**CONFORMED COPY**

**LOAN NUMBER 8009-UZ**

**Loan Agreement**

**(Talimarjan Transmission Project)**

**between**

**REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**and**

**INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION**

**AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Dated September 16, 2011**

**LOAN NUMBER 8009-UZ**

LOAN AGREEMENT

 Agreement dated September 16, 2011, between the Republic of Uzbekistan (“Borrower”) and INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (“Bank”). The Borrower and the Bank hereby agree as follows:

# ARTICLE I — GENERAL CONDITIONS; DEFINITIONS

* 1. The General Conditions (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement) constitute an integral part of this Agreement.
	2. 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 — LOAN**

2.01. The Bank agrees to lend to the Borrower, on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this Agreement, the amount of one hundred and ten million Dollars, ($110,000,000), as such amount may be converted from time to time through a Currency Conversion in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.07 of this Agreement (“Loan”), to assist in financing the project described in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (“Project”).

* 1. The Borrower may withdraw the proceeds of the Loan in accordance with Section IV of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
	2. The Front-end Fee payable by the Borrower shall be equal to one quarter of one percent (0.25%) of the Loan amount.
	3. The interest payable by the Borrower for each Interest Period shall be at a rate equal to the Reference Rate for the Loan Currency plus the Variable Spread; provided, that upon a Conversion of all or any portion of the principal amount of the Loan, the interest payable by the Borrower during the Conversion Period on such amount shall be determined in accordance with the relevant provisions of Article IV of the General Conditions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any amount of the Withdrawn Loan Balance remains unpaid when due and such non-payment continues for a period of thirty (30) days, then the interest payable by the Borrower shall instead be calculated as provided in Section 3.02 (e) of the General Conditions.
	4. The Payment Dates are January 15 and July 15 in each year.
	5. The principal amount of the Loan shall be repaid in accordance with the amortization schedule set forth in Schedule 3 to this Agreement.

2.07. (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, withdrawn 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 Variable Rate to a Fixed Rate, or vice versa, or from a Variable Rate based on a Variable Spread to a Variable Rate based on a Fixed Spread; and (iii) the setting of limits on the Variable 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 the Variable Rate.

(b) Any conversion requested pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Section that is accepted by the Bank shall be considered a “Conversion”, as defined in the General Conditions, and shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the General Conditions and of the Conversion Guidelines.

**ARTICLE III — PROJECT**

* 1. The Borrower declares its commitment to the objectives of the Project. To this end, the Borrower shall cause the Project to be carried out by the Project Implementing Entity in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the General Conditions and the Project Agreement.
	2. Without limitation upon the provisions of Section 3.01 of this Agreement, and except as the Borrower and the Bank shall otherwise agree, the Borrower shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

# ARTICLE IV — REMEDIES OF THE BANK

4.01. The Additional Event of Suspension consists of the following:

The Project Implementing Entity’s Legislation has been amended, suspended, abrogated, repealed or waived so as to affect materially and adversely the ability of the Project Implementing Entity to perform any of its obligations under the Project Agreement.

4.02. The Additional Event of Acceleration consists of the following:

The event specified in 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 Bank to the Borrower.

**ARTICLE V — EFFECTIVENESS; TERMINATION**

5.01. The Additional Condition of Effectiveness consists of the following:

(a) The Subsidiary Agreement has been executed on behalf of the Borrower and the Project Implementing Entity.

(b) The PMU established by the Project Implementing Entity is functioning with a composition, resources and terms of reference satisfactory to the Bank.

(c) The Project Implementing Entity has adopted the POM satisfactory to the Bank*.*

(d) The Project Implementing Entity has established a Project financial management system including budgeting, accounting, reporting, audit and internal controls satisfactory to the Bank.

5.02. The Additional Legal Matter consists of the following.

(a) The Subsidiary Agreement has been duly authorized or ratified by the Borrower and the Project Implementing Entity and is legally binding upon the Borrower and the Project Implementing Entity in accordance with its terms.

5.03. The Effectiveness Deadline is the date one hundred and eighty (180) days after the date of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE VI — REPRESENTATIVE; ADDRESSES**

6.01. The Borrower’s Representative is the Minister of Finance of the Borrower.

6.02. The Borrower’s Address is:

Ministry of Finance

 Mustakilik Square 5

 Tashkent 100008

 Republic of Uzbekistan

 Telex: Facsimile:

 11 6360 IK BOL (998-71) 244-5643

 (998-71) 239-1259

6.03. The Bank’s Address is:

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

1818 H Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20433

United States of America

Cable address: Telex: Facsimile:

INTBAFRAD 248423(MCI) or 1-202-477-6391

Washington, D.C. 64145(MCI)

AGREED at Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, as of the day and year first above written.

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

By /s/ Rustam Azimov

 Authorized Representative

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR

 RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

By /s/ Takuya Kamata

 Authorized Representative

**SCHEDULE 1**

**Project Description**

The objective of the Project is to improve the reliability of the electricity supply to residential and business consumers in South-Western Uzbekistan.

 The Project consists of the following parts:

**Part 1:** **Strengthening of Power Transmission Network**

1. Construction of about 220 km single-circuit 500 kV transmission line from Talimarjan Thermal Power Plant to Sogdiana Substation;
2. Construction of 500/220 kV open switch-yard at Talimarjan Thermal Power Plant;
3. Construction of a bay extension at Sogdiana Substation; and
4. Construction of a 500 kV connection line from the 500/220 kV open switch-yard at Talimarjan Thermal Power Plant to the Karakul-Guzar transmission line.

**Part 2: Institutional Strengthening**

1. Strengthening the Project Implementing Entity’s and its subsidiaries’ technical and fiduciary capacity through:
2. assistance in the establishment of an internal audit unit; development of internal audit procedures; and provision of training on the generation of internal audit reports in compliance with International Internal Audit Standards;
3. acquisition of the Global Information System software; software for transmission network system design, planning, financial and economic analysis; technical study tour(s) to familiarize the Project Implementing Entity’s staff with the international good practices in these fields;
4. assistance in the adoption of the International Electrotechnical Commission technical standards for transmission lines and switchyard/substation equipment and training;
5. technical assistance to the Project Implementing Entity for the further development of the renewable energy program, including assessment of wind power potential and design of the institutional framework for development of wind power program; and
6. technical assistance for the mitigation of avian risk during Project implementation, including post-construction bird mortality monitoring and provision of training on the development of standardized approach for collision and electrocution monitoring of transmission lines and towers.
7. Strengthening the Project Implementing Entity’s capacity for Project management, monitoring, reporting and evaluation, including procurement, financial management and disbursement activities and carrying out the Project and the Project Implementing Entity audit.

**SCHEDULE 2**

**Project Execution**

**Section I. Implementation Arrangements**

**A. Institutional Arrangements**

The Borrower shall cause the Project to be carried out by the Project Implementing Entity in accordance with the requirements, criteria, organizational arrangements and operational procedures set forth in the POM and shall not assign, amend, abrogate or waive any provisions of the POM without prior approval of the Bank.

**B.** **Subsidiary Agreement**

1.To facilitate the carrying out of the Project by the Project Implementing Entity, the Borrower shall make the proceeds of the Loan available to the Project Implementing Entity under a subsidiary agreement between the Borrower and the Project Implementing Entity, under terms and conditions approved by the Bank, which shall include the following (“Subsidiary Agreement”): the principal amount of the Loan made available under the Subsidiary Agreement (“Subsidiary Loan”) shall be:

1. denominated and repayable in Dollars;
2. charged interest on the principal amount withdrawn and outstanding from time to time at the rate equal to the interest rate payable by the Borrower pursuant to Section 2.04 of this Agreement plus 0.2%; and
3. repayable over a period of 25 years from the date of the Subsidiary Agreement, inclusive of a grace period of 5 years.

2. The Borrower shall exercise its rights under the Subsidiary Agreement in such manner as to protect the interests of the Borrower and the Bank and to accomplish the purposes of the Loan. Except as the Bank shall otherwise agree, the Borrower shall not assign, amend, abrogateor waive the Subsidiary Agreement or any of its provisions.

**C. Anti-Corruption**

The Borrower shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Guidelines.

**D. Safeguards**

1. The Borrower shall, and shall cause the Project Implementing Entity to, carry out the Project in accordance with the requirements, criteria, organizational arrangements and operational procedures set forth in the EMP and the RAP, and shall not assign, amend, abrogate or waive any provisions of the EMP or the RAP without prior approval of the Bank.

2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the commencement of any construction works under the Project, the Borrower shall, and shall cause the Project Implementing Entity to submit to the Bank evidence satisfactory to the Bank that the owners or users of the land subject to acquisition due to implementation of said works under the Project, whether on a permanent or temporary basis, have been fully compensated in accordance with the provisions of the RAP.

**Section II. Project Monitoring Reporting and Evaluation**

**A. Project Reports**

The Borrower shall cause the Project Implementing Entity to monitor and evaluate the progress of the Project and prepare Project Reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.08 of the General Conditions and on the basis of the indicators acceptable to the Bank. Each Project Report shall cover the period of one calendar quarter, and shall be furnished to the Bank not later than forty five (45) days after the end of the period covered by such report.

**B.** **Financial Management, Financial Reports and Audits**

1. The Borrower shall cause the Project Implementing Entity to maintain a financial management system in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.09 of the General Conditions.

2. Without limitation on the provisions of Part A of this Section, the Borrower shall cause the Project Implementing Entity to prepare and furnish to the Bank not later than forty five (45) days after the end of each calendar quarter, interim unaudited financial reports for the Project covering the quarter, in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank.

3. The Borrower shall cause the Project Implementing Entity to have its Financial Statements audited in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.09 (b) of the General Conditions. Each audit of the Financial Statements shall cover the period of one fiscal year of the Borrower. The audited Financial Statements for each such period shall be furnished to the Bank not later than six (6) months after the end of such period.

**Section III. Procurement**

**A. General**

1. **Goods.**  All goods required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Loan shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in Section I of the Procurement Guidelines, and with the provisions of this Section.

2. **Consultants’ Services.** All consultants’ services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Loan shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in Sections I and IV of the Consultant Guidelines and with the provisions of this Section.

3. **Definitions.** The capitalized terms used below in this Section to describe particular procurement methods or methods of review by the Bank of particular contracts refer to the corresponding method described in the Procurement Guidelines, or Consultant Guidelines, as the case may be.

**B. Particular Methods of Procurement of Goods**

1. **International Competitive Bidding.** Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 below, goods shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of International Competitive Bidding.

2. **Other Methods of Procurement of Goods**. The following table specifies the methods of procurement, other than International Competitive Bidding, which may be used for goods and works. The Procurement Plan shall specify the circumstances under which such methods may be used.

|  |
| --- |
| **Procurement Method** |
| 1. National Competitive Bidding, subject to the additional provisions set forth in the Annex to this Schedule 2 required to comply with the provisions of the Procurement Guidelines
 |
| 1. Limited International Bidding
 |
| 1. Shopping
 |
| 1. Direct Contracting
 |

**C. Particular Methods of Procurement of Consultants’ Services**

1. **Quality- and Cost-based Selection.** Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 below, consultants’ services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of Quality and Cost-based Selection.

2. **Other Methods of Procurement of Consultants’ Services**. The following table specifies the methods of procurement, other than Quality and Cost-based Selection, which may be used for consultants’ services. The Procurement Plan shall specify the circumstances under which such methods may be used.

|  |
| --- |
| **Procurement Method** |
| 1. Quality Based Selection
 |
| 1. Fixed Budget Selection
 |
| 1. Least Cost Selection
 |
| 1. Selection Based on Consultant’s Qualification
 |
| 1. Single Source Selection
 |
| 1. Individual Consultant
 |

**D.** **Review by the Bank of Procurement Decisions**

The Procurement Plan shall set forth those contracts which shall be subject to the Bank’s Prior Review. All other contracts shall be subject to Post Review by the Bank.

**Section IV. Withdrawal of Loan Proceeds**

**A. General**

1. The Borrower may withdraw the proceeds of the Loan in accordance with the provisions of Article II of the General Conditions, this Section, and such additional instructions as the Bank shall specify by notice to the Borrower (including the “World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects” dated May 2006, as revised from time to time by the Bank and as made applicable to this Agreement pursuant to such instructions), to finance Eligible Expenditures as set forth in the table in paragraph 2 below.

1. The following table specifies the categories of Eligible Expenditures that may be financed out of the proceeds of the Loan (“Category”), the allocation of the amounts of the Loan to each Category, and the percentage of expenditures to be financed for Eligible Expenditures in each Category.

| **Category** | **Amount of the Loan****Allocated****(expressed in USD)** | **Percentage of Expenditures to be financed****(exclusive of Taxes)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| (1) Goods, consultant and technical services, and training for the Project | 109,725,000 | 100% |
| (2) Front-end Fee |  275,000 | Amount payable pursuant to Section 2.03 of this Agreement in accordance with Section 2.07 (b) of the General Conditions |
| TOTAL AMOUNT | 110,000,000 |  |

**B. Withdrawal Conditions; Withdrawal Period**

1.Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A of this Section, no withdrawal shall be made for payments made prior to the date of this Agreement, except that withdrawals up to an aggregate amount not to exceed the equivalent of $15,000,000, may be made for payments made prior to this date but on or after March 1, 2011, for Eligible Expenditures.

2.The Closing Date is December 31, 2015.

**Annex to Schedule 2**

**National Competitive Bidding**

Contracts for goods and technical services (other than consulting services) procured under the National Competitive Bidding procedures shall comply with the following provisions:

1.(a) Bidding shall not be restricted to pre-registered firms.

(b) Where registration is required, bidders: (i) shall be allowed a reasonable time to complete the registration process; and (ii) shall not be denied registration for reasons unrelated to their capability and resources to successfully perform the contract, which shall be verified through post-qualification.

(c) Foreign bidders shall not be precluded from bidding. If a registration process is required, a foreign bidder declared the lowest evaluated bidder shall be given a reasonable opportunity to register.

2. Invitations to bid shall be advertised in at least one widely circulated national daily newspaper allowing a minimum of thirty (30) days for the preparation and submission of bids.

3. When pre-qualification shall be required for large or complex works, invitations to pre-qualify for bidding shall be advertised in at least one widely circulated national daily newspaper a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for the submission of pre-qualification applications. Minimum experience, technical and financial requirements shall be explicitly stated in the pre-qualification documents.

4. Government-owned enterprises in the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be eligible to participate in bidding only if they can establish that they are legally and financially autonomous, operate under commercial law and are not a dependent agency of the contracting authority. Furthermore, they will be subject to the same bid performance security requirements as other bidders.

5. Purchasers shall use the appropriate standard bidding documents for the procurement of goods, works or services, acceptable to the Bank.

6. (a) Bids shall be opened in public, immediately after the deadline for submission of bids.

(b) Evaluation of bids shall be made in strict adherence to the monetarily quantifiable criteria declared in the bidding documents.

(c) Contracts shall be awarded to the qualified bidder having submitted the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bid and no negotiation shall take place.

(d) Price verification should not be applied to Bank-financed contracts.

7. Civil works contracts of long duration (e.g. more than eighteen (18) months) shall contain an appropriate price adjustment clause.

8. (a) All bids shall not be rejected and new bids solicited without the Bank’s prior concurrence.

(b) When the number of bids received is less than three (3), re-bidding shall not be carried out without the Bank’s prior concurrence.

**SCHEDULE 3**

**Amortization Schedule**

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 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 the Bank by multiplying: (a) Withdrawn Loan Balance as of the first Principal Payment Date; by (b) the Installment Share for each Principal Payment Date, such repayable amount to be adjusted, as necessary, to deduct any amounts referred to in paragraph 4 of this Schedule, to which a Currency Conversion applies.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Principal Payment Date** | **Installment Share****(Expressed as a Percentage)** |
| On each January 15 and July 15 Beginning July 15, 2016  through January 15, 2036 | 2.5% |

2. If the proceeds of the Loan have not 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 have been withdrawn as of the first Principal Payment Date, the Borrower shall repay the Withdrawn Loan Balance as of such date in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Schedule.

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

3. (a) Amounts of the Loan withdrawn 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.

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, if at any time the Bank adopts a due date billing system under which invoices are issued on or after the respective Principal Payment Date, the provisions of such sub-paragraph shall no longer apply to any withdrawals made after the adoption of such billing system.

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

5. If the Withdrawn Loan Balance is 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.

**APPENDIX**

**Section I. Definitions**

1. “Anti-Corruption Guidelines” means 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.
2. “Category” means a category set forth in the table in Section IV of Schedule 4 to this Agreement.
3. “Consultant Guidelines” means the “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers” published by the Bank in May 2004 and revised in October 2006 and May 2010.
4. “EMP” means the Environmental Management Plan incorporated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Supplement (disclosed in Uzbekistan on November 5, 2010 and at the Bank’s Infoshop on November 11, 2010) prepared as supplement to the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Project, which Environmental Management Plan incorporates the recommendations in the Avian Risk Assessment for the Project, and which may be updated as necessary during Project implementation with the Bank’s prior written approval.
5. “General Conditions” means the “International Bank for Reconstruction and Development General Conditions for Loans”, dated July 31, 2010.
6. “PMU” means the Project Management Unit referred to in Section 5.01 (b) of this Agreement, established within the Project Implementing Entity to carry out the implementation and day to day management of the Project, and which shall include, *inter alia:* (i) a project coordinator; (ii) a financial management specialist; and (iii) a procurement specialist.
7. “POM” means the Project Operations Manual to be adopted by the Borrower and the Project Implementing Entity pursuant to Section 5.01(c) of this Agreement, setting forth the operational and administrative responsibilities, procedures and rules for the implementation of the Project, data collection and reporting, and which includes a manual of financial management procedures that sets out procedures for Project accounting, reporting and audit, disbursements, flow of funds and management of the designated account as the same may be amended from time to time with the agreement of the Bank.
8. “Procurement Guidelines” means the “Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits” published by the Bank in May 2004 and revised in October 2006 and May 2010.
9. “Procurement Plan” means the Borrower’s procurement plan for the Project, dated January 27, 2011, and referred to in paragraph 1.16 of the Procurement Guidelines and paragraph 1.24 of the Consultant Guidelines, as the same shall be updated from time to time in accordance with the provisions of said paragraphs.
10. “Project Implementing Entity” means UZBEKENERGO, a legal entity responsible for implementing the Project established pursuant to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. УП-2812 dated February 22, 2001, and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 93 dated February 24, 2001, and existing under the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and includes its successors and permitted assignees.
11. “Project Implementing Entity’s Legislation” means the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. УП-2812 dated February 22, 2001 and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 93 dated February 24, 2001, and associated documentation establishing, governing, or otherwise regulating the Project Implementing Entity.
12. “RAP” means the Resettlement Action Plan dated November 28, 2010 and referred to in Section I.D of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, as said plan may be amended from time to time with the concurrence of the Bank.
13. “Subsidiary Agreement” means the agreement referred to in Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement pursuant to which the Borrower shall make the proceeds of the Loan available to the Project Implementing Entity.
14. “Subsidiary Loan” means the principal amount of the Loan made available by the Borrower to the Project Implementing Entity under the Subsidiary Agreement.