**LOAN AGREEMENT**

**STRENGTHEN IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN DIFFERENT AREAS PROJECT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE SAUDI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT AND**

**THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**LOAN NO. : 01 \ 840 SIGNED ON:13\04\1446 A.H.**

**CORRESPONDING TO:16\10\2024 A.D.**

**LOAN AGREEMENT**

AGREEMENT dated 13\04\1446 A.H. corresponding to 16\10\2024 A.D. between

1. THE SAUDI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (hereinafter called the **“Fund”**);

and

1. THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA (hereinafter called the **“Borrower”**).

# PREAMBLE

1. WHEREAS the Borrower has requested the Fund to grant it a Loan to assist in the financing of Strengthen Irrigation Infrastructure In Different Areas Project described in Schedule No. (2) to this Agreement (hereinafter called the Project) ;
2. WHEREAS the Borrower has allocated an amount of million (1,000,000) Euro for financing part of the Project;
3. WHEREAS the purpose of the Fund is to assist developing countries in developing their economies and to provide them with loans required for the implementation of their development projects and programs;
4. WHEREAS the Fund is convinced of the importance of the Project and its beneficial effects for the economic development of the friendly people of The Republic of Serbia.
5. WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Fund has agreed, in view of the foregoing, by its Resolution No. 1/1445/1 to grant the Borrower a Loan on the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

**\* \* \* \* \* \***

**NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:**

# ARTICLE I

## General Conditions - Definitions

**Section 1.01.** The parties to this Agreement accept all the provisions of the General Conditions Applicable to Loan Agreements of the Fund, issued by Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Fund No.11/14 dated 1396/7/29AH corresponding to 1976/07/26AD with the same force and effect as if they were fully set forth herein (said General Conditions Applicable to Loan Agreements of the Fund being hereinafter called the General Conditions).

General Conditions apply to and form part of this agreement.

**Section 1.02.** Wherever used in this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires, the several terms defined in the General Conditions and in the Preamble to this Agreement have the respective meanings therein set forth, and the term **"The Executing Agency"** means Water Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, will implies as well other appropriate entity/or governmental body designated by the Borrower.

# ARTICLE II

## The Loan

**Section 2.01.** The Fund agrees to lend to the Borrower, on the terms and conditions in the Loan Agreement set forth or referred to, a Loan in an amount of two hundred eighty-one million two hundred and fifty thousand (281,250,000) Saudi Riyals.

**Section 2.02.** The amount of the Loan may be withdrawn by the Borrower from the Loan Account in accordance with the provisions of Schedule No.(1) to this Agreement, as such Schedule may be amended from time to time by agreement between the Fund and the Borrower, and in accordance with the Procedures for the Withdrawals of the Saudi Fund for Development Loans, for expenditures made (or, if the Fund shall so agree, to be made) in respect of the cost of goods and services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Loan.

**Section 2.03.** The Borrower shall apply the proceeds of the Loan exclusively to finance the reasonable cost of the goods and services required for the carrying out of the Project. Procurement of such goods and services shall be in accordance with Borrower’s regulation (the Public Procurement Law (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, no. 91/2019 and 92/2023) respecting the recommendations of The Guidelines for The Procurement of Goods and Contracting for the Execution of Works and the Use of Consultants of the Development Institutions Members of the Coordination Group to the extended that they do not conflict with Borrower’s regulation. The Borrower shall obtain the Fund’s approval before awarding the contracts to be financed out of the proceeds of the Loan and before effecting any material modification thereto in the future.

**Section 2.04.** The Closing Date shall be 31/12/2031 or such later date as shall be determined by the Fund. The Fund shall forthwith notify the Borrower of such later date.

**Section 2.05.** The Borrower shall pay a Loan Charge at the rate of two and half percent (2,5%) per annum on the principal amount of the Loan withdrawn and outstanding from time to time.

**Section 2.06.** Loan Charge, and other charges if any, shall be payable semi-annually on 1st February and 1st August in each year.

**Section 2.07.** The term of the Loan is twenty (20) years including a five-years (5) grace period. The Borrower shall repay the principal amount of the Loan in accordance with the Amortization Schedule set forth in Schedule No. (3) to this Agreement.

# ARTICLE III

## Execution of the Project

**Section 3.01. (a)** The Borrower shall carry out the Project through **The Executing Agency** with due diligence and efficiency, and in conformity with appropriate engineering, financial and administrative practices and shall provide or cause to be provided, promptly as needed, the funds, facilities and other resources required for the purpose.

* 1. Without limiting the generality of Paragraph (a) of this section, the Borrower shall (1) provide, promptly and as and when needed, in addition to the proceeds of this Loan, all other funds which shall be required for carrying out the Project (including any funds that may be required to meet any increase in the cost of the project beyond the estimated cost thereof at the time of signing this Agreement), all such sums shall be made available on terms and conditions acceptable to the Fund; (2) undertake to make adequate annual budgetary allocations to meet its share of the Project costs.

**Section 3.02.** The Borrower shall cause **The Executing Agency** to furnish to the Fund promptly upon their preparation, the plans specifications, reports, contract documents and construction and procurement schedules for the Project, and any modifications thereof or additions thereto in such details as the Fund shall reasonably request.

**Section 3.03.** The Borrower shall cause **The Executing Agency** to engage qualified and experienced consultants acceptable to the Fund in order to assist in project tendering and supervision of the execution of the Project.

**Section 3.04.** the Borrower shall cause **The Executing Agency** to engage experienced suppliers and contractors acceptable to the Fund upon terms and conditions satisfactory to the Fund.

**Section 3.05.** The Borrower shall cause **The Executing Agency** to insure or make adequate provision for the insurance of the imported goods to be financed out of the proceeds of the Loan against hazards incident to the acquisition, transportation and delivery thereof to the place of use or installation, and for such insurance, any indemnity shall be payable in a currency freely usable by the Borrower to replace or repair such goods.

**Section 3.06.** The Borrower shall cause **The Executing Agency** to utilize all goods and services financed out of the proceeds of the Loan exclusively in carrying out of the Project.

**Section 3.07.** The Borrower shall cause “**The Executing Agency”**:

* + 1. to maintain records adequate to show the progress of the Project (including the cost thereof), to identify the goods and services financed out of the proceeds of the Loan and to disclose the use thereof in the Project and to reflect all the operations, resources and expenditures in respect of the Project;
    2. to afford all reasonable opportunity for the accredited representatives of the Fund to make visits for purposes related to the Loan, to examine the Project, the goods and services financed out of the proceeds of the Loan and any relevant records and documents;
    3. to furnish to the Fund all such information as the Fund shall reasonably request concerning the Project, the expenditure of the proceeds of the Loan, and the goods and services financed out of such proceeds.

**Section 3.08.** The Borrower shall take all such actions as shall be necessary to acquire all such land and rights in respect of land as shall be required for the carrying out of the Project.

**Section 3.09.** The Borrower shall cause **The Executing Agency** to appoint a **Project Implementing Unit (PIU)** in order to coordinate, manage, monitor and evaluate all aspects of Project implementation, including the procurement of goods, works and services required for the Project, establish and at all times during execution of the Project, operate a project implementation unit with adequate resources and suitably qualified personnel.

# ARTICLE IV

## Particulaire Covenants

**Section 4.01. (a)** The Borrower and the Fund confirm their agreement that no other external debt shall enjoy any priority over the Loan by way of a lien created on governmental assets. To that end, the Borrower undertakes that, except as the Fund shall otherwise agree, if any lien shall be created on any assets of the Borrower as security for any external debt, such lien will ipso facto and at no cost to the Fund equally and ratably secure the payment of the principal of the Loan, the Loan Charge and other charges on the Loan, and that in the creation of any such lien express provision will be made to that effect.

1. The undertaking provided for in Paragraph (a) of this Section shall not apply to :
   1. any lien created on property, at the time of purchase thereof, solely as security for the payment of the purchase price of such property.
   2. any lien on commercial goods to secure a debt maturing not more than one year after the date on which it is originally incurred and to be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of such commercial goods; or
   3. any lien arising in the ordinary course of banking transactions and securing a debt maturing not more than one year after its date.

**Section 4.02.** The Borrower shall cause **The Executing Agency** to maintain the project in accordance with proper engineering standards and shall provide the necessary funds thereof in its annual budget. The Borrower shall cause **The Executing Agency** to furnish to the Fund, as and when required, a program for the said maintenance.

**Section 4.03.** The Borrower shall maintain or cause to be maintained adequate records to reflect, in accordance with sound accounting practices, the operations, resources and expenditures in respect of the Project of **The Executing Agency** and other departments and agencies of the Borrower responsible for carrying out the Project or any part thereof.

**Section 4.04.** The Borrower undertakes to cause **The Executing Agency** to make a Commemorative Plaque of suitable dimensions from cement or any suitable metal to be fixed in a conspicuous place in one of the facilities included in the Project, to show the contribution of the Fund in the financing of the Project.

**Section 4-05.** The Borrower and Fund shall Consider all documents, records, and correspondence of the Fund confidential and providing the Fund with complete immunity in the borrowing country regarding the control and inspection of publications, except for the ratification requirements for this Loan Agreement that has to be approved by the National Assembly and published.

**Section 4-06.** The Borrower shall Exempt all the assets of the Fund in the borrowing country from confiscation, nationalization, custody of all kinds, seizure, and appropriation.

**Section 4-07.** The Borrower shall Exempt all Fund transactions in the borrowing country from all taxes, fees, and other official costs of any kind, related to this loan.

**Section 4.08.** Promptly after completion of the Project, but in any event not later than six months after the Closing Date, or such later date as the Fund may agree for this purpose, the Borrower shall prepare and furnish to the Fund a complete Project report, in such form and in such detail as the Fund shall reasonably request, on the execution and initial operation of the Project, its costs and the benefits derived and to be derived there from, the performance by the Borrower of its obligations under the Loan Agreement and the achievement of the objectives of the Loan.

# ARTICLE V

## Remedies of the Fund

**Section 5.01.** For the purposes of Section 6.02 of the General Conditions, the following additional events if applicable are specified pursuant to Paragraph (f) thereof :

1. Subject to Sub-Section (b) of this Section :
   1. the right of the Borrower to withdraw the proceeds of any loan made to the Borrower for the financing of the Project shall have been suspended, cancelled or terminated in whole or in part, pursuant to the terms of the agreement providing thereof, or
   2. any such loan shall have become due and payable prior to the agreed maturity thereof.
2. Sub-Section (a) of this Section shall not apply if the Borrower establishes to the satisfaction of the Fund that (1) such suspension, cancellation, termination or premature is not caused by the failure of the Borrower to perform any of its obligation under the specific agreement, and (2) adequate funds for the Project are available to the Borrower from other sources on the terms and conditions consistent with the obligations of the Borrower under this Agreement.

**Section 5.02.** For the purposes of Section 7.01 of the General Conditions, the following event is specified pursuant to paragraph (d) thereof, namely any event specified in paragraph (a) (ii) of Section 5.01 of this Agreement shall occur.

# ARTICLE VI

## Effectiveness Date - Termination

**Section 6.01.** The period of six months from the date of the signing of this Loan Agreement is hereby specified for the purposes of Section 12.04 of the General Conditions.

**Section 6.02.** Original copy of the Legal Opinion Documents will be issued by Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia accepted in English or Translated to English or Arabic Language only.

# ARTICLE VII

## Representative of the Borrower, Addresses

**Section 7.01.** The Minister of Finance is designated as representative of the Borrower for the purposes of Section 11.03 of the General Conditions.

**Section 7.02.** The following addresses are specified for the purpose of Section 11.01 of the General Conditions:

# FOR THE FUND:

The Saudi Fund for Development P.O.Box 50483

Riyadh 11523

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Tel : +966-11-2794000

Fax : +966-11-4647450

Email : [info@sfd.gov.sa](mailto:info@sfd.gov.sa)

# FOR THE BORROWER:

Ministry of Finance Republic of Serbia Tel: +381 11 7652012

Email: [kabinet@mfin.gov.rs](mailto:kabinet@mfin.gov.rs)

# FOR THE EXECUTING AGENCY:

Water Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Tel: +381 11 2013360

Email: [rdvode@minpolj.gov.rs](mailto:rdvode@minpolj.gov.rs) [maja.grbic@minpolj.gov.rs](mailto:maja.grbic@minpolj.gov.rs)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, acting through their representatives thereunto duly authorized, have caused this Agreement to be signed in their respective names, as of the day and year first above written, in two counterparts in Arabic and English language, each of which shall be an original, and a copy of the General Conditions in the English language has been given to the Borrower.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FOR**  **The Saudi Fund for Development** | **FOR**  **The Republic of Serbia** |
| **BY Sultan A. Almarshad**  **Chief Executive Officer** | **BY**  **Siniša Mali,**  **First Deputy Prime Minister and**  **Minister of Finance** |

# SCHEDULE NO.(1)

## Withdrawal of the Proceeds of the Loan

1. The table below sets forth the categories of items to be financed out of the proceeds of the Loan, the allocation of the amount of the Loan to each category and the percentage of expenditures for items so to be financed in each category:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | | **Amount of the loan Allocated**  **(in Saudi Riyals)** | **Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed** |
| 1. | Civil Works (Component “A” of the project) | 239,062,500 | 100% of total expenditure - (excluded VAT and other taxes) |
| 2. | Consulting Services (Component “B” of the project) | 14,062,500 | 100% of total expenditure - (excluded VAT and other taxes) |
| 3. | Contingency | 28,125,000 |  |
| **Total :** | | **281,250,000** |

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (A) above no withdrawal shall be made in respect of payments made for:
   1. Expenditures prior to the date of this Agreement.
   2. Taxes levied by, or in the territory of, the Borrower on goods or services, or on the importation, manufacture, procurement or supply thereof. Such taxes shall be for the account of, and shall be paid by, the Borrower and, all tax exemptions if any, in connection with the execution of the Project, shall be made according to the prevailing tax laws of the Borrower.
2. Notwithstanding the allocation of an amount of the Loan or the disbursement percentages set forth in the table in Paragraph (A) above, if the Fund has reasonably estimated that the amount of the Loan then allocated to the Category will be insufficient to finance the agreed percentage of all expenditures in that Category, the Fund may, by notice to the Borrower:
3. reallocate to such category, to the extent required to meet the estimated shortfall, proceeds of the Loan which are then unallocated or allocated to another category and which in the opinion of the Fund are not needed to meet other expenditures and;
4. if such reallocation cannot fully meet the estimated shortfall, reduce the disbursement percentage then applicable to such expenditures in order that further withdrawals under the category may continue until all expenditures there under shall have been made.

# SCHEDULE NO.(2)

## Description of the Project

The project aims to enhance water management and agricultural production in the designated areas by improving water distribution, preventing waterlogging, and ensuring adequate irrigation during drought periods. The project will have a direct impact on improving water use by creating a smart agricultural system for farmers that enables farmers to directly access water sources. The project will contribute to supporting the economy in the country by increasing agricultural production.

## The project consists of the following parts:

**Component “A”: civil works the project work is distributed in the following areas:**

1. **The subsystem in the Novi Slankamen region – (Phase II):** Constructing a water pumping station with a capacity of 30 liters/second. It is located next to the water tank implemented in the (Phase I). Two vertical multistage centrifugal pumps with an individual capacity of 15 liters/second will also be installed. The total length of the distribution network is about 44 km.
2. **The subsystem in the Stari Slankamen region:** Construction of a water withdrawal station with a capacity of 1,030 liters/second, which will consist of 5 pumps located on the Danube River. The total length of the distribution network is about 45 km.

## Water improvement system in the Surcinska Donje polje area:

The project area covers about 5,200 hectares. The project consists of rehabilitating, modernizing, and maintaining the existing water canal network with a length of approximately 143 km. Also, the rehabilitation and modernization of facilities located along the path of the canal network, which are used for irrigation and sanitation. In addition to constructing a new pumping station.

1. **Irrigation system distribution network in the Jasenicke Kapi region - Phase II**: The area allocated for irrigation is about 320 hectares. The project consists of constructing a distribution network that includes pipelines, additional facilities and equipment. The system consists of supplying and installing main pipes to distribute water from the reservoir to all parts of the area covered by the project.

**Component “B”: Consultation services:** includes preparing and reviewing designs, preparing the tender, and supervising project implementation.

**Component “C”: Project Implementation Unit:** It includes following up and managing project implementation.

**\* \* \* \* \* \***

**The total cost of the project is (76) Million US dollars, which is equal to (285) Million Saudi Riyals, and it is expected to be completed by the end of 2030.**

# SCHEDULE NO.(3)

**Amortization Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Installment No.** | **Due date** | **Amount** |
| 1 | 01/02/2030 | 9,375,000 |
| 2 | 01/08/2030 | 9,375,000 |
| 3 | 01/02/2031 | 9,375,000 |
| 4 | 01/08/2031 | 9,375,000 |
| 5 | 01/02/2032 | 9,375,000 |
| 6 | 01/08/2032 | 9,375,000 |
| 7 | 01/02/2033 | 9,375,000 |
| 8 | 01/08/2033 | 9,375,000 |
| 9 | 01/02/2034 | 9,375,000 |
| 10 | 01/08/2034 | 9,375,000 |
| 11 | 01/02/2035 | 9,375,000 |
| 12 | 01/08/2035 | 9,375,000 |
| 13 | 01/02/2036 | 9,375,000 |
| 14 | 01/08/2036 | 9,375,000 |
| 15 | 01/02/2037 | 9,375,000 |
| 16 | 01/08/2037 | 9,375,000 |
| 17 | 01/02/2038 | 9,375,000 |
| 18 | 01/08/2038 | 9,375,000 |
| 19 | 01/02/2039 | 9,375,000 |
| 20 | 01/08/2039 | 9,375,000 |
| 21 | 01/02/2040 | 9,375,000 |
| 22 | 01/08/2040 | 9,375,000 |
| 23 | 01/02/2041 | 9,375,000 |
| 24 | 01/08/2041 | 9,375,000 |
| 25 | 01/02/2042 | 9,375,000 |
| 26 | 01/08/2042 | 9,375,000 |
| 27 | 01/02/2043 | 9,375,000 |
| 28 | 01/08/2043 | 9,375,000 |
| 29 | 01/02/2044 | 9,375,000 |
| 30 | 01/08/2044 | 9,375,000 |
| **Total** | **281,250,000** | |