

OFFICIAL
DOCUMENTS

GRANT NUMBER D2060-AF

Financing Agreement

(Inclusive Growth Development Policy Operation)

between

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dated

July 12, 2017

FINANCING AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT dated July 12, 2017, entered into between ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (“Recipient”) and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (“Association”) for the purpose of providing financing in support of the Program (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement). The Association has decided to provide this financing on the basis, inter alia, of (i) the actions which the Recipient has already taken under the Program and which are described in Section I A of the Schedule to this Agreement; and (ii) the Recipient’s maintenance of an adequate macroeconomic policy framework. The Recipient and the Association therefore hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I — GENERAL CONDITIONS; DEFINITIONS

- 1.01. The General Conditions (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement) constitute an integral part of this Agreement.
- 1.02. Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the General Conditions or in the Appendix to this Agreement.

ARTICLE II — FINANCING

- 2.01. The Association agrees to extend to the Recipient, on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this Agreement, a grant in an amount equivalent to seventy three million Special Drawing Rights (SDR73,000,000) (“Financing”).
- 2.02. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in support of the Program in accordance with Section II of the Schedule to this Agreement.
- 2.03. The Maximum Commitment Charge Rate payable by the Recipient on the Unwithdrawn Financing Balance shall be one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) per annum.
- 2.04. The Payment Dates are January 15 and July 15 in each year.
- 2.05. The Payment Currency is Dollar.
- 2.06. Without limitation upon the provisions of Section 4.08 of the General Conditions (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 4 of Section II of the Appendix to this Agreement and relating to *Cooperation and Consultation*), the Recipient shall promptly furnish to the Association such information relating to the provisions of this Article II as the Association may, from time to time, reasonably request.

ARTICLE III — PROGRAM

- 3.01. The Recipient declares its commitment to the Program and its implementation. To this end, and further to Section 4.08 of the General Conditions:
- (a) the Recipient and the Association shall from time to time, at the request of either party, exchange views on the Recipient's macroeconomic policy framework and the progress achieved in carrying out the Program;
 - (b) prior to each such exchange of views, the Recipient shall furnish to the Association for its review and comment a report on the progress achieved in carrying out the Program, in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request; and
 - (c) without limitation upon the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Section, the Recipient shall promptly inform the Association of any situation that would have the effect of materially reversing the objectives of the Program or any action taken under the Program including any action specified in Section I of the Schedule to this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV — REMEDIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 4.01. The Additional Event of Suspension consists of the following, namely that a situation has arisen which shall make it improbable that the Program, or a significant part of it, will be carried out.
- 4.02. The Additional Event of Acceleration consists of the following, namely that the event specified in paragraph (a) of Section 4.01 of this Agreement occurs and is continuing for a period of thirty (30) days after notice of the event has been given by the Association to the Recipient.

ARTICLE V — EFFECTIVENESS; TERMINATION

- 5.01. The Additional Condition of Effectiveness consists of the following, namely that the Association is satisfied with the progress achieved by the Recipient in carrying out the Program and with the adequacy of the Recipient's macroeconomic policy framework.
- 5.02. The Effectiveness Deadline is the date ninety (90) days after the date of this Agreement.
- 5.03. For purposes of Section 8.05 (b) of the General Conditions, the date on which the obligations of the Recipient under this Agreement (other than those providing for payment obligations) shall terminate is twenty (20) years after the date of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI — REPRESENTATIVE; ADDRESSES

6.01. The Recipient's Representative is its Minister of Finance.

6.02. The Recipient's Address is:

Ministry of Finance
Pashtunistan Watt
Kabul
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Facsimile:
+93-20-210-3258

6.03. The Association's Address is:

International Development Association
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
United States of America

Facsimile:
+1-202-477-6391

AGREED at Kabul, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as of the day and year first above written.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

By


Authorized Representative

Name: JULY 12, 2017

Title: Minister

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By


Authorized Representative

Name: S. CHAUDHURI

Title: Country Director

SCHEDULE

Program Actions; Availability of Financing Proceeds

Section I. Actions under the Program

Actions Taken Under the Program. The actions taken by the Recipient under the Program include the following:

1. The Recipient's Cabinet has approved a cross-government policy framework guiding a coherent policy response to the current displacement and returnee crisis.
2. The Recipient's Cabinet has approved and submitted to the National Assembly a land management law intended to improve security of tenure for the various categories of land users and provide more accessible procedures for formal titles to be issued, including to communities and investors.
3. The Recipient's Cabinet has approved and submitted to the National Assembly a land acquisition law intended to ensure fairness and efficiency in the acquisition of land for public purposes.
4. The Recipient's Central Bank has issued and published new regulations governing Electronic Money Institutions supporting development of e-money systems and expanded access to financial services.
5. The Recipient's Cabinet has approved a public-private partnership policy and approved and submitted to the National Assembly a public-private partnership law, establishing a policy and legal framework for public-private partnerships.
6. The Recipient's High Economic Council has approved, and published on an official government website, an open access and competitive provisioning policy, allowing mobile network operators to invest in national and metropolitan fiber-optic networks.
7. The Recipient's Ministry of Commerce has unified processes for investment licensing and business registration within the new Afghanistan Central Business Registry.
8. The Recipient's Cabinet has approved and submitted to the National Assembly a new accountancy law to establish the legislative basis for a regulated accounting profession in Afghanistan.

Section II. Availability of Financing Proceeds

- A. General.** The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in accordance with the provisions of this Section and such additional instructions as the Association may specify by notice to the Recipient.
- B. Allocation of Financing Amounts.** The Financing is allocated in a single withdrawal tranche, from which the Recipient may make withdrawals of the Financing. The allocation of the amounts of the Financing to this end is set out in the table below:

Allocations	Amount of the Financing Allocated (expressed in SDR)
Single Withdrawal Tranche	
TOTAL AMOUNT	73,000,000

C. Withdrawal Tranche Release Conditions

No withdrawal shall be made of the Single Withdrawal Tranche unless the Association is satisfied: (a) with the Program being carried out by the Recipient, and (b) with the adequacy of the Recipient's macroeconomic policy framework.

- D. Deposits of Financing Amounts.** Except as the Association may otherwise agree:
1. all withdrawals from the Financing Account shall be deposited by the Association into an account designated by the Recipient and acceptable to the Association; and
 2. the Recipient shall ensure that upon each deposit of an amount of the Financing into this account, an equivalent amount is accounted for in the Recipient's budget management system, in a manner acceptable to the Association.
- E. Excluded Expenditures.** The Recipient undertakes that the proceeds of the Financing shall not be used to finance Excluded Expenditures. If the Association determines at any time that an amount of the Financing was used to make a payment for an Excluded Expenditure, the Recipient shall, promptly upon notice from the Association, refund an amount equal to the amount of such payment to the Association. Amounts refunded to the Association upon such request shall be cancelled.
- F. Closing Date.** The Closing Date is June 22, 2018.

APPENDIX

Section I. Definitions

1. "Afghanistan Central Business Registry" means the central registry for business registration and licences located in the Recipient's Ministry of Commerce and Industries .
2. "Cabinet" means the Recipient's cabinet, under the supervisory authority of the Recipient's President, and constituted of the heads of all government ministries, which is responsible for, *inter alia*, approval of the policies and regulations and approval and submittance of legislative instruments to the National Assembly.
3. "High Economic Council" means Recipient's entity within its Council of Ministers, which is responsible for making decisions about economic policies.
4. "Electronic Money Institutions" means a legal entity, other than a commercial bank or depository microfinance institution that accepts banknotes, coins, or other means of payment in exchange for e-money, and facilitates the transfer of this e-money to make Payments.
5. "Excluded Expenditure" means any expenditure:
 - (a) for goods or services supplied under a contract which any national or international financing institution or agency other than the Association or the Bank has financed or agreed to finance, or which the Association or the Bank has financed or agreed to finance under another credit, grant or loan;
 - (b) for goods included in the following groups or sub-groups of the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC, Rev.3), published by the United Nations in Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 34/Rev.3 (1986) (the SITC), or any successor groups or subgroups under future revisions to the SITC, as designated by the Association by notice to the Recipient:

Group	Sub-group	Description of Item
112		Alcoholic beverages
121		Tobacco, un-manufactured, tobacco refuse
122		Tobacco, manufactured (whether or not containing tobacco substitutes)
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), non-irradiated, 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, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)

- (c) for goods intended for a military or paramilitary purpose or for luxury consumption;
 - (d) for environmentally hazardous goods, the manufacture, use or import of which is prohibited under the laws of the Recipient or international agreements to which the Recipient is a party, [and any other goods designated as environmentally hazardous by agreement between the Recipient and the Association];
 - (e) on account of any payment prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations; and
 - (f) with respect to which the Association determines that corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices were engaged in by representatives of the Recipient or other recipient of the Financing proceeds, without the Recipient (or other such recipient) having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to the Association to address such practices when they occur.
6. "General Conditions" means the "International Development Association General Conditions for Credits and Grants", dated July 31, 2010 with the modifications set forth in Section II of this Appendix.

7. "Program" means the program of actions, objectives and policies designed to promote growth and achieve sustainable reductions in poverty and set forth or referred to in the letter dated May 6, 2017 from the Recipient to the Association declaring the Recipient's commitment to the execution of the Program, and requesting assistance from the Association in support of the Program during its execution.
8. "Single Withdrawal Tranche" means the amount of the Financing allocated to the category entitled "Single Withdrawal Tranche" in the table set forth in Part B of Section II of the Schedule to this Agreement.
9. "National Assembly" means the Recipient's national representative body having supreme legislative powers.
10. "Central Bank" means the Recipient's central bank, also called as Da Afghanistan Bank, which is responsible for currency issuance as well as formulating and implementing the monetary policy of the country pursuant to Article 12 of the Recipient's Constitution, dated January 26, 2004.
11. "Kabul" means the Recipient's capital city.

Section II. Modifications to the General Conditions

The General Conditions are hereby modified as follows:

1. The last sentence of paragraph (a) of Section 2.03 (relating to Applications for Withdrawal) is deleted in its entirety.
2. Sections 2.04 (*Designated Accounts*) and 2.05 (*Eligible Expenditures*) are deleted in their entirety, and the subsequent Sections in Article II are renumbered accordingly.
3. Sections 4.01 (*Project Execution Generally*) and 4.09 (*Financial Management; Financial Statements; Audits*) are deleted in their entirety, and the remaining Sections in Article IV are renumbered accordingly.
4. Paragraph (a) of Section 4.05 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 4 above and relating to *Use of Goods, Works and Services*) is deleted in its entirety.
5. Paragraph (c) of Section 4.06 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 4 above) is modified to read as follows:

"Section 4.06. *Plans; Documents; Records*

... (c) The Recipient shall retain all records (contracts, orders, invoices, bills, receipts and other documents) evidencing expenditures under the Financing until two years after the Closing Date. The Recipient shall enable the Association's representatives to examine such records."

6. Paragraph (c) of Section 4.07 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 4 above) is modified to read as follows:

"Section 4.07. Program Monitoring and Evaluation

... (c) The Recipient shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, and furnish to the Association not later than six months after the Closing Date, a report of such scope and in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request, on the execution of the Program, the performance by the Recipient and the Association of their respective obligations under the Legal Agreements and the accomplishment of the purposes of the Financing."

7. The following terms and definitions set forth in the Appendix are modified or deleted as follows, and the following new terms and definitions are added in alphabetical order to the Appendix as follows, with the terms being renumbered accordingly:

- (a) The definition of the term "Eligible Expenditure" is modified to read as follows:

"'Eligible Expenditure' means any use to which the Financing is put in support of the Program, other than to finance expenditures excluded pursuant to the Financing Agreement."

- (b) The term "Financial Statements" and its definition as set forth in the Appendix are deleted in their entirety.

- (f) The term "Project" is modified to read "Program" and its definition is modified to read as follows:

"'Program' means the program referred to in the Financing Agreement in support of which the Financing is made." All references to "Project" throughout these General Conditions are deemed to be references to "Program".