
LOAN NUMBER 4378-GEO

LOAN AGREEMENT
(Ordinary Operations)

(Climate Smart Irrigation Sector Development Program – Subprogram 1)

between

GEORGIA

and

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

DATED 17 NOVEMBER 2023

GEO 54014

**LOAN AGREEMENT
(Ordinary Operations)**

LOAN AGREEMENT dated 17 November 2023 between GEORGIA ("Borrower") and ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ("ADB").

WHEREAS

(A) ADB has received from the Borrower a development policy letter dated 27 September 2023 ("Policy Letter"), setting forth certain objectives and policy actions, designed to support development of the Borrower's agricultural sector ("Program"), as described in Schedule 1 to this Loan Agreement;

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

(C) by a loan agreement of even date herewith between the Borrower and ADB ("Project Loan Agreement"), ADB has agreed to provide a loan from its ordinary capital resources in an amount of thirty million seven hundred fifty-five thousand Euros (€30,755,000) ("Project Loan") for the purposes of the Project described in Schedule 1 to the Project Loan Agreement; and

(D) 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 ADB's Ordinary Operations Loan Regulations, dated 1 January 2022 ("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(qq) is deleted and the following is substituted therefor:

"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(ss) is deleted and the following is substituted therefor:

"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 6.01(b) is deleted.

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) "Counterpart Funds" means the local currency generated from the Loan proceeds under the Program and referred to in paragraph 4 of Schedule 4 to this Loan Agreement;
- (b) "Deposit Account" means the account referred to in paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to this Loan Agreement;
- (c) "Loan Disbursement Handbook" means ADB's Loan Disbursement Handbook (2022, as amended from time to time);
- (d) "MEPA" means the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of the Borrower or any successor thereto;
- (e) "MOF" means the Ministry of Finance of the Borrower or any successor thereto;
- (f) "Policy Actions" means the policy actions, as agreed between the Borrower and ADB, accomplished or to be accomplished by the Borrower under the Program as set out in the Policy Matrix;
- (g) "Policy Matrix" means the policy matrix, which sets forth the Policy Actions as agreed between the Borrower and ADB;
- (h) "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 Program; and
- (i) "Program Implementing Agency" for the purposes of, and within the meaning of, the Loan Regulations means MEPA or any successor thereto acceptable to ADB, which is responsible for the implementation of the 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 thirteen million nine hundred seventy-nine thousand Euros (€13,979,000), 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 12 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) Euribor;
- (b) 0.60% as determined by Section 3.02 of the Loan Regulations less a credit of 0.10% as provided by Section 3.03 of the Loan Regulations; and
- (c) a maturity premium of 0.10% as provided by Section 3.03 of the Loan Regulations.

Section 2.03. The Borrower shall pay a commitment charge of 0.15% 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 April and 15 October 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(e) 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 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 30 June 2024 or such other date as may from time to time be agreed between the Borrower and ADB.

ARTICLE IV

Particular Covenants

Section 4.01. In the carrying out of the Program, the Borrower shall perform, or cause to be performed, all obligations set forth in Schedule 4 to this Loan Agreement.

Section 4.02. As part of the information and reports referred to in Sections 7.01 and 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 Program, including the accomplishment of the targets and carrying out of the Policy Actions.

ARTICLE V

Effectiveness

Section 5.01. The following is specified as an additional condition to the effectiveness of this Loan Agreement for the purposes of Section 10.01(f) of the Loan Regulations: the Project Loan Agreement shall have been duly executed and delivered on behalf of the Borrower, and all conditions precedent to its effectiveness (other than a condition requiring the effectiveness of this Loan Agreement) shall have been fulfilled.

Section 5.02. The following is specified as an additional matter, for the purposes of Section 10.02(d) of the Loan Regulations, to be included in the opinion or opinions to be furnished to ADB: the Project Loan Agreement has been duly authorized or ratified by, and executed and delivered on behalf of, the Borrower and is legally binding upon the Borrower in accordance with its terms, subject only to the effectiveness of this Loan Agreement.

Section 5.03. A date 90 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
16V. Gorgasali Street, 0114
Tbilisi, Georgia

Electronic Mail:

publicdebt@mof.ge

For ADB

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

Facsimile Numbers:

(632) 8636-2444.

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.

GEORGIA

By


LASHA KHUTSISHVILI
Minister of Finance

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

By


LESLEY LAHM
Country Director
Georgia Resident Mission

SCHEDULE 1**Description of the Program**

1. The principal objective of the Programmatic Approach is to strengthen sustainable, productive and resilient agriculture systems in eastern Georgia. The Programmatic Approach comprises 2 subprograms and the Program is the first subprogram.
2. The scope of the Program includes: (a) improving the Borrower's legal and institutional framework to achieve irrigation policy outcomes and ensure sustainable management of water resources with consideration for climate change impacts; (b) introducing pricing and contracting changes to achieve improved efficiency of water use and financial sustainability of the irrigation system in the face of the current and expected impact of climate change on water resources; and (c) enhancing governance and management controls to increase the accountability, transparency and efficiency of Georgian Amelioration, and the sustainability of the irrigation system in the face of climate change. The Program is described in more detail in the Policy Letter and the Policy Matrix.
3. The Program is deemed completed by 6 October 2023.

SCHEDULE 2**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 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.

Date Payment Due	Installment Share (Expressed as a %)
15 April 2027	4.166667
15 October 2027	4.166667
15 April 2028	4.166667
15 October 2028	4.166667
15 April 2029	4.166667
15 October 2029	4.166667
15 April 2030	4.166667
15 October 2030	4.166667
15 April 2031	4.166667
15 October 2031	4.166667
15 April 2032	4.166667
15 October 2032	4.166667
15 April 2033	4.166667
15 October 2033	4.166667
15 April 2034	4.166667
15 October 2034	4.166667
15 April 2035	4.166667
15 October 2035	4.166667
15 April 2036	4.166667
15 October 2036	4.166667
15 April 2037	4.166667
15 October 2037	4.166667
15 April 2038	4.166667
15 October 2038	4.166659
Total	100.000000

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; and

- (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 2 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 an account (Deposit Account) at National Bank of Georgia (NBG) into which all withdrawals from the Loan Account shall be deposited. The Deposit Account shall be established, managed and liquidated in accordance with the applicable regulations and procedures of the Borrower.

(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.
5. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Loan Agreement and except as ADB may otherwise agree, no withdrawal shall be made from the Loan Account unless: (a) the Borrower has met the Policy Actions for the release of the Loan proceeds; and (b) those Policy Actions continue to be in effect.

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 (table) or any successor groups or sub-groups under future revisions to the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification, 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 Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3.

- (ii) expenditures for goods supplied under a contract that any national or international financial institution or agency has financed or has agreed to finance, including any contract financed under any loan or grant from the ADB;
- (iii) expenditures for goods intended for a military or paramilitary purpose or for luxury consumption;
- (iv) expenditures for narcotics;
- (v) 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
- (vi) 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 Arrangements

1. The Program Executing Agency shall be responsible for the overall Program implementation. The Program Implementing Agency shall be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Program.

Policy Actions and Dialogue

2. The Borrower shall ensure that all of the Policy Actions adopted under the Program continue to be in effect for the duration of the Programmatic Approach.
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, the Program Executing Agency, and the Program Implementing Agency 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 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 ensure that the Program Implementing Agency (a) undertakes periodic reviews to evaluate the achievements and impacts of the Program; and (b) provides ADB with the opportunity to review and comment on relevant studies, decrees, orders, rules and regulations under the Program Implementing Agency which may likely impact the objectives of the Program. To facilitate ADB's reviews of Program and overall Programmatic Approach, the Borrower, through the Program Implementing Agency, shall, in a timely manner, provide relevant information on the agriculture sector in such detail as ADB may reasonably request.