

October 18, 2021

Hon. Neal Rijkenberg  
Minister of Finance  
P.O. Box 443  
Mbabane  
Kingdom of Eswatini

Dear Honorable Rijkenberg,

***ESWATINI: Notice of Reference Rate Replacement and Related  
Amendments under Loan Agreements***

We refer to the loan agreements entered into between the Kingdom of Eswatini (the “Borrower”) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the “Bank”) in respect of the Loans listed in Annex I to this letter (the “Loan Agreements”). We also refer to the Bank’s communications to the Borrower during the past year on the Bank’s LIBOR transition planning, including relating to the LIBOR omnibus amendment to the Loan Agreements (the “LIBOR Omnibus Amendment”), if applicable. The terms not defined herein shall have the meaning given in the relevant Loan Agreements.

1. The Bank hereby provides the notice to the Borrower of the replacement of the Reference Rate under the relevant provisions of each of the Loan Agreements for the Loans listed in Annex I to this letter. The new Reference Rates and certain conforming revisions to the related provisions of the Loan Agreements are set forth in Annex II to this letter. In exercising this authority, the Bank acts solely to maintain and preserve the pre-existing relationship between its borrowing costs and its lending rates, and does not seek any commercial advantage for itself. In the interests of fairness, transparency, and consistency, the Bank offers the same terms to all borrowers for all Bank loans. The terms of the Reference Rate replacement set forth herein are presented in an omnibus fashion. Accordingly, not all revisions in Annex II will apply to all Loan Agreements of the Borrower (i.e., such revisions shall apply as consistent and appropriate within the terms of the individual Loan Agreements of the Borrower.)
2. In furtherance of Section 1 above, this notice of Reference Rate replacement is provided in reliance on the following provisions of the relevant General Conditions and equivalent provisions of the Loan Agreements, as applicable to the Borrower’s list of Loans:
  - a) Section 3.02 (c) of the Bank’s General Conditions of December 14, 2018, as revised from time to time, in respect of the Loans governed by such General Conditions, if any;
  - b) Provisions of the Loan Agreements, as amended by the LIBOR Omnibus Amendment, equivalent to Section 3.02 (c) of the Bank’s General Conditions of December 14, 2018, as revised from time to time, in respect of the Loans amended by the LIBOR Omnibus Amendment, if any;

- c) Section 3.02 (c) of the Bank's General Conditions of July 31, 2010 to July 14, 2017, in respect of the Loans denominated in EUR, GBP and JPY governed by such General Conditions, if any; and
  - d) Section 3.02(d) of the Bank's General Conditions of July 14, 2017 or earlier and the equivalent provisions of the Loan Agreements, in respect of the remainder of the Loans not covered by bullet points (a) to (c) above (the "Designated Legacy Loans"), if any.
3. For the avoidance of doubt, the terms of the interest rate or currency conversions in effect on any Loan shall continue, such that the conforming revisions set forth herein shall apply to the underlying terms of the Loan as if any such existing conversion had been effected on the terms of the Loan so revised.
  4. The "Effective Date" of the Reference Rate replacement provisions set forth in Annex II with respect to each Loan shall be as follows:
    - a) For all Loans (i) with an interest rate based on LIBOR or EURIBOR plus a variable spread or (ii) denominated in currencies other than USD and with an interest rate based on LIBOR or EURIBOR plus a fixed spread – the first day of the next applicable Interest Period falling on or after January 1, 2022;
    - b) For all Loans denominated in USD and with an interest rate based on LIBOR plus a fixed spread (including the Loans where the variable spread has been fixed) – the first day of the next applicable Interest Period falling on or after July 1, 2023; and
    - c) If during the period between September 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022, the Bank and the Borrower sign any loan agreements with respect to loans that are not listed in Annex I to this letter and the Reference Rate under such loans is LIBOR or EURIBOR, such Reference Rate shall be replaced (or updated) in accordance with the terms of this notice on the applicable first day of such loans' relevant Interest Period consistent with the provisions of Section 4(a) and (b) above.

The replacement of the Reference Rate and the related revisions set forth herein shall become effective on the applicable Effective Dates as defined above and indicated next to each Loan in Annex I. We remain at your disposal, if you have any questions in relation to this notice of Reference Rate replacement.

Yours Sincerely,



Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly  
Country Director  
Eswatini, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa  
Eastern and Southern Africa Region

cc: Hon. Tambo Gina, Minister of Economic Planning and Development

Ms. Sizakele Dlamini, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Mr. Siboniso Masilela, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development

Mr. Sifiso Mamba Chief Economist, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development

Ms. Antony Mthunzi, Principal Economist, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development

Mr. Armstrong Dlamini, Director: Public Debt Management, Ministry of Finance

Mr. Vusi Dlamini, Director Budget, Ministry of Finance

Mr. Sifiso Khumalo, Senior Finance Officer, Ministry of Finance

Mr. Taufila Nyamadzabo, Alternate Executive Director for Eswatini, World Bank Group

Mr. Floribert Ngaruko, Alternative Executive Director for Eswatini, World Bank Group

Ms. Lonkhululeko Magagula, Advisor to the Executive Director for Eswatini, World Bank Group

ANNEX I**List of Borrower's Loans**

<b>Loan Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Commitment Currency</b>	<b>Original Principal Amount</b>	<b>Agreement Signing Date</b>	<b>Effective Date<sup>1</sup> (for Reference Rate)</b>
8003	Local Government Project	USD	26,900,000	14-Dec-2011	15-May-2022
8019	Health, HIV/AIDS and TB Project	USD	20,000,000	14-Dec-2011	15-May-2022
8981	Network Reinforcement and Access Project	EUR	35,700,000	29-Apr-2020	15-Feb-2022
9012	Eswatini Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project	USD	45,000,000	3-May-2020	15-Aug-2023
9098	Eswatini Covid-19 Emergency Response Project	USD	6,000,000	29-Apr-2020	15-Aug-2023
9126	Health System Strengthening for Human Capital Development in Eswatini Project	USD	20,000,000	4-Dec-2020	15-Aug-2023
9174	Eswatini Economic Recovery Development Policy Loan	USD	40,000,000	4-Dec-2020	15-Aug-2023
9231	Additional Financing for Eswatini COVID-19 Emergency Response Project	USD	5,000,000	26-Sep-2021	15-Feb-2022

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the definition of "Effective Date" in Section 4 of this notice.

ANNEX II**Conforming Revisions to Loan Agreements and General Conditions<sup>2</sup>**

1. Relevant provisions of the Loan Agreements or General Conditions, as applicable, are revised as follows, or the following is added as a new provision to the relevant provisions of the Loan Agreements or General Conditions, as applicable:

“If interest on any amount of the Loan is based on a Reference Rate, and the Bank determines that (i) such Reference Rate has permanently ceased to be quoted for the relevant Currency, or (ii) the Bank is no longer able, or it is no longer commercially acceptable for the Bank, to continue to use such Reference Rate, for purposes of its asset and liability management, the Bank shall apply such other Reference Rate for the relevant Currency, including any applicable spread, as it may reasonably determine. The Bank shall promptly notify the Loan Parties of such other rate and related amendments to the provisions of the Loan Agreements, which shall become effective as of the date set forth in such notice.”<sup>3</sup>

2. As applicable, references to “LIBOR” and/or “EURIBOR” throughout the Loan Agreements and General Conditions are replaced with references to “Reference Rate”, as defined in Section 5 below, in accordance with the context.

3. As applicable, references to “Reference Rate Reset Date” throughout the Loan Agreements and General Conditions are replaced with references to “first day of the relevant Interest Period”.

4. As applicable, the definitions of “Financial Center”, “LIBOR”, “LIBOR Reset Date”, “London Banking Day”, “Reference Rate Reset Date”, “Relevant Telerate Page” and “TARGET Settlement Day” in the Loan Agreements or General Conditions are deleted.

5. As applicable, relevant definitions in the Loan Agreements or General Conditions are revised as follows, or the following definitions are added as new definitions to the Loan Agreements or General Conditions:

““EURIBOR” means for any Interest Period, the EUR interbank offered rate for deposits in EUR for six months, expressed as a percentage per annum, that appears on the Relevant Rate Page at the customary publication time as specified by the EURIBOR benchmark administrator in the EURIBOR benchmark methodology, as reasonably determined by the Bank for the relevant Interest Period.”

““Reference Rate” means, for any Interest Period:

- (a) (i) for USD, SOFR; (ii) for EUR, EURIBOR; (iii) for GBP, SONIA; and (iv) for JPY, TONA; provided that if the relevant Reference Rate is not available through the normal sources of information at the customary publication times in respect of the relevant Interest Period, the Bank shall reasonably determine such Reference Rate taking into account the prevailing market practice with respect to alternative methods for calculating the Reference Rate, their

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<sup>2</sup> Applicable to all Loan Agreements, except those indicated in footnote 3 below.

<sup>3</sup> Relates to provisions of Section 3.02(c) of the General Conditions dated July 31, 2010 or later and equivalent provisions in the prior General Conditions or Loan Agreements, as applicable.

market representativeness and acceptability to the Bank for purposes of its asset and liability management, and notify the Borrower accordingly.

- (b) if the Bank determines that (i) the Reference Rate for the relevant Loan Currency has permanently ceased to be quoted for such currency, or (ii) the Bank is no longer able, or it is no longer commercially acceptable for the Bank, to continue to use such Reference Rate, for purposes of its asset and liability management, such other comparable reference rate for the relevant currency, including any applicable spread, as the Bank shall determine, and notify to the Borrower pursuant to Section 3.02 (c); and
- (c) for any currency other than USD, EUR, JPY and GBP: (i) such reference rate for the Original Loan Currency as shall be specified or referred to in the Loan Agreement; or (ii) in the case of a Currency Conversion to such other currency, such reference rate as shall be determined by the Bank in accordance with the Conversion Guidelines and notice thereof given to the Borrower in accordance with Section 4.01(c).”

““Relevant Rate Page” means the display page designated by an established financial market data provider selected by the Bank as the page for the purpose of displaying at customary publication times the Reference Rate (including any applicable spread to the relevant prior benchmark rate) for the Loan Currency.”

““SOFR” means for any Interest Period, the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) for the relevant Interest Period (whether calculated on a term basis, or other basis designed to replicate a term structure, and which may include an applicable spread to the relevant prior benchmark rate), expressed as a percentage per annum, that appears on the Relevant Rate Page at customary publication times specified by the applicable benchmark administrator, as reasonably determined by the Bank for the relevant Interest Period.”

““SONIA” means for any Interest Period, the Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA) rate for the relevant Interest Period (whether calculated on a term basis, or other basis designed to replicate a term structure, and which may include an applicable spread to the relevant prior benchmark rate), expressed as a percentage per annum, that appears on the Relevant Rate Page at customary publication times specified by the applicable benchmark administrator, as reasonably determined by the Bank for the relevant Interest Period.”

““TONA” means for any Interest Period, the Tokyo Overnight Average Rate (TONA) for the relevant Interest Period, (whether calculated on a term basis, or other basis designed to replicate a term structure, and which may include an applicable spread to the relevant prior benchmark rate), expressed as a percentage per annum, that appears on the Relevant Rate Page at customary publication times specified by the applicable benchmark administrator, as reasonably determined by the Bank for the relevant Interest Period.”

““Variable Spread” means, for each Interest Period: (a) (1) the Bank’s standard lending spread for Loans established by the Bank in accordance with its policies in effect at 12:01 a.m. Washington, D.C. time, one calendar day prior to the date of the Loan Agreement (including the maturity premium, if applicable); and (2) plus or minus the adjusted weighted average margin to the Reference Rate, for the relevant Interest Period, in respect of the Bank’s outstanding borrowings or portions thereof allocated by it to fund loans that carry interest at a rate based on the Variable Spread; as reasonably determined by the Bank, expressed as a percentage per annum and periodically published by the Bank; and (b) in case of Conversions, the variable spread, as applicable, as determined by the Bank in accordance with Conversion Guidelines and notified to the Borrower

pursuant to Section 4.01 (c). In the case of a Loan denominated in more than one Currency, “Variable Spread” applies separately to each of such Currencies.”

### **Conforming Revisions to Loan Agreements**<sup>4</sup>

1. The relevant provisions of certain Loan Agreements specifying the applicable interest rate of the Loan based on LIBOR are revised as follows:

- (a) All references to “LIBOR Base Rate” are replaced with references to “Reference Rate”.
- (b) All references to “LIBOR Total Spread” are replaced with references to “Variable Spread”.
- (c) The definitions of “LIBOR Base Rate” and “LIBOR Total Spread” are deleted.
- (d) The following new definitions are added:

““EURIBOR” means for any Interest Period, the EUR interbank offered rate for deposits in EUR for six months, expressed as a percentage per annum, that appears on the Relevant Rate Page at the customary publication time as specified by the EURIBOR benchmark administrator in the EURIBOR benchmark methodology, as reasonably determined by the Bank for the relevant Interest Period.”

““Reference Rate” means, for any Interest Period:

- (a) (i) for USD, SOFR; (ii) for EUR, EURIBOR; (iii) for GBP, SONIA; and (iv) for JPY, TONA; provided that if the relevant Reference Rate is not available through the normal sources of information at the customary publication times in respect of the relevant Interest Period, the Bank shall reasonably determine such Reference Rate taking into account the prevailing market practice with respect to alternative methods for calculating the Reference Rate, their market representativeness and acceptability to the Bank for purposes of its asset and liability management, and notify the Borrower accordingly.
- (b) if the Bank determines that (i) the Reference Rate for the relevant Loan Currency has permanently ceased to be quoted for such currency, or (ii) the Bank is no longer able, or it is no longer commercially acceptable for the Bank, to continue to use such Reference Rate, for purposes of its asset and liability management, such other comparable reference rate for the relevant currency, including any applicable spread, as the Bank shall determine, and notify to the Borrower pursuant to the Loan Agreement.”

““Relevant Rate Page” means the display page designated by an established financial market data provider selected by the Bank as the page for the purpose of displaying at customary publication times the Reference Rate (including any applicable spread to the relevant prior benchmark rate) for the Loan Currency.”

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<sup>4</sup> Applicable only to legacy Single Currency Loans governed by the General Conditions Applicable to Loan and Guarantee Agreements for Single Currency Loans of May 30, 1995 (also the versions as amended through October 6, 1999, December 2, 1997 and May 1, 2004), which refer to interest related provisions in the Loan Agreements.

““SOFR” means for any Interest Period, the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) for the relevant Interest Period (whether calculated on a term basis, or other basis designed to replicate a term structure, and which may include an applicable spread to the relevant prior benchmark rate), expressed as a percentage per annum, that appears on the Relevant Rate Page at customary publication times specified by the applicable benchmark administrator, as reasonably determined by the Bank for the relevant Interest Period.”

““SONIA” means for any Interest Period, the Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA) rate for the relevant Interest Period (whether calculated on a term basis, or other basis designed to replicate a term structure, and which may include an applicable spread to the relevant prior benchmark rate), expressed as a percentage per annum, that appears on the Relevant Rate Page at customary publication times specified by the applicable benchmark administrator, as reasonably determined by the Bank for the relevant Interest Period.”

““TONA” means for any Interest Period, the Tokyo Overnight Average Rate (TONA) for the relevant Interest Period, (whether calculated on a term basis, or other basis designed to replicate a term structure, and which may include an applicable spread to the relevant prior benchmark rate), expressed as a percentage per annum, that appears on the Relevant Rate Page at customary publication times specified by the applicable benchmark administrator, as reasonably determined by the Bank for the relevant Interest Period.”

““Variable Spread” means, for each Interest Period: (a) (1) the Bank’s standard lending spread for Loans established by the Bank in accordance with its policies in effect at 12:01 a.m. Washington, D.C. time, one calendar day prior to the date of the Loan Agreement (including the maturity premium, if applicable); and (2) plus or minus the adjusted weighted average margin to the Reference Rate, for the relevant Interest Period, in respect of the Bank’s outstanding borrowings or portions thereof allocated by it to fund loans that carry interest at a rate based on the Variable Spread; as reasonably determined by the Bank, expressed as a percentage per annum and periodically published by the Bank; and (b) in case of Conversions, the variable spread, as applicable, as determined by the Bank in accordance with Conversion Guidelines and notified to the Borrower pursuant to Section 4.01 (c). In the case of a Loan denominated in more than one Currency, “Variable Spread” applies separately to each of such Currencies.”

- (e) The relevant provision of certain Loan Agreements, which states: “The Bank shall notify the Borrower and the Guarantor of LIBOR Base Rate and LIBOR Total Spread for each Interest Period, promptly upon the determination thereof.” shall be deleted and replaced with the following:

“The Bank shall notify the Borrower and the Guarantor of the relevant interest rate on any withdrawn and outstanding amounts of the Loan for each Interest Period promptly upon its determination.”

- (f) The following new provision shall be added to the interest rate related provisions of the Loan Agreement:

“If the Bank determines that (i) the Reference Rate has permanently ceased to be quoted for the relevant Currency, or (ii) the Bank is no longer able, or it is no longer commercially acceptable for the Bank, to continue to use such Reference Rate, for purposes of its asset and liability management, the Bank shall apply such other Reference Rate for the relevant Currency, including any applicable spread, as it may reasonably determine. The Bank shall promptly notify the Borrower and the Guarantor of such other rate and related amendments to the provisions of the Loan Agreements, which shall become effective as of the date set forth in such notice.”



bcc and cleared by: Ruth Connick Operation Analyst (AECS1),

bcc: Messrs./Mmes.: Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly, Asmeen Khan, Erika Prinsloo Mabel Mkhize (AECS1); Nonhlanhla Zindela, Simangele Nkambule, Nomagugu Khumalo (AEMSZ); Wolfgang Fengler (EAEDR); Elizabeth Ninan (HAFD2); Bekele Debele (SAEDR); Thomas Buckley, Khalid Boukantar (AECZA); Jorge Luis Alva-Luperdi (LEGAM); Michael Ochieng, Anthony Okwako, Jean Owino, Sandra M Kuwaza, David Liow, Rebecca Choge (WFACS); Junxue Chu, Georgine Newman-Alawode, Nisha Maria Pinho, Sridharan Srinivasan (WFALF); Gaukhar M. Kaliaskarova (LEGFI); Miguel Navarro-Martin, Ghislain Martial Yanou (TRECI); Eswatini Country Team; WB Docs.