Mr. Abdosalom Kurbonov  
Minister of Finance  
Ministry of Finance  
2, Akademikov Rajaboviykh Ave.  
Dushanbe, 734025  
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

Re: Republic of Tajikistan: Implementation of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics Project  
ECASTAT Grant No. TF017852

Dear Mr. Kurbonov,

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan ("Recipient"), I am pleased to inform you that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("World Bank"), acting as administrator of grant funds provided by various donors ("Donors") under the Multi-Donor Programmatic Trust Fund to Support Statistical Capacity Building in Eastern Europe and CIS Countries ("ECASTAT: Program to Support Statistical Capacity building in Eastern Europe and CIS countries, funding Window 6434"), proposes to extend to the Recipient a grant in an amount not to exceed two million five hundred thousand United States Dollars ($2,500,000) ("Grant") on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this letter agreement ("Agreement"), which includes the attached Annex, to assist in the financing of the project described in the Annex ("Project").

The Recipient represents, by confirming its agreement below, that it is authorized to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this Agreement.
Please confirm the Recipient's agreement to the foregoing by having an authorized official of the Recipient sign and date the enclosed copy of this Agreement, and returning it to the World Bank. Upon receipt by the World Bank of this countersigned copy, this Agreement shall become effective as of the date specified by the World Bank in accordance with Section IV of the Annex to this Agreement; provided, however, that the offer of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received the countersigned copy of this Agreement within 90 days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the World Bank shall have established a later date for such purpose.

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

By

Agata E. Pawlowska
Acting Regional Director
Central Asia

AGREED:
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

By

Name: Abdusalam Qurbanov
Title: Minister of Finance
Date: 23 October, 2014

Enclosures:

(2) Disbursement Letter of the same date as this Agreement, together with World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects, dated May 1, 2006;
(3) "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;
Article I
Standard Conditions; Definitions


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

   (a) “HBS” means Household Budget Survey;

   (b) “NDS” means the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan;

   (c) “NSS” means the National Statistical System of Tajikistan;

   (d) “SA” means the Statistical Agency under the President of Tajikistan;

   (e) “PIT” means the Project implementation team.

Article II
Project Execution

2.01. *Project Objectives and Description.* The objective of the Project is to further improve the capacity of statistical system of Tajikistan to produce and disseminate relevant, reliable and timely statistics in a cost-effective manner that are in line with international standards and will be responsive to user needs. The Project will build on the achievements of the previous Strengthening the National Statistical System Project (TAJSTAT) to sustain the progress. The Project consists of the following parts:

**Part A: Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of the SA and the NSS**

Provision of consultants’ services and training activities, including seminars and workshops, to support a range of activities, including: (a) strengthening relationships with relevant policy-making bodies; (b) full implementation of supervision, coordination and organizational arrangements according to the Law on Statistics; (c) improving resource allocation among various programs and departments; (d) further improvement of Human Resources (HR) and HR management to support the objectives of the SA; and (e) improving arrangements and regulations guiding public dissemination of microdata.

**Part B: Improving the Production of Statistical Data**

Provision of consultants’ services and training to support the following activities: (a) improving methodological skills of staff on classifications, standards, sampling and seasonal adjustment; (b)
improving data quality; (c) filling capacity gaps in, for example, awareness of gender-sensitive indicators; (d) improving production of reliable and relevant economic and social statistics that are not covered by Statistics Norway in areas of system of national accounts, price statistics, poverty statistics, business statistics, social and demography statistics, including gender desegregated statistical indicators; and (e) improving data collection mechanism for the integrated HBS.

**Part C: Improving User-Producer Dialogue**

Provision of consultants’ services and trainings to support (a) raising awareness of statistics and existing publications (using user accessible formats) as well as improving the image of the SA; (b) improving interaction between users (including civil society groups) and producers; (c) improving access to statistics with metadata and quality reports disseminated in line with internationally accepted standards; (d) improving microdata terms of use; (e) developing public accessible anonymized microdata records; (f) introducing tools for data query and publication on the internet; (g) supporting dissemination of national development plan indicators, and (h) supporting the revision and improvement of Law on Statistics, in particular provisions regarding the public access to microdata.

**Part D: Strengthening Physical Infrastructure, IT and Automation of Data Processing**

Provisions of goods and services to support (a) upgrading existing hardware and software to address the needs of the SA; (b) improving data processing solutions; and (c) improving existing Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and connectivity.

**Part E: Project Management**

Provision of operating expenses for project implementation and provision of consultant’s services by key members of the project implementation team (PIT), including procurement and financial management specialists.

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

**2.03. Institutional and Other Arrangements.** The existing Interagency Statistics Council, a consultative body approved by President Decree No. 883 on June 16, 2010, responsible for the coordination of state statistical bodies and statistical surveys based on scientifically sound statistical methodology, will oversee and provide strategic guidance for the implementation of the Project. It will be chaired by the head of the SA and include members from SA (Central and regional), key MDAs and development partners.

**2.04. Project Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation.** (a) The Recipient shall monitor and evaluate the progress of the Project and, upon the World Bank’s request, prepare Project Reports, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.06 of the Standard Conditions and on the basis of indicators acceptable to the World Bank. Each Project Report shall cover such period as shall be
indicated in the World Bank’s request and shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than one month after the date of such request.

(b) The Recipient shall, upon the World Bank’s request, prepare the Completion Report in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.06 of the Standard Conditions. The Completion Report shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than five (5) months after the Closing Date.

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

(b) The Recipient shall ensure that quarterly interim unaudited financial reports for the Project are prepared and furnished to the World Bank within forty-five (45) days of the end of each calendar quarter, in form and substance satisfactory to the World Bank.

(c) The Recipient shall have its Financial Statements audited in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.07 (b) of the Standard Conditions. Each audit of the Financial Statements shall cover the period of one fiscal year of the Recipient. The audited Financial Statements for each such period shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six (6) months after the end of such period.

2.06. Procurement

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

(i) Section I of the “Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 (“Procurement Guidelines”), in the case of goods and non-consulting services;

(ii) Sections I and IV of the “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 (“Consultant Guidelines”) in the case of consultants’ services; and

(iii) the provisions of this Section, as the same shall be elaborated in the procurement plan prepared and updated from time to time by the Recipient for the Project in accordance with paragraph 1.18 of the Procurement Guidelines and paragraph 1.25 of the Consultant Guidelines (“Procurement Plan”).

(b) Definitions. The capitalized terms used in the following paragraphs of this Section to describe particular procurement methods or methods of review by the World Bank of particular contracts, refer to the corresponding method described in Sections II and III of the Procurement Guidelines, or Sections II, III, IV and V of the Consultant Guidelines, as the case may be.
(c) **Particular Methods of Procurement of Goods and Non-consulting Services.** (i) Except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraph (ii) below, goods and non-consulting services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of International Competitive Bidding.

(ii) The following methods, other than International Competitive Bidding, may be used for procurement of goods and non-consulting services for those contracts specified in the Procurement Plan: (A) National Competitive Bidding, subject to the additional provisions set forth in Appendix B to this Schedule 2; (B) Shopping; and (c) Direct Contracting.

(d) **Particular Methods of Procurement of Consultants’ Services**

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

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

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

### Article III

**Withdrawal of Grant Proceeds**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount of the Grant Allocated (expressed in USD)</th>
<th>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (exclusive of Taxes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goods, Non-consulting Services, Consultants’ Services, Training and Operating Costs</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL AMOUNT</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the purposes of this Section, the following definitions shall apply:

“Operating Costs” means all expenses necessary to ensure proper implementation of the Project, including local travel, per diem and accommodation costs, communications expenses, bank charges, audit, etc. The quarterly budget for operating costs will be prepared and cleared with the Bank.

“Training” means the reasonable costs, as shall have been approved by the World Bank, for training and workshops conducted under the Project, including, travel and subsistence costs for training and workshop participants, costs associated with securing the services of trainers and workshop speakers, rental of training and workshop facilities, preparation and reproduction of training and workshop materials, and other costs directly related to training course and workshop preparation and implementation (but excluding goods and consultants’ services).

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

3.03. Withdrawal Period. The Closing Date referred to in Section 3.06 (c) of the Standard Conditions is June 30, 2018.

Article IV
Effectiveness

4.01. This Agreement shall not become effective until evidence satisfactory to the World Bank has been furnished to the World Bank that the conditions specified below have been satisfied:

(a) The SA has signed a contract for installation and adoption of the 1C accounting software for project accounting, budgeting and reporting needs;

(b) The recruitment of the Financial Management consultant to support the finance staff of the SA has been completed.

(c) The Operational Manual has been prepared, in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank, and shall not be amended or waived, or permitted to be amended or waived said Operational Manual or any provisions thereof, except with the prior written approval of the World Bank.

Article V
Recipient’s Representative; Addresses

5.01. Recipient’s Representative. The Recipient’s Representative referred to in Section 7.02 of the Standard Conditions is the Minister of Finance.

5.02. Recipient’s Address. The Recipient’s Address referred to in Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions is:
5.03. **World Bank’s Address.** The World Bank’s Address referred to in Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
1818 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
United States of America

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