

(Translation)

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The Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Diplomatic Missions and Representative Offices of International Organizations in China (hereinafter referred to as "the missions"), and has the honor to draw attention to the following matters regarding tax refund:

Since the implementation of the policy of replacing business tax with value-added tax in 2016, the Chinese side has, on the basis of mutual benefit and reciprocity, expanded the scope of refundable goods and services for the missions, adopted more preferential tax refund measures, and provided better treatment and greater facilitation for the missions and their staff working and living in China.

Thanks to the cooperation of the missions, the tax refund work of 2018 was successfully completed, and the missions generally made declarations in a timely and compliant manner. Meanwhile, the Chinese side noticed and addressed in accordance with regulations the problems in the approval process, which mainly include: 1. The quantity or amount of electronic products (mobile phones, smart watches, etc.), consumer durables (clothes, hats, shoes, bags, etc.) and daily necessities (skincare products, cosmetics, etc.) purchased in the name of a person or a mission apparently exceeds the reasonable scope for self use. 2. The name of the product is not properly filled in, or its type is inconsistent with the fact; the information on a vehicle is incorrectly filled in, or its purchase documents are incomplete; a mission or a person not entitled to service consumption tax refund declares for service consumption tax refund; and there are technical errors such as delayed submission of tax refund information.

In accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Regulations of the People's Republic of China Concerning Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities, the Chinese side grants the missions privileges and immunities, including tax refund, in order to facilitate effective performance of the duties of the missions and their staff, and invoking such privileges and immunities should comply with relevant legal provisions and practical needs. The Chinese side requests the missions to take the issue mentioned above seriously and prevent similar problems from reoccurring.

The embassies of relevant countries in China are kindly requested to inform their consular missions in China (if any) of the above information.

The Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Diplomatic Missions and Representative Offices of International Organizations in China the assurances of its highest consideration.

(Seal) The Protocol Department of
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
The People's Republic of China

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Diplomatic Missions and
Representative Offices of International Organizations in China,
BEIJING