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LOAN NUMBER 3486-AZE

LOAN AGREEMENT  
(Ordinary Operations)  
(Countercyclical Support)

between

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

and

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

DATED 8 December 2016

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AZE 50145

**LOAN AGREEMENT  
(Ordinary Operations)**

LOAN AGREEMENT dated 8 December 2016 between REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ("Borrower") and ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ("ADB").

WHEREAS

(A) ADB has received from the Borrower a development policy letter dated 8 November 2016 ("Policy Letter"), setting forth certain objectives, policies and actions forming the Borrower's countercyclical development expenditures, described in Schedule 1 to this Loan Agreement ("CSF Program");

(B) the Borrower has applied to ADB for a loan for the purposes of the CSF Program; and

(C) ADB has agreed to make a loan to the Borrower from ADB's ordinary capital resources upon the terms and conditions set forth herein;

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto agree as follows:

**ARTICLE I**

**Loan Regulations; Definitions**

Section 1.01. All the provisions of the Ordinary Operations Loan Regulations Applicable to LIBOR-Based Loans Made from ADB's Ordinary Capital Resources, dated 1 July 2001 ("Loan Regulations"), are hereby made applicable to this Loan Agreement with the same force and effect as if they were fully set forth herein, subject, however, to the following modifications:

(a) Section 2.01(49) is deleted and the following is substituted therefor:

49. The term "Program" means the program for which ADB has agreed to make the Loan, as described in the Loan Agreement and as the description thereof may be amended from time to time by agreement between ADB and the Borrower.

(b) The term "Project" wherever it appears in the Loan Regulations shall be substituted by the term "Program".

(c) Section 2.01(51) is deleted and the following is substituted therefor:

51. The term "Program Executing Agency" means the entity or entities responsible for the carrying out of the Program as specified in the Loan Agreement.

(d) The term "Project Executing Agency" wherever it appears in the Loan Regulations shall be substituted by the term "Program Executing Agency".

(e) Section 3.03 is deleted and the following is substituted therefor:

**Commitment Charge; Credit.** (a) The Borrower shall pay a commitment charge on the unwithdrawn amount of the Loan at the rate and on the terms specified in the Loan Agreement.

(b) ADB shall provide to the Borrower a credit at the rate specified in the Loan Agreement, which credit shall remain fixed for the term of the Loan. ADB shall apply the credit against the interest payable by the Borrower.

(f) Section 3.06 is deleted and the following is substituted therefor:

**Rebate.** (a) Following any announcement by ADB that the Fixed Spread applicable to new Loans shall be reduced, ADB shall provide a Rebate to any Borrower with an outstanding Loan on which a higher Fixed Spread is applicable. The amount of the Rebate shall be determined by multiplying (i) the difference between the Fixed Spread applicable to the outstanding Loan and the Fixed Spread that will be applied to new Loans (expressed as a percentage per annum), by (ii) the principal amount of the outstanding Loan on which the Borrower shall pay interest for all interest periods commencing on and after the effective date of the lower Fixed Spread that will be applied to new Loans.

(b) Following any announcement by ADB that its Funding Cost Margin calculations with respect to any Loan Currency (or Approved Currency) in any Semester resulted in ADB achieving savings, ADB shall provide a Rebate to the Borrower. The amount of the Rebate shall be determined by multiplying (i) the Funding Cost Margin (expressed as a percentage per annum) by (ii) the principal amount of the Loan on which the Borrower shall pay interest for the Interest Period commencing immediately after the Semester for which the Funding Cost Margin was calculated. ADB shall apply the amount of the Rebate against the interest payable by the Borrower for the Interest Period commencing immediately after the Semester for which the Funding Cost Margin was calculated.

(g) Section 3.07 is deleted and the following is substituted therefor:

**Surcharge.** (a) Following any announcement by ADB that the Fixed Spread applicable to new Loans shall be increased, any Borrower with an outstanding Loan on which a lower Fixed Spread is applicable shall pay ADB a Surcharge.

The amount of the Surcharge shall be determined by multiplying (i) the difference between the Fixed Spread that will be applied to new Loans and the Fixed Spread applicable to the outstanding Loan (expressed as a percentage per annum), by (ii) the principal amount of the outstanding Loan on which the Borrower shall pay interest for all interest periods commencing on and after the effective date of the higher Fixed Spread that will be applied to new Loans.

(b) Following any announcement by ADB that its Funding Cost Margin calculations with respect to any Loan Currency (or Approved Currency) in any Semester resulted in ADB incurring additional costs, the Borrower shall pay ADB a Surcharge. The amount of the Surcharge shall be determined by multiplying (i) the Funding Cost Margin (expressed as a percentage per annum) by (ii) the principal amount of the Loan on which the Borrower shall pay interest for the Interest Period commencing immediately after the Semester for which the Funding Cost Margin was calculated. ADB shall add the amount of the Surcharge to the interest payable by the Borrower for the Interest Period commencing immediately after the Semester for which the Funding Cost Margin was calculated.

(h) Section 6.01(b) is deleted and the following is substituted therefor:

(b) Except as ADB and the Borrower shall otherwise agree, no withdrawals shall be made on account of payments made prior to the Effective Date.

Section 1.02. Wherever used in this Loan Agreement, the several terms defined in the Loan Regulations have the respective meanings therein set forth unless modified herein or the context otherwise requires. Additional terms used in this Loan Agreement have the following meanings:

(a) "CBA" means the Central Bank of the Borrower or any successor thereto;

(b) "Counterpart Funds" means the local currency generated from the Loan proceeds under the CSF Program and referred to in paragraph 4 of Schedule 4 to this Loan Agreement;

(c) "Deposit Account" means the account referred to in paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to this Loan Agreement;

(d) "Loan Disbursement Handbook" means ADB's Loan Disbursement Handbook (2015, as amended from time to time);

(e) "MOF" means the Ministry of Finance of the Borrower; and

(f) "Program Executing Agency" for the purposes of, and within the meaning of, the Loan Regulations means MOF or any successor thereto acceptable to ADB, which is responsible for the carrying out of the CSF Program.

## ARTICLE II

### The Loan

Section 2.01. (a) ADB agrees to lend to the Borrower from ADB's ordinary capital resources an amount of five hundred million Dollars (\$500,000,000), as such amount may be converted from time to time through a Currency Conversion in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.06 of this Loan Agreement.

(b) The Loan has a principal repayment period of 2 years, and a grace period as defined in paragraph (c) of this Section.

(c) The term "grace period" as used in paragraph (b) of this Section means the period prior to the first Principal Payment Date in accordance with the amortization schedule set forth in Schedule 2 to this Loan Agreement.

Section 2.02. The Borrower shall pay to ADB interest on the principal amount of the Loan withdrawn and outstanding from time to time at a rate for each Interest Period equal to the sum of:

(a) LIBOR; and

(b) 2% as determined by Section 3.02 of the Loan Regulations.

Section 2.03. The Borrower shall pay a commitment charge of 0.75% per annum. Such charge shall accrue on the full amount of the Loan (less amounts withdrawn from time to time), commencing 60 days after the date of this Loan Agreement.

Section 2.04. Interest and other charges on the Loan shall be payable semiannually on 15 February and 15 August in each year.

Section 2.05. The Borrower shall repay the principal amount of the Loan withdrawn from the Loan Account in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2 to this Loan Agreement.

Section 2.06. (a) The Borrower may at any time request any of the following Conversions of the terms of the Loan in order to facilitate prudent debt management:

(i) a change of the Loan Currency of all or any portion of the principal amount of the Loan, whether withdrawn and outstanding or unwithdrawn, to an Approved Currency;

- (ii) a change of the interest rate basis applicable to all or any portion of the principal amount of the Loan withdrawn and outstanding from a Floating Rate to a Fixed Rate, or vice versa; and
- (iii) the setting of limits on the Floating Rate applicable to all or any portion of the principal amount of the Loan withdrawn and outstanding by the establishment of an Interest Rate Cap or Interest Rate Collar on said Floating Rate.

(b) Any conversion requested pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Section that is accepted by ADB shall be considered a "Conversion", as defined in Section 2.01(6) of the Loan Regulations, and shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Loan Regulations and the Conversion Guidelines.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Use of Proceeds of the Loan**

Section 3.01. The Borrower shall cause the proceeds of the Loan to be applied to the financing of expenditures for the CSF Program in accordance with the provisions of this Loan Agreement.

Section 3.02. The proceeds of the Loan shall be withdrawn in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 3 to this Loan Agreement, as such Schedule may be amended from time to time by agreement between the Borrower and ADB.

Section 3.03. The Loan Closing Date for the purposes of Section 9.02 of the Loan Regulations shall be 28 February 2017 or such other date as may from time to time be agreed between the Borrower and ADB.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **Particular Covenants**

Section 4.01. (a) The Borrower shall cause the CSF Program to be carried out with due diligence and efficiency and in conformity with sound applicable technical, financial, business and development practices.

(b) In the carrying out of the CSF Program, the Borrower shall perform, or cause to be performed, all obligations set forth in Schedule 4 to this Loan Agreement.

Section 4.02. The Borrower shall make available, promptly as needed, the funds and other resources, as required, in addition to the proceeds of the Loan, for the carrying out of the CSF Program.

Section 4.03. The Borrower shall ensure that the activities of its departments and agencies with respect to the carrying out of the CSF Program are conducted and coordinated in accordance with sound administrative policies and procedures.

Section 4.04. As part of the reports and information referred to in Section 7.04 of the Loan Regulations, the Borrower shall furnish, or cause to be furnished, to ADB all such reports and information as ADB shall reasonably request concerning (a) the Counterpart Funds and the use thereof; and (b) the implementation of the CSF Program, including the accomplishment of the targets and carrying out of the actions set out in the Policy Letter, until a Program completion report satisfactory to ADB is submitted to ADB in accordance with paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 to this Loan Agreement.

## ARTICLE V

### Effectiveness

Section 5.01. A date 30 days after the date of this Loan Agreement is specified for the effectiveness of the Loan Agreement for the purposes of Section 10.04 of the Loan Regulations.

## ARTICLE VI

### Miscellaneous

Section 6.01. The Minister of Finance of the Borrower is designated as representative of the Borrower for the purposes of Section 12.02 of the Loan Regulations.

Section 6.02. The following addresses are specified for the purposes of Section 12.01 of the Loan Regulations:

#### For the Borrower

Ministry of Finance  
S. Vurgun Street, 83  
AZ 1022 Baku  
Republic of Azerbaijan

Facsimile Numbers:

(994-12) 404 4720  
(994-12) 404 4721.

For ADB

Asian Development Bank  
6 ADB Avenue  
Mandaluyong City  
1550 Metro Manila  
Philippines

Facsimile Numbers:

(632) 636-2444  
(632) 636-2424.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto, acting through their representatives thereunto duly authorized, have caused this Loan Agreement to be signed in their respective names as of the day and year first above written and to be delivered at the principal office of ADB.

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

By   
SAMIR RAUF SHARIFOV  
Minister  
Ministry of Finance

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

By   
NARIMAN MANNAPBEKOV  
Country Director  
Azerbaijan Resident Mission



**SCHEDULE 1**

**Description of the CSF Program**

1. The principal objective of the CSF Program is to maintain the Borrower's fiscal sustainability. The scope of the CSF Program includes the implementation of measures to (a) provide social safety net to citizens; (b) provide enabling environment for social housing; (c) create additional jobs; and (d) identify and initiate specific structural reforms for economic diversification. The CSF Program is described in more detail in the Policy Letter.

2. The proceeds of the Loan are expected to be withdrawn in a single tranche and utilized by 28 February 2017.

## SCHEDULE 2

### Amortization Schedule (Countercyclical Support)

1. The following table sets forth the Principal Payment Dates of the Loan and the percentage of the total principal amount of the Loan payable on each Principal Payment Date (Installment Share). If the proceeds of the Loan shall have been fully withdrawn as of the first Principal Payment Date, the principal amount of the Loan repayable by the Borrower on each Principal Payment Date shall be determined by ADB by multiplying: (a) the total principal amount of the Loan withdrawn and outstanding as of the first Principal Payment Date; by (b) the Installment Share for each Principal Payment Date, such repayment amount to be adjusted, as necessary, to deduct any amounts referred to in paragraph 4 of this Schedule, to which a Currency Conversion applies.

<u>Payment Due Date</u>	<u>Installment Share</u> (Expressed as a %)
15 February 2020	25.000000
15 August 2020	25.000000
15 February 2021	25.000000
15 August 2021	<u>25.000000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.000000</b>

2. If the proceeds of the Loan shall not have been fully withdrawn as of the first Principal Payment Date, the principal amount of the Loan repayable by the Borrower on each Principal Payment Date shall be determined as follows:

(a) To the extent that any proceeds of the Loan shall have been withdrawn as of the first Principal Payment Date, the Borrower shall repay the amount withdrawn and outstanding as of such date in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Schedule.

(b) Any withdrawal made after the first Principal Payment Date shall be repaid on each Principal Payment Date falling after the date of such withdrawal in amounts determined by ADB by multiplying the amount of each such withdrawal by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the original Installment Share specified in the table in paragraph 1 of this Schedule for said Principal Payment Date (the Original Installment Share) and the denominator of which shall be the sum of all remaining Original Installment Shares for Principal Payment Dates falling on or after such date, such repayment amounts to be adjusted, as necessary, to deduct any amounts referred to in paragraph 4 of this Schedule, to which a Currency Conversion applies.

3. Withdrawals made within two calendar months prior to any Principal Payment Date shall, for the purposes solely of calculating the principal amounts payable on any Principal Payment Date, be treated as withdrawn and outstanding on the second Principal Payment Date following the date of withdrawal and shall be repayable on each Principal Payment Date commencing with the second Principal Payment Date following the date of withdrawal.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Schedule, upon a Currency Conversion of all or any portion of the withdrawn principal amount of the Loan to an Approved Currency, the amount so converted in said Approved Currency that shall be repayable on any Principal Payment Date occurring during the Conversion Period, shall be determined by ADB by multiplying such amount in its currency of denomination immediately prior to said Conversion by either: (a) the exchange rate that reflects the amounts of principal in said Approved Currency payable by ADB under the Currency Hedge Transaction relating to said Conversion; or (b) if ADB so determines in accordance with the Conversion Guidelines, the exchange rate component of the Screen Rate.

5. If the principal amount of the Loan withdrawn and outstanding from time to time shall be denominated in more than one Loan Currency, the provisions of this Schedule shall apply separately to the amount denominated in each Loan Currency, so as to produce a separate amortization schedule for each such amount.

**SCHEDULE 3****Withdrawal of Loan Proceeds**

1. Except as set out in this Schedule or as ADB may otherwise agree, the Loan proceeds shall be disbursed in accordance with the Loan Disbursement Handbook.
2. An application for withdrawal from the Loan Account shall be submitted to ADB by the Borrower and shall be in a form satisfactory to ADB.
3. (a) Prior to submitting the first application to ADB for withdrawal from the Loan Account, the Borrower shall nominate a single treasury account (Deposit Account) at CBA into which all withdrawals from the Loan Account shall be deposited.  
  
(b) Separate accounts and records in respect of the Deposit Account shall be maintained in accordance with accounting principles acceptable to ADB. Upon ADB's request, the Borrower shall have the financial statements for the Deposit Account audited by independent auditors, whose qualifications, experience and terms of reference are acceptable to ADB, in accordance with international standards for auditing or the national equivalent acceptable to ADB. Promptly after their preparation but in any event not later than 6 months after the date of ADB's request, copies of such audited financial statements and the opinion of the auditors on the financial statements, in the English language, shall be furnished to ADB.
4. No Loan proceeds shall be withdrawn to finance any item specified in the Attachment to this Schedule. For the avoidance of doubt, the restriction set out in item (ii) only in the Attachment to this Schedule does not apply to the use of Counterpart Funds.
5. The Borrower may withdraw the Loan from the Loan Account upon effectiveness of this Loan Agreement.

**Negative List**

No withdrawals of Loan proceeds will be made for the following:

- (i) expenditures for goods included in the following groups or sub-groups of the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC, Rev. 3) or any successor groups or sub-groups under future revisions to the SITC, as designated by ADB by notice to the Borrower:

**Table: Ineligible Items**

Chapter	Heading	Description of Items
112		Alcoholic beverages
121		Tobacco, unmanufactured; tobacco refuse
122		Tobacco, manufactured (whether or not containing tobacco substitute)
525		Radioactive and associated materials
667		Pearls, precious and semiprecious stones, unworked or worked
718	718.7	Nuclear reactors, and parts thereof, fuel elements (cartridges), nonirradiated for nuclear reactors
728	728.43	Tobacco processing machinery
897	897.3	Jewelry of gold, silver or platinum-group metals (except watches and watch cases) and goldsmiths' or silversmiths' wares (including set gems)
971		Gold, nonmonetary (excluding gold ore and concentrates)

Source: United Nations.

- (ii) expenditures in the currency of the Borrower or for goods supplied from the territory of the Borrower;
- (iii) expenditures for goods supplied under a contract that any national or international financing institution or agency will have financed or has agreed to finance, including any contract financed under any loan or grant from the ADB;
- (iv) expenditures for goods intended for a military or paramilitary purpose or for luxury consumption;
- (v) expenditures for narcotics;
- (vi) expenditures for environmentally hazardous goods, the manufacture, use or import of which is prohibited under the laws of the Borrower or international agreements to which the Borrower is a party; and
- (vii) expenditures on account of any payment prohibited by the Borrower in compliance with a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

**SCHEDULE 4****Program Implementation and Other Matters**Implementation Arrangement

1. The Borrower shall designate MOF as the Program Executing Agency, or any successor thereto, which will monitor budget execution and flow of funds for countercyclical measures.

Policy Dialogue and Structural Reforms

2. The Borrower shall promptly discuss with ADB, problems and constraints encountered during the CSF Program implementation and appropriate measures to overcome and mitigate such problems and constraints.

3. The Borrower shall keep ADB informed of policy discussions with other multilateral and bilateral aid agencies that may have implications for the implementation of the Program and shall provide ADB with an opportunity to comment on any resulting policy proposals. The Borrower shall take into account ADB's views before finalizing and implementing any such proposal.

Use of Counterpart Funds

4. The Borrower shall ensure that the Counterpart Funds are used to finance the implementation of certain programs and activities consistent with the objectives of the Program.

Governance and Anticorruption

5. The Borrower shall: (a) comply with ADB's Anticorruption Policy (1998, as amended to date) and acknowledge that ADB reserves the right to investigate directly, or through its agents, any alleged corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practice relating to the CSF Program; and (b) cooperate with any such investigation and extend all necessary assistance for satisfactory completion of such investigation.

Monitoring and Review

6. The Borrower shall share with ADB until 6 months after the Loan Closing Date: (a) macroeconomic and financial sector reports; and (b) expenditures made from the state budget to support the countercyclical measures, and the budget execution reports.

7. The Borrower shall ensure that within 6 months of Loan Closing Date, a CSF Program completion report is submitted to ADB.