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GRANT NUMBER 0514-SOL

GRANT NUMBER 0515-SOL(EF)

PROJECT AGREEMENT  
(Solar Power Development Project)

between

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

and

SOLOMON ISLANDS ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

DATED 2 February 2017

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SOL 48346

## PROJECT AGREEMENT

PROJECT AGREEMENT dated 2 February 2017 between ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ("ADB") and SOLOMON ISLANDS ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY ("SP").

### WHEREAS

(A) by an ADB Grant Agreement and an SCF Grant Agreement, dated 19 January 2017, between Solomon Islands ("Beneficiary") and ADB, ADB has agreed to make to the Beneficiary (i) a grant of two million Dollars two hundred forty thousand Dollars (\$2,240,000) on the terms and conditions set forth in the ADB Grant Agreement, and (ii) a grant from the Strategic Climate Fund of six million two hundred thousand Dollars (\$6,200,000) on the terms and conditions set forth in the SCF Grant Agreement, but only on the condition that the proceeds of the grants be made available to SP and that SP agrees to undertake certain obligations towards ADB set forth herein; and

(B) SP, in consideration of ADB entering into the ADB Grant Agreement and the SCF Grant Agreement with the Beneficiary, has agreed to undertake the obligations set forth herein;

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto agree as follows:

## ARTICLE I

### Definitions

Section 1.01. Wherever used in this Project Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires, the several terms defined in the ADB Grant Agreement, in the Grant Regulations (as so defined), in the SCF Grant Agreement and in the Externally Financed Grant Regulations (as so defined) have the respective meanings therein set forth.

## ARTICLE II

### Particular Covenants

Section 2.01. (a) SP shall carry out the Project with due diligence and efficiency, and in conformity with sound applicable technical, financial, business, and development practices.

(b) In the carrying out of the Project and operation of the Project facilities, SP shall perform all obligations set forth in the ADB Grant Agreement and the SCF Grant Agreement to the extent that they are applicable to SP.

Section 2.02. SP shall make available, promptly as needed, and on terms and conditions acceptable to ADB, the funds, facilities, services, land and other resources as required, in addition to the proceeds of the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant, for the carrying out of the Project.

Section 2.03. (a) In the carrying out of the Project, SP shall employ competent and qualified consultants and contractors, acceptable to ADB, to an extent and upon terms and conditions satisfactory to ADB.

(b) Except as ADB may otherwise agree, SP shall procure all items of expenditures to be financed out of the proceeds of the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 3 to the Grant Agreement. ADB may refuse to finance a contract where any such item has not been procured under procedures substantially in accordance with those agreed between the Beneficiary and ADB or where the terms and conditions of the contract are not satisfactory to ADB.

Section 2.04. SP shall carry out the Project in accordance with plans, design standards, specifications, work schedules and construction methods acceptable to ADB. SP shall furnish, or cause to be furnished, to ADB, promptly after their preparation, such plans, design standards, specifications and work schedules, and any material modifications subsequently made therein, in such detail as ADB shall reasonably request.

Section 2.05. (a) SP shall take out and maintain with responsible insurers, or make other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for, insurance of Project facilities to such extent and against such risks and in such amounts as shall be consistent with sound practice.

(b) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, SP undertakes to insure, or cause to be insured, the Goods to be imported for the Project 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 to replace or repair such Goods.

Section 2.06. SP shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, records and accounts adequate to identify the items of expenditure financed out of the proceeds of the ADB Grant or the SCF Grant, to disclose the use thereof in the Project, to record the progress of the Project (including the cost thereof) and to reflect, in accordance with consistently maintained sound accounting principles, its operations and financial condition.

Section 2.07. (a) ADB and SP shall cooperate fully to ensure that the purposes of the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant will be accomplished.

(b) SP shall promptly inform ADB of any condition which interferes with, or threatens to interfere with, the progress of the Project, the performance of its obligations under this Project Agreement or the accomplishment of the purposes of the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant.

(c) ADB and SP shall from time to time, at the request of either party, exchange views through their representatives with regard to any matters relating to the Project, SP and the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant.

Section 2.08. (a) SP shall furnish to ADB all such reports and information as ADB shall reasonably request concerning (i) the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant and the expenditure of the proceeds thereof; (ii) the items of expenditure financed out of such proceeds; (iii) the Project; (iv) the administration, operations and financial condition of SP; and (v) any other matters relating to the purposes of the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant.

(b) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, SP shall furnish to ADB periodic reports on the execution of the Project and on the operation and management of the Project facilities. Such reports shall be submitted in such form and in such detail and within such a period as ADB shall reasonably request, and shall indicate, among other things, progress made and problems encountered during the period under review, steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy these problems, and proposed program of activities and expected progress during the following period.

(c) Promptly after physical completion of the Project, but in any event not later than 3 months thereafter or such later date as ADB may agree for this purpose, SP shall prepare and furnish to ADB a report, in such form and in such detail as ADB shall reasonably request, on the execution and initial operation of the Project, including its cost, the performance by SP of its obligations under this Project Agreement and the accomplishment of the purposes of the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant.

Section 2.09. (a) SP shall (i) maintain separate accounts and records for the Project; (ii) prepare annual financial statements for the Project in accordance with financial reporting standards acceptable to ADB; (iii) have such financial statements audited annually by independent auditors whose qualifications, experience and terms of reference are acceptable to ADB, in accordance with auditing standards acceptable to ADB; (iv) as part of each such audit, have the auditors prepare a report, which includes the auditors' opinion(s) on the financial statements and the use of each of the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant proceeds, and a management letter (which sets out the deficiencies in the internal control of the Project that were identified in the course of the audit, if any); and (v) furnish to ADB, no later than 6 months after the close of the fiscal year to which they relate, copies of such audited financial statements, audit report and management letter, all in the English language, and such other information concerning these documents and the audit thereof as ADB shall from time to time reasonably request.

(b) ADB shall disclose the annual audited financial statements for the Project and the opinion of the auditors on the financial statements within 14 days of the date of ADB's confirmation of their acceptability by posting them on ADB's website.

(c) In addition to annual audited financial statements referred to in subsection (a) hereinabove, SP shall (i) provide its annual financial statements prepared in accordance with financing reporting standards acceptable to ADB; (ii) have its financial statements audited annually by independent auditors whose qualifications, experience and terms of reference are acceptable to ADB, in accordance with auditing standards acceptable to ADB; (iii) as part of each such audit, have the auditors prepare the auditors' opinion(s) on the financial statements and compliance with Section 2.16 of this Project Agreement; and (iv) furnish to ADB, no later than 1 month after approval by the relevant authority, copies of such audited financial statements and auditors' opinion(s), all in the English language, and such other information concerning these documents and the audit thereof as ADB shall from time to time reasonably request.

(d) SP shall enable ADB, upon ADB's request, to discuss the financial statements for the Project and SP and its financial affairs where they relate to the Project with the auditors appointed by SP pursuant to subsections (a)(iii) and (c)(ii) hereinabove, and shall authorize and require any representative of such auditors to participate in any such discussions requested by ADB. This is provided that such discussions shall be conducted only in the presence of an authorized officer of SP, unless SP shall otherwise agree.

Section 2.10. SP shall enable ADB's representatives to inspect the Project, the Goods and Works and any relevant records and documents.

Section 2.11. (a) SP shall, promptly as required, take all action within its powers to maintain its corporate existence, to carry on its operations, and to acquire, maintain and renew all rights, properties, powers, privileges and franchises which are necessary in the carrying out of the Project or in the conduct of its operations.

(b) SP shall at all times conduct its operations in accordance with sound applicable technical, financial, business, development and operational practices, and under the supervision of competent and experienced management and personnel.

(c) SP shall at all times operate and maintain its plants, equipment and other property, and from time to time, promptly as needed, make all necessary repairs and renewals thereof, all in accordance with sound applicable technical, financial, business, development, operational and maintenance practices.

Section 2.12. Except as ADB may otherwise agree, SP shall not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any of its assets which shall be required for the efficient carrying on of its operations or the disposal of which may prejudice its ability to perform satisfactorily any of its obligations under this Project Agreement.

Section 2.13. Except as ADB may otherwise agree, SP shall apply the proceeds of the ADB Grant and the SCF Grant to the financing of expenditures on the Project in accordance with the provisions of the ADB Grant Agreement, the SCF Grant Agreement and this Project Agreement, and shall ensure that all items of expenditures financed out of such proceeds are used exclusively in the carrying out of the Project.

Section 2.14. SP shall promptly notify ADB of any proposal to amend, suspend or repeal any provision of the Electricity Act 1969 or any of its constitutional documents, which, if implemented, could adversely affect the carrying out of the Project or the operation of the Project facilities. SP shall afford ADB an adequate opportunity to comment on such proposal prior to taking any affirmative action thereon.

Section 2.15. Throughout the Project implementation period, SP shall (a) maintain a debt-service ratio of at least 1.2 and (b) not incur any debt, if after the incurrence of such debt the ratio of debt to equity shall be greater than 1.5. For the purposes of this provision, the term "debt" means any indebtedness maturing by its terms more than one year after the date on which it is originally incurred.

Section 2.16. Within 7 months after the Effective Date, SP shall create a dedicated page on its website to disclose information about the Project, including with respect to procurement. With regard to procurement, the website shall include information on the list of participating bidders, name of the winning bidder, basic details on

bidding procedures adopted, amount of contract awarded, and the list of goods/services procured.

Section 2.17. Within 12 months after the Effective Date, SP shall prepare a grievance redress mechanism, acceptable to ADB, and establish a special committee to receive and resolve complaints/grievances or act upon reports from stakeholders on misuse of funds and other irregularities, including grievances due to resettlement. The special committee will (a) make public the existence of the grievance redress mechanism; (b) review and address grievances of stakeholders of the Project, in relation to either the Project, any of the service providers, or any person responsible for carrying out any aspect of the Project; and (c) proactively and constructively respond to them.

Section 2.18. Within 6 months after the Effective Date, SP with the support of consultants shall establish a project performance monitoring system in line with the targets, indicators set in the Project design and monitoring framework. Within 12 months after the Effective Date, the baseline data corresponding to indicators and targets set out in the project status report will be disaggregated by income levels and gender as required. After the initial baseline survey, the SP, with the support of the consultants, shall conduct annual survey and quarterly monitoring of indicators and submit quarterly reports to ADB throughout project implementation.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Effective Date; Termination**

Section 3.01. This Project Agreement shall come into force and effect on the date on which both of the ADB Grant Agreement and the SCF Grant Agreement shall have come into force and effect. ADB shall promptly notify SP of such date.

Section 3.02. (a) This Project Agreement and all obligations of the parties hereunder shall terminate on the earliest to occur of the following three dates:

- (i) the date on which both the ADB Grant Agreement and the SCF Grant Agreement shall have terminated in accordance with their respective terms; or
- (ii) a date 20 years after the date of this Project Agreement.

(b) If both the ADB Grant Agreement and the SCF Grant Agreement shall have terminated in accordance with their respective terms before the date specified in subsection (a)(ii) hereinabove, ADB shall promptly notify SP of this event.

Section 3.03. All the provisions of this Project Agreement shall continue in full force and effect notwithstanding any cancellation or suspension under the ADB Grant Agreement and the SCF Grant Agreement.

**ARTICLE IV****Miscellaneous**

Section 4.01. Any notice or request required or permitted to be given or made under this Project Agreement and any agreement between the parties contemplated by this Project Agreement shall be in writing. Such notice or request shall be deemed to have been duly given or made when it shall be delivered by hand, mail or facsimile to the party to which it is required or permitted to be given or made at its address hereinafter specified, or at such other address as such party shall have designated by notice to the party giving such notice or making such request. The addresses so specified are:

For ADB

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

Facsimile Numbers:

(632) 636-2444  
(632) 636-2446

For SP

Solomon Islands Electricity Authority  
P.O. Box 6  
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Facsimile Number:

(677) 39472.

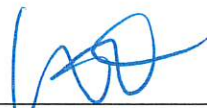
Section 4.02. (a) Any action required or permitted to be taken, and any documents required or permitted to be executed, under this Project Agreement by or on behalf of SP may be taken or executed by its Chief Executive Officer or by such other person or persons as he or she shall so designate in writing notified to ADB.

(b) SP shall furnish to ADB sufficient evidence of the authority of each person who will act under subsection (a) hereinabove, together with the authenticated specimen signature of each such person.

Section 4.03. No delay in exercising, or omission to exercise, any right, power or remedy accruing to either party under this Project Agreement upon any default shall impair any such right, power or remedy or be construed to be a waiver thereof or an acquiescence in such default; nor shall the action of such party in respect of any default, or any acquiescence in any default, affect or impair any right, power or remedy of such party in respect of any other or subsequent default.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto, acting through their representatives thereunto duly authorized, have caused this Project 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.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
XIANBIN YAO  
Director General  
Pacific Department

SOLOMON ISLANDS ELECTRICITY  
AUTHORITY

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID K.C. QUAN  
Chairman