign adjustments covered within the scope of MAP?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
10.	Are there any other treaty related issues not covered under s/n 5 to 9 which are not within the scope of MAP?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
11.	Are taxpayers allowed to request MAP assistance in cases where the taxpayer has sought to resolve the issue under dispute via the judicial and administrative remedies provided by the domestic law of your jurisdiction?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-

Panama Dispute Resolution Profile – Availability and access to MAP

s/n		Response	Detailed explanation	Where publicly available information and guidance can be found
12.	Are taxpayers allowed to request for MAP assistance in cases where the issue under dispute has already been decided via the judicial and administrative remedies provided by the domestic law of your jurisdiction?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
13.	Are rules, guidelines and procedures on how taxpayers can access and use MAP, including the specific information and documentation that should be submitted in a taxpayer's request for MAP assistance, publicly available?	No	-	-
14.	Are there specific timeline for the filing of a MAP request?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
15.	Are guidance on multilateral MAPs publicly available?	No	-	-
16.	Are tax collection procedures suspended during the period a MAP case is pending?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
17.	Are there any fees charged to taxpayers for a MAP request?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently considering this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	
18.	Is there any other information available on availability and access to MAP?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-

Panama Dispute Resolution Profile – Resolution of MAP cases

s/n		Response	Detailed explanation	Where publicly available information and guidance can be found
C. Resolution of MAP Cases				
19.	Are there any model timeframes for the steps taken by your competent authority from the receipt of a MAP case to the resolution of the case provided to taxpayers?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently considering this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
20.	Are statistics relating to the time taken to resolve MAP cases publicly available?	No	-	-
21.	Is interest or penalties resulting from adjustments made pursuant to a MAP agreement waived or dealt with as part of the MAP procedure?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently considering this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
22.	Are the roles and responsibility of the MAP office publicly available, for example, is the mission statement of the MAP office available in the <i>annual</i> report of the organisation?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently considering this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
23.	Is MAP arbitration a mechanism currently available for the resolution of tax treaty related disputes in any of your tax treaties? If not:	No	-	-
a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any legal limitations in your domestic law (for example in your constitution) to include MAP arbitration in your tax treaties? 	See detailed explanation	This matter is on consideration.	-
b.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does your treaty policy allow you to include MAP arbitration in your tax treaties? 	See detailed explanation	This matter is on consideration.	-

Panama Dispute Resolution Profile – Resolution of MAP cases

s/n		Response	Detailed explanation	Where publicly available information and guidance can be found
24.	Is the explanation of the relationship between the MAP and domestic law administrative and judicial remedies publicly available? If yes:	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently considering this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the guidance specifically address whether the competent authority considers that it is legally bound to follow a domestic court decision in the MAP or will not deviate from a domestic court decision as a matter of administrative policy or practice? 	-	-	-
25.	Are taxpayers allowed to request for multi-year resolution through the MAP of recurring issues with respect to filed tax years?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently considering this matter in order to develop MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	-
26.	Do all your jurisdiction's tax treaties contain a provision which would oblige your jurisdiction to make corresponding adjustments or to grant access to the MAP with respect to the economic double taxation that may otherwise result from a primary transfer pricing adjustment (i.e. is paragraph 2 of Article 9 of the OECD Model Tax Convention or the UN Model Double Taxation Convention included in all of your jurisdiction's tax treaties)?	Yes	-	https://dgi.mef.gob.pa/Tr ibutación-I/C- Firmados.html
27.	Is there any other information available on resolution of MAP cases?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented. Panama is currently studying this matter in order to develop	-

Panama Dispute Resolution Profile – Resolution of MAP cases

s/n		Response	Detailed explanation	Where publicly available information and guidance can be found
			MAP regulations aligned with the Action 14 BEPS.	

Panama Dispute Resolution Profile – Implementation of MAP Agreements

s/n		Response	Detailed explanation	Where publicly available information and guidance can be found
D. Implementation of MAP Agreements				
28.	Where the agreement reached by your competent authority through the MAP process leads to additional tax to be paid by your taxpayer, is there publicly available information on the timeframe the taxpayer could expect its tax position to be amended to reflect the agreement reached by the competent authority and/or for the additional tax to be paid?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented.	-
29.	Where the agreement reached by your competent authority through the MAP process leads to a refund of the tax due or paid by your taxpayer, are there publicly available information on the timeframe the taxpayer could expect its tax position to be amended to reflect the agreement reached by the competent authority and/or for a refund of the tax paid?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented.	-
30.	Are all mutual agreements reached through MAP implemented notwithstanding any time limits in your domestic law?	See detailed explanation	So far no MAP cases have been presented.	-
31.	Is there any other information available on the implementation of MAP agreements?	No	-	-