

The World Bank
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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Cable Address: INTBAFRAD
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July 20, 2016

His Excellency Eklil Ahmad Hakimi
Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance
Kabul, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Re: Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund Grant No.21327
Preparation of Digital Central Asia South Asia Project (Digital CASA)
Letter Agreement

Excellency:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan ("Recipient"), I am pleased to inform you that the International Development Association ("World Bank"), acting as administrator of grant funds provided by various donors ("Donors") under the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund ("ARTF"), proposes to extend to the Recipient, a grant in an amount not to exceed five million United States Dollars (U.S.\$5,000,000) ("Grant") on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this letter agreement ("Agreement"), which includes the attached Annex, to assist in the financing of the activities described in Section 2.01 of the Annex ("Activities").

The objective of the Activities is to facilitate the preparation of the proposed Digital Central Asia South Asia Project which has the objective of supporting the Recipient to increase access to and reduce costs of regional and domestic internet traffic, improve public service delivery through the development of e-government services, and promote access to digital job opportunities ("Project"), for the carrying out of which the Recipient has requested the financial assistance from the World Bank, in its capacity as administrator of the ARTF.

This Grant is funded out of the abovementioned trust fund for which the World Bank receives periodic contributions from the Donors. In accordance with Section 3.02 of the Standard Conditions (as defined in the Annex to this Agreement), the World Bank's payment obligations in connection with this Agreement are limited to the amount of funds made available to it by the Donors under the abovementioned trust fund, and the Recipient's right to withdraw the Grant proceeds is subject to the availability of such funds.

The Recipient represents, by confirming its agreement below, that: (a) it understands that the provision of the Grant does not constitute or imply any commitment on the part of the World Bank to assist in the financing of the Project; and (b) it is authorized to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this Agreement.

Please confirm the Recipient's agreement to the foregoing by having an authorized official of the Recipient sign and date the enclosed copy of this Agreement, and returning it to the World Bank. Upon receipt by the World Bank of this countersigned copy, this Agreement shall become effective as of the date of the countersignature.

Very truly yours,
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By 
Ghulam Dastagir Sayed
Acting Country Director

AGREED:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

By: 
Authorized Representative
Name: _____
Title: Minister
Date: SEP 9, 2016

Enclosures:

- (1) Standard Conditions for Grants Made by the World Bank Out of Various Funds, dated February 15, 2012
- (2) Disbursement Letter of the same date as this Agreement, together with World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects, dated May 1, 2006

Article I
Standard Conditions; Definitions

1.01. **Standard Conditions.** The Standard Conditions for Grants Made by the World Bank out of Various Funds dated February 15, 2012 (“Standard Conditions”), with the modifications set forth in Section II of the Appendix to this Agreement, constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

1.02. **Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the Standard Conditions or in this Agreement.

Article II
Project Execution

2.01. **Description of Activities.** The Activities for which the Grant is provided consist of the following:

(a) Carrying out of feasibility studies for fiber optic connectivity options, networks, automation of e-services delivery, e-Procurement, enhancing national data center and options for backup disaster recovery center, and preparation of related bidding documents through the provisions of technical assistance and advisory services.

(b) Provision of technical advisory services designed to prepare a national broadband strategy; an environmental and social management framework; IT/IT-enabled services industry development strategy and roadmap; and geographical information system mapping and database development for national infrastructure and asset mapping.

(c) Capacity building activities aimed to strengthen MCIT and ATRA to facilitate preparation of the Project; identification of information and communications technology skills development requirements and implementation plan; and advisory services for national cyber security.

(d) Provision of training and workshops in connection with the above Activities.

2.02. **Activities Execution Generally.** The Recipient declares its commitment to the objectives of the Activities. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Activities through MCIT, in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article II of the Standard Conditions; (b) the “Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants”, dated October 15, 2006 and revised in January 2011 (“Anti-Corruption Guidelines”); and (c) this Article II.

2.03. **Institutional and Other Arrangements.** (a) The Recipient shall vest the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Activities in the MCIT.

(b) The MCIT shall carry out the Activities through the PMO, led by a project director. The PMO shall be responsible for supporting and monitoring operational, technical, social and environmental safeguards, procurement and financial management activities under the Advance.

2.04. **Environmental and Social Safeguards.** The Recipient shall without limitation upon the provision of Section 2.02 above and in order to ensure proper implementation of the Activities and

the Project in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, ensure that the terms of reference for any consultancies related to any studies, technical assistance and capacity building activities under this Agreement shall be satisfactory to the World Bank following its review thereof, and, to that end, such terms of reference shall duly incorporate the requirements of the World Bank's Safeguard Policies, then in force, as applied to any consultations, information gathering and advice conveyed through such studies, technical assistance and capacity building activities.

2.05. **Donor Visibility and Visit.** (a) The Recipient shall take or cause to be taken all such measures as the World Bank may reasonably request to identify publicly the Donors' support for the Activities through the ARTF.

(b) For the purposes of Section 2.09 of the Standard Conditions, the Recipient shall, upon the World Bank's request, enable the representatives of the Donors to visit any part of the Recipient's territory for purposes related to the Activities.

2.06. **Documents; Records.** In addition and without limitation to the obligations set forth in Section 2.05 of the Standard Conditions, the Recipient shall ensure that:

(a) all records evidencing expenditures under the Project are retained for seven years and six months after the Closing Date, such records to include: (i) this Agreement, all addenda thereof, and any amendments thereto; (ii) the Recipient's financial and narrative progress reports submitted to the World Bank; (iii) the Recipient's financial information related to the Grant, including audit reports, invoices and payroll records; (iv) the Recipient's implementation documentation (including sub-agreements, procurement files, contracts, purchase orders); and (v) the corresponding supporting evidence referred to in Section 3.04 of the Standard Conditions; and

(b) the representatives of the World Bank are: (i) able to examine all records referred to above in paragraph (a); (ii) provided all such information concerning such records as they may from time to time reasonably request; and (iii) able to disclose such records and information to the Donors.

2.07. **Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation.** (a) The Recipient shall monitor and evaluate the progress of the Activities and prepare Activities Reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.06 of the Standard Conditions and on the basis of the indicators set forth below in paragraph (b) of this Section. Each Activities Report shall cover the period of one calendar semester, and shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than one month after the end of the period covered by such report.

(b) The performance indicators referred to above in paragraph (a) consist of the following:

- (i) Digital Central Asia South Asia Project is approved and effective
- (ii) Bidding documents for major contracts are prepared

(c) The Recipient shall prepare the Completion Report in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.06 of the Standard Conditions. The Completion Report shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six months after the Closing Date.

2.08. **Financial Management.** (a) The Recipient shall ensure that a financial management system is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.07 of the Standard Conditions.

(b) The Recipient shall ensure that interim unaudited financial reports for the Activities are prepared and furnished to the World Bank not later than forty-five (45) days after the end of each calendar quarter, covering the quarter, in form and substance satisfactory to the World Bank.

(c) The Recipient shall have its Financial Statements audited in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.07(b) of the Standard Conditions. Each such audit of the Financial Statements shall cover the period of one fiscal year of the Recipient. The audited Financial Statements for each such period shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six months after the end of such period.

2.09. *Procurement*

(a) General. All consultants' services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in:

(i) Sections I and IV of the "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011 (revised July 2014) ("Consultant Guidelines") in the case of consultants' services; and

(ii) the provisions of this Section, as the same shall be elaborated in the procurement plan prepared and updated from time to time by the Recipient for the Project in accordance with paragraph 1.25 of the Consultant Guidelines ("Procurement Plan").

(b) Definitions. The capitalized terms used in the following paragraphs of this Section to describe particular procurement methods or methods of review by the World Bank of particular contracts, refer to the corresponding method described in Sections II, III, IV and V of the Consultant Guidelines, as the case may be.

(c) Particular Methods of Procurement of Consultants' Services

(i) Except as otherwise provided in item (ii) below, consultants' services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of Quality- and Cost-based Selection.

(ii) The following methods, other than Quality- and Cost-based Selection, may be used for the procurement of consultants' services for those assignments which are specified in the Procurement Plan: (A) Quality-based Selection; (B) Selection under a Fixed Budget; (C) Least Cost Selection; (D) Selection based on Consultants' Qualifications; (E) Single-source Selection of consulting firms; (F) Selection of Individual Consultants; and (G) Single-source procedures for the Selection of Individual Consultants.

(d) Review by the World Bank of Procurement Decisions. The Procurement Plan shall set forth those contracts which shall be subject to the World Bank's Prior Review. All other contracts shall be subject to Post Review by the World Bank.

(e) Document Retention. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 2(k) and 5 of Appendix 1 to the Consultant Guidelines, the Recipient: (i) shall retain all documentation with respect to each contract as described in said paragraphs for at least seven years and six months after the Closing Date set forth in Section 3.03 of this Agreement; (ii) shall furnish such documentation

to the World Bank at any time upon request; and (iii) hereby authorizes the World Bank to disclose such documentation to the Donors.

**Article III
Withdrawal of Grant Proceeds**

3.01. *Eligible Expenditures.* The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Grant in accordance with the provisions of: (a) the Standard Conditions; (b) this Section; and (c) such additional instructions as the World Bank may specify by notice to the Recipient (including the "World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects" dated May 2006, as revised from time to time by the World Bank and as made applicable to this Agreement pursuant to such instructions), to finance Eligible Expenditures as set forth in the following table. The table specifies the categories of Eligible Expenditures that may be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant ("Category"), the allocations of the amounts of the Grant to each Category, and the percentage of expenditures to be financed for Eligible Expenditures in each Category:

Category	Amount of the Grant Allocated (expressed in USD)	Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)
(1) Consultants' services, Training and Workshops, and Incremental Operating Costs under the Activities	5,000,000	100%
TOTAL AMOUNT	5,000,000	

3.02. *Withdrawal Conditions.* Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3.01 of this Agreement, no withdrawal shall be made for payments made prior to the date of this Agreement.

3.03. *Withdrawal Period.* The Closing Date referred to in Section 3.06(c) of the Standard Conditions is December 31, 2017.

**Article IV
Recipient's Representative; Addresses**

4.01. *Recipient's Representative.* The Recipient's Representative referred to in Section 7.02 of the Standard Conditions is its Minister of Finance.

4.02. *Recipient's Address.* The Recipient's Address referred to in Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

Ministry of Finance
Pashtunistan Watt
Kabul
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Facsimile: 93-20-210-3258

4.03. *World Bank's Address.* The World Bank's Address referred to in Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

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

Telex:	Facsimile:
248423 (MCI) or 64145 (MCI)	1-202-477-6391

APPENDIX

Section I. Definitions

1. "ATRA" means the Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority, an agency established within MICT (as hereinafter defined) under the Recipient's Telecommunications Services Regulation Act of 2006.
2. "Incremental Operating Costs" means the incremental operating expenses on account of implementation of the Activities, including car rentals, the operation and maintenance of vehicles, office rentals, office supplies, communication charges including internet charges, insurance costs, office administration costs, banking charges, utility charges, advertising expenses, domestic travel and per diem allowances, but excluding salaries and salary supplements of the Recipient's civil servants.
3. "MCIT" means the Recipient's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, or any successor thereto.
4. "PMO" means the Project Management Office, established and maintained within MCIT, responsible for supporting and monitoring operational, technical, social, procurement and financial management activities under the Grant.
5. "Training and Workshops" means the costs associated with the training and workshop participation of personnel involved in implementation of the Activities, including travel and subsistence costs for training participants, rental of training and workshop facilities, preparation and reproduction of training and workshop materials, and other costs directly related to training courses and workshop.
6. "World Bank Safeguard Policies" means the World Bank's operational policies and procedures set forth in the World Bank's Operational Manual and identified as OP/BPs 4.01, 4.04, 4.09, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.36, 4.37, 7.50 and 7.60 as said manual is published under www.WorldBank.org/opmanual.

Section II. Modifications to the Standard Conditions

The Standard Conditions are modified as follows:

1. The term "Project", whenever used in the Standard Conditions, is modified to read "Activities" (and related text adjusted for grammatical correctness accordingly).
2. The term "Project Report", whenever used in the Standard Conditions, is modified to read "Activities Report".