Section 1: Instructions to Bidders

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A.

B. General

1. Scope of Bid

1.1 In connection with the Invitation for Bids (IFB) indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS), the Purchaser, as indicated in the BDS, issues this Bidding Document for the supply of Goods and Related Services incidental thereto as specified in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply). The name, identification, and number of lots of the open competitive bidding (OCB) are provided in the BDS.

1.2 Throughout this Bidding Document,

(a) the term "in writing" means communicated in written form and delivered against receipt;

(b) except where the context requires otherwise, words indicating the singular also include the plural and words indicating the plural also include the singular; and

(c) "day" means calendar day.

2. Source of Funds

2.1 The Borrower or Recipient (hereinafter called "Borrower") indicated in the BDS has applied for or received financing (hereinafter called "funds") from the Asian Development Bank (hereinafter called "ADB") toward the cost of the project named in the BDS. The Borrower intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this Bidding Document is issued.

2.2 Payments by ADB will be made only at the request of the Borrower and upon approval by ADB in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement between the Borrower and ADB (hereinafter called the Financing Agreement), and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of that Financing Agreement. No party other than the Borrower shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the funds.

3. Fraud and Corruption

3.1 ADB requires Borrowers (including beneficiaries of ADB-financed activity) and their personnel, as well as firms and individuals participating in an ADB-financed activity, including but not limited to, Bidders, Suppliers, and Contractors, agents, subcontractors, subconsultants, service providers, subsuppliers, manufacturers (including their respective officers, directors, employees and personnel) under ADB-financed contracts to observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts in accordance with ADB's Anticorruption Policy (1998, as amended from time to time). In pursuance of this policy, ADB

(a) defines, for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:

(i) "corrupt practice" means the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting, directly or indirectly, anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party;

(ii) "fraudulent practice" means any act or omission, including a misrepresentation, that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation;

(iii) "coercive practice" means impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party;

(iv) "collusive practice" means an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including influencing improperly the actions of another party;

(v) "abuse" means theft, waste, or improper use of assets related to ADB-related activity, either committed intentionally or through reckless disregard;

(vi) "conflict of interest" means any situation in which a party has interests that could improperly influence that party's performance of official duties or responsibilities, contractual obligations, or compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and

(vii) "integrity violation" is any act, as defined under ADB's Integrity Principles and Guidelines (2015, as amended from time to time), which violates ADB's Anticorruption Policy, including (i) to (vi) above and the following: obstructive practice, violations of ADB sanctions, retaliation against whistleblowers or witnesses, and other violations of ADB's Anticorruption Policy, including failure to adhere to the highest ethical standard.

(b) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award or any of its officers, directors, employees, personnel, subconsultants, subcontractors, service providers, suppliers or manufacturers has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices or other integrity violations in competing for the Contract;

(c) will cancel the portion of the financing allocated to a contract if it determines at any time that representatives of the Borrower or of a beneficiary of ADB-financing engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices or other integrity violations during the procurement or the execution of that contract, without the Borrower having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to ADB to remedy the situation, including by failing to inform ADB in a timely manner at the time they knew of the integrity violations;

(d) will impose remedial actions on a firm or an individual, at any time, in accordance with ADB's Anticorruption Policy and Integrity Principles and Guidelines, including declaring ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to participate in ADB-financed, -administered, or -supported activities or to benefit from an ADB-financed, -administered, or -supported contract, financially or otherwise, if it at any time determines that the firm or individual has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices or other integrity violations; and

(e) will have the right to require that a provision be included in bidding documents and in contracts financed, administered, or supported by ADB, requiring Bidders, suppliers and contractors, consultants,

manufacturers, service providers and other third parties engaged or involved in ADB-related activities, and their respective officers, directors, employees and personnel, to permit ADB or its representative to inspect the site and their assets, accounts and records and other documents relating to the bid submission and contract performance and to have them audited by auditors appointed by ADB.

3.2 All Bidders, consultants, contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, service providers, and other third parties engaged or involved in ADB-related activities, and their respective officers, directors, employees and personnel, are obliged to cooperate fully in any investigation when requested by ADB to do so. As determined on a case by case basis by ADB, such cooperation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) being available to be interviewed and replying fully and truthfully to all questions asked;
(b) providing ADB with any items requested that are within the party's control including, but not limited to, documents and other physical objects;
(c) upon written request by ADB, authorizing other related entities to release directly to ADB such information that is specifically and materially related, directly or indirectly, to the said entities or issues which are the subject of the investigation;
(d) cooperating with all reasonable requests to search or physically inspect their person and/or work areas, including files, electronic databases, and personal property used on ADB activities, or that utilizes ADB's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) resources or systems (including mobile phones, personal electronic devices, and electronic storage devices such as external disk drives);
(e) cooperating in any testing requested by ADB, including but not limited to, fingerprint identification, handwriting analysis, and physical examination and analysis; and
(f) preserving and protecting confidentiality of all information discussed with, and as required by, ADB.

3.3 All Bidders, consultants, contractors and suppliers shall require their officers, directors, employees, personnel, agents to ensure that, in its contracts with its subconsultants, Subcontractors and other third parties engaged or involved in ADB-related activities, such subconsultants, Subcontractors and other third parties similarly are obliged to cooperate fully in any investigation when requested by ADB to do so.

3.4 The Purchaser hereby puts the Bidder on notice that the Bidder or any Joint Venture partner of the Bidder (if any) may not be able to receive any payments under the Contract if the Bidder or any of its Joint Venture partners, as appropriate, is, or is owned (in whole or in part) by a person or entity subject to applicable sanctions.

3.5 Furthermore, Bidders shall be aware of the provision stated in Subclause 3.2 and Subclause 35.1 (a)(iii) of the General Conditions of Contract.

4. Eligible Bidders

4.1 A Bidder may be a natural person, private entity, or government-owned enterprise subject to ITB 4.5-or any combination of them with a formal

intent to enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement in the form of a Joint Venture. In the case of a Joint Venture,

(a) all parties to the Joint Venture shall be jointly and severally liable; and

(b) the Joint Venture shall nominate a representative who shall have the authority to conduct all businesses for and on behalf of any and all the parties of the Joint Venture during the bidding process and, in the event the Joint Venture is awarded the Contract, during contract execution.

4.2 A Bidder, and all parties constituting the Bidder, shall have the nationality of an eligible country, in accordance with Section 5 (Eligible Countries). A Bidder shall be deemed to have the nationality of a country if the Bidder is a citizen or is constituted, incorporated, or registered, and operates in conformity with the provisions of the laws of that country. This criterion shall also apply to the determination of the nationality of proposed subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the Contract, including related services.

4.3 A Bidder shall not have a conflict of interest. All Bidders found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. A Bidder may be considered to be in a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this bidding process if any of, including but not limited to, the following apply:

(a) they have controlling shareholders in common; or

(b) they receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from any of them; or

(c) they have the same legal representative for purposes of this Bid; or

(d) they have a relationship with each other, directly or through common third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to material information about or improperly influence the Bid of another Bidder, or influence the decisions of the Purchaser regarding this bidding process; or

(e) a Bidder participates in more than one bid in this bidding process, either individually or as a partner in a Joint Venture, except for alternative offers permitted under ITB 13. This will result in the disqualification of all Bids in which it is involved. However, subject to any finding of a conflict of interest in terms of ITB 4.3(a)–(d) above, this does not limit the participation of a Bidder as a subcontractor in another bid or of a firm as a subcontractor in more than one Bid; or

(f) a Bidder, Joint Venture partner, associates, parent company or any affiliated entity, participated as a consultant in the preparation of the design or technical specifications of the goods and services that are the subject of the Bid; or

(g) a Bidder was affiliated with a firm or entity that has been hired (or is proposed to be hired) by the Purchaser or Borrower as Project Manager for the contract; or

(h) a Bidder would be providing goods, works, or nonconsulting services resulting from or directly related to consulting services for the preparation or implementation of the project specified in the BDS ITB 2.1 that it provided or were provided by any affiliate that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with that firm; or

(i) A Bidder that has a financial or familial relationship with staff of the Purchaser including project implementing/executing agency, or of a recipient of a part of the loan who: (i) are directly or indirectly involved in the preparation of the bidding documents or specifications of the contract, and/or the bid evaluation process of such contract; or (ii) would be involved in the implementation or supervision of such contract unless the conflict stemming from such relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to ADB throughout the procurement process and execution of the contract.

4.4 A firm will not be eligible to participate in any procurement activities under an ADB-financed, -administered, or -supported project while under temporary suspension or debarment by ADB pursuant to its Anticorruption Policy (see ITB 3), whether such debarment was directly imposed by ADB, or enforced by ADB pursuant to the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions. A bid from a temporarily suspended or debarred firm will be rejected and such bid may be in breach of debarment conditions, thereby subject to further ADB's investigation.

4.5 Government-owned enterprises in the Purchaser's country shall be eligible only if they can establish that they (i) are legally and financially autonomous, (ii) operate under commercial law, and (iii) are not dependent agencies of the Purchaser.

4.6 A Bidder shall not be under suspension from Bidding by the Purchaser as a result of the execution of a Bid–Securing Declaration.

4.7 Bidders shall provide such evidence of their continued eligibility satisfactory to the Purchaser, as the Purchaser shall reasonably request.

4.8 Bidders shall be excluded if, by an act of compliance with a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Borrower's country prohibits any import of goods from, or payments to, a particular country, person or entity in respect of goods or services originating in that country. Where the Borrower's country prohibits payments to a particular person or entity or for particular goods or services by such an act of compliance, that firm shall be excluded.

5. Eligible Goods and Related Services

5.1 All Goods and Related Services to be supplied under the Contract and financed by ADB, shall have their country of origin in eligible source countries as defined in ITB 4.2, and all expenditures under the Contract will be limited to such Goods and Related Services.

5.2 For purposes of this clause, the term “goods” includes commodities, raw material, machinery, equipment, and industrial plants; and “related services” includes services such as insurance, transportation, installation, commissioning, training, and initial maintenance.

5.3 The term “country of origin” means the country where the goods have been mined, grown, cultivated, produced, manufactured, or processed; or through manufacture, processing, or assembly, another commercially recognized article results that differs substantially in its basic characteristics from its imported components.

5.4 The nationality of the firm that produces, assembles, distributes, or sells the goods shall not determine their origin.

C. Contents of Bidding Document

6. Sections of the Bidding Document

6.1 The Bidding Document consists of Parts I, II, and III, which include all the sections indicated below, and should be read in conjunction with any addenda issued in accordance with ITB 8.

PART I Bidding Procedures

- Section 1 Instructions to Bidders (ITB)
- Section 2 Bid Data Sheet (BDS)
- Section 3 Evaluation and Qualification Criteria (EQC)
- Section 4 Bidding Forms (BDF)
- Section 5 Eligible Countries (ELC)

PART II Supply Requirements

- Section 6 Schedule of Supply (SS)

PART III Conditions of Contract and Contract Forms

- Section 7 General Conditions of Contract (GCC)
- Section 8 Special Conditions of Contract (SCC)
- Section 9 Contract Forms (COF)

6.2 The IFB issued by the Purchaser is not part of the Bidding Document.

6.3 The Purchaser is not responsible for the completeness of the Bidding Document and its addenda, if they were not obtained directly from the source stated by the Purchaser in the IFB.

6.4 The Bidder is expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms, and specifications in the Bidding Document. Failure to furnish all information or documentation required by the Bidding Document, may result in the rejection of the Bid.

7. Clarification of Bidding Document

7.1 A prospective Bidder requiring any clarification on the Bidding Document shall contact the Purchaser in writing at the Purchaser’s address indicated in the BDS. The Purchaser will respond in writing to any request for clarification, provided that such request is received no later than 21 days prior to the deadline for submission of Bids. The Purchaser shall forward copies of its response to all Bidders who have acquired the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 6.3, including a description of the inquiry but without identifying its source. Should the Purchaser deem it necessary to amend the Bidding Document as a

result of a clarification, it shall do so following the procedure under ITB 8 and ITB 24.2.

8. Amendment of Bidding Document

8.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of the Bids, the Purchaser may amend the Bidding Document by issuing addenda.

8.2 Any addendum issued shall be part of the Bidding Document and shall be communicated in writing to all who have obtained the Bidding Document directly from the Purchaser in accordance with ITB 6.3.

8.3 To give prospective Bidders reasonable time in which to take an addendum into account in preparing their Bids, the Purchaser may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of the Bids, pursuant to ITB 24.2.

D. Preparation of Bids

9. Cost of Bidding

9.1 The Bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its Bid, and the Purchaser shall in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

10. Language of Bid

10.1 The Bid, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Bid exchanged by the Bidder and the Purchaser, shall be written in the language specified in the BDS. Supporting documents and printed literature that are part of the Bid may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in the language specified in the BDS, in which case, for purposes of interpretation of the Bid, such translation shall govern.

11. Documents Comprising the Bid

11.1 The Bid shall comprise the following:

(a) Bid Submission Sheet and the applicable Price Schedules, in accordance with ITB 12, ITB 14, and ITB 15;

(b) Bid Security or Bid-Securing Declaration, in accordance with ITB 21;

(c) alternative Bids, if permissible, in accordance with ITB 13;

(d) written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder, in accordance with ITB 22;

(e) documentary evidence in accordance with ITB 16, establishing the Bidder's eligibility to bid;

(f) documentary evidence in accordance with ITB 17, that the Goods and Related Services to be supplied by the Bidder are of eligible origin;

(g) documentary evidence in accordance with ITB 18 and ITB 31, that the Goods and Related Services conform to the Bidding Document;

(h) documentary evidence in accordance with ITB 19, establishing the Bidder's qualifications to perform the contract if its Bid is accepted; and

(i) any other document required in the BDS.

12. Bid Submission Sheet and Price Schedules

12.1 The Bidder shall submit the Bid Submission Sheet using the form furnished in Section 4 (Bidding Forms). This form must be completed without any alterations to its format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.

12.2 The Bidder shall submit the Price Schedules for Goods and Related Services, according to their origin as appropriate, using the forms furnished in Section 4 (Bidding Forms) and as required in the BDS.

13. Alternative Bids

13.1 Unless otherwise indicated in the BDS, alternative Bids shall not be considered.

14. Bid Prices and Discounts

14.1 The prices and discounts quoted by the Bidder in the Bid Submission Sheet and in the Price Schedules shall conform to the requirements specified below.

14.2 All items in the Schedule of Supply must be listed and priced separately in the Price Schedules. If a Price Schedule shows items listed but not priced, their prices shall be assumed to be included in the prices of other items. Items not listed in the Price Schedule shall be assumed not to be included in the Bid, and provided that the Bid is substantially responsive, the corresponding adjustment shall be applied in accordance with ITB 32.3. Unit rates and prices for all items in the Schedule of Supply shall be expressed in positive values. If unit rates and prices are expressed in negative values, the bid will be rejected.

14.3 The price to be quoted in the Bid Submission Sheet shall be the total price of the Bid excluding any discounts offered. Absence of the total bid price in the Bid Submission Sheet may result in the rejection of the Bid.

14.4 The Bidder shall quote discounts and the methodology for their application in the Bid Submission Sheet.

14.5 The terms EXW, CIF, CIP, and other similar terms shall be governed by the rules prescribed in the current edition of Incoterms, published by the International Chamber of Commerce, at the date of the Invitation for Bids or as specified in the BDS.

14.6 Prices shall be quoted as specified in each Price Schedule included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms). The disaggregation of price components is required solely for the purpose of facilitating the comparison of Bids by the Purchaser. This shall not in any way limit the Purchaser's right to contract on any of the terms offered

(a) for Goods offered from within the Purchaser's country:

(i) the price of the goods quoted EXW (ex works, ex factory, ex warehouse, ex showroom, or off-the-shelf, as applicable), including all customs duties and sales and other taxes already paid or payable on the components and raw material used in the manufacture or assembly of goods quoted ex works or ex factory, or on the previously

imported goods of foreign origin quoted ex warehouse, ex showroom, or off-the-shelf;

(ii) sales tax and all other taxes applicable in the Purchaser's country and payable on the Goods if the Contract is awarded to the Bidder; and

(iii) the total price for the item.

(b) for Goods offered from outside the Purchaser's country:

(i) the price of the goods quoted CIF (named port of destination), or CIP (border point), or CIP (named place of destination), in the Purchaser's country, as specified in the BDS;

(ii) the price of the goods quoted FOB port of shipment (or FCA, as the case may be), if specified in the BDS; and

(iii) the total price for the item.

(c) for Related Services whenever such are specified in the Schedule of Supply:

(i) the local currency cost component of each item comprising the Related Services; and

(ii) the foreign currency cost component of each item comprising the Related Services, inclusive of all customs duties, sales and other similar taxes applicable in the Purchaser's country, payable on the Related Services, if the Contract is awarded to the Bidder.

14.7 Prices quoted by the Bidder shall be fixed during the Bidder's performance of the Contract and not subject to variation on any account, unless otherwise specified in the BDS. A Bid submitted with an adjustable price quotation shall be treated as nonresponsive and shall be rejected, pursuant to ITB 31. If in accordance with the BDS, prices quoted by the Bidder shall be subject to adjustment during the performance of the Contract in accordance with Clause 15.2 of the General Conditions of Contract in Section 7, a Bid submitted with a fixed price will also be treated as nonresponsive and be rejected.

14.8 If so indicated pursuant to ITB 1.1, Bids are being invited for individual contracts (lots) or for any combination of contracts (packages). Unless otherwise indicated in the BDS, prices quoted shall correspond to 100% of the items specified for each lot and to 100% of the quantities specified for each item of a lot. Bidders wishing to offer any price discount for the award of more than one Contract shall specify in their bid the price discount applicable to each package, or alternatively, to individual Contracts within the package. Price discounts shall be submitted in accordance with ITB 14.4, provided the bids for all lots are submitted and opened at the same time.

15. Currencies of Bid

15.1 Bid prices shall be quoted in the following currencies:

(a) Bidders may express their bid price in any freely convertible currency. If a Bidder wishes to be paid in a combination of

amounts in different currencies, it may quote its price accordingly.

(b) If some of the expenditures for the Related Services are to be incurred in the borrowing country, such expenditures should be expressed in the Bid and will be payable in the Purchaser's currency.

16. Documents Establishing the Eligibility of the Bidder

16.1 To establish their eligibility in accordance with ITB 4, Bidders shall

(a) complete the eligibility declarations in the Bid Submission Sheet, included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms); and

(b) if the Bidder is an existing or intended Joint Venture in accordance with ITB 4.1, submit a copy of the Joint Venture Agreement, or a letter of intent to enter into such an agreement. The respective document shall be signed by all legally authorized signatories of all the parties to the existing or intended Joint Venture, as appropriate.

17. Documents Establishing the Eligibility of the Goods and Related Services

17.1 To establish the eligibility of the Goods and Related Services, in accordance with ITB 5, Bidders shall complete the country of origin declarations in the Price Schedule Forms included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms).

18. Documents Establishing the Conformity of the Goods and Related Services to the Bidding Document

18.1 To establish the conformity of the Goods and Related Services to the Bidding Document, the Bidder shall furnish as part of its Bid documentary evidence that the Goods and Related Services conform to the requirements specified in Section 6 (Supply of Supply).

18.2 The documentary evidence may be in the form of literature, drawings, or data, and shall consist of a detailed item-by-item description of the essential technical and performance characteristics of the Goods and Related Services, demonstrating substantial responsiveness of the Goods and Related Services to those requirements, and if applicable, a statement of deviations and exceptions to the provisions of Section 6 (Schedule of Supply).

18.3 Standards for workmanship, process, material, and equipment, as well as references to brand names or catalogue numbers specified by the Purchaser in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply), are intended to be descriptive only and not restrictive. The Bidder may offer other standards of quality, brand names, and/or catalogue numbers, provided that it demonstrates, to the Purchaser's satisfaction, that the substitutions ensure substantial equivalence or are superior to those specified in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply).

19. Documents Establishing the Qualifications of the Bidder

19.1 The documentary evidence of the Bidder's qualifications to perform the contract, if its bid is accepted, shall establish to the Purchaser's satisfaction that the Bidder meets each of the qualification criterion specified in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

19.2 If so required in the BDS, a Bidder that does not manufacture or produce the Goods it offers to supply shall submit the Manufacturer's Authorization using the form included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms) to

demonstrate that it has been duly authorized by the manufacturer or producer of the Goods to supply these Goods in the Purchaser's country.

19.3 If so required in the BDS, a Bidder that does not conduct business within the Purchaser's country shall submit evidence that it will be represented by an agent in the country equipped and able to carry out the Supplier's maintenance, repair, and spare parts-stocking obligations prescribed in the Conditions of Contract and/or Technical Specifications.

20. Period of Validity of Bids

20.1 Bids shall remain valid for the bid validity period specified in the BDS. The bid validity period starts from the date fixed for the bid submission deadline date prescribed by the Purchaser in accordance with ITB 24.1. A Bid valid for a shorter period shall be rejected by the Purchaser as nonresponsive.

20.2 In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the bid validity period, the Purchaser may request Bidders to extend the period of validity of their Bids. The request and the responses shall be made in writing. If a Bid Security is requested in accordance with ITB 21, it shall also be extended 28 days beyond the deadline of the extended bid validity period. A Bidder may refuse the request without forfeiting its Bid Security. A Bidder granting the request shall not be required or permitted to modify its Bid.

21. Bid Security/ Bid-Securing Declaration

21.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, the Bidder shall furnish as part of its Bid, in original form, either a Bid-Securing Declaration or a bid security as specified in the BDS. In the case of a bid security, the amount and currency shall be as specified in the BDS.

21.2 If a Bid-Securing Declaration is required pursuant to ITB 21.1, it shall use the form included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms). The Purchaser will declare a Bidder ineligible to be awarded a Contract for a specified period of time, as indicated in the BDS, if a Bid-Securing Declaration is executed.

21.3 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 21.1, the bid security shall be, at the Bidder's option, in any of the following forms:

(a) an unconditional bank guarantee (hard copy of the bank guarantee or in the form of SWIFT message MT760), or

(b) an irrevocable letter of credit, or

(c) a cashier's or certified check.

all from a reputable source from an eligible country as described in Section 5 (Eligible Countries). In the case of a bank guarantee, the bid security shall be submitted either using the Bid Security Form included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms), or another form acceptable to the Purchaser. The form must include the complete name of the Bidder. The bid security shall be valid for 28 days beyond the original validity period of the bid, or beyond any period of extension if requested under ITB 20.2.

21.4 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, any bid not accompanied by a substantially compliant bid security or Bid-Securing Declaration, if one is required in accordance with ITB 21.1, shall be rejected by the Purchaser as nonresponsive.

21.5 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 21.1, the bid security of unsuccessful Bidders shall be returned promptly upon the successful Bidder's furnishing of the performance security pursuant to ITB 45.

21.6 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 21.1, the bid security of the successful Bidder shall be returned promptly once the successful Bidder has signed the Contract Agreement and furnished the required performance security.

21.7 The bid security may be forfeited or the Bid-Securing Declaration executed, if

(a) notwithstanding ITB 26.3, a Bidder withdraws its bid during the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder on the Bid Submission Sheet, except as provided in ITB 20.2; or

(b) the successful Bidder fails to

(i) sign the Contract Agreement in accordance with ITB 44;

(ii) furnish a performance security in accordance with ITB 45; or

(iii) accept the arithmetical corrections of its bid in accordance with ITB 33.

21.8 If the bid security is required as per ITB 21.1, the bid security of a Joint Venture shall be in the name of the Joint Venture that submits the Bid. If the Joint Venture has not been legally constituted at the time of bidding, the bid security shall be in the name of any or all of the Joint Venture partners. If the Bid-Securing Declaration is required as per ITB 21.1, the Bid-Securing Declaration of a Joint Venture shall be in the name of the Joint Venture that submits the Bid. If the Joint Venture has not been legally constituted at the time of bidding, the Bid-Securing Declaration shall be in the names of all future partners as named in the letter of intent mentioned in ITB 4.1.

22. Format and Signing of Bid

22.1 The Bidder shall prepare one original set of the documents comprising the Bid as described in ITB 11 and clearly mark it "ORIGINAL." Alternative bids, if permitted in accordance with ITB 13, shall be clearly marked "ALTERNATIVE". In addition, the Bidder shall submit copies of the bid, in the number specified in the BDS and clearly mark them "COPY." In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.

22.2 The original and all copies of the Bid shall be typed or written in indelible ink and shall be signed by a person duly authorized to sign on behalf of the Bidder. This authorization shall consist of a written confirmation as specified in the BDS and shall be attached to the Bid. The name and position held by each person signing the authorization must be typed or printed below the signature. If a Bidder submits a deficient authorization, the Bid shall not be rejected in the first instance. The Purchaser shall request the Bidder to submit an acceptable authorization within the number of days as specified in the BDS. Failure

to provide an acceptable authorization within the period stated in the Purchaser's request shall cause the rejection of the Bid. If either the Bid Submission Sheet or the Bid-Securing Declaration (if applicable) is not signed, the Bid shall be rejected.

22.3 Any amendments such as interlineations, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialed by the person signing the bid.

E. Submission and Opening of Bids

23. Sealing and Marking of Bids

23.1 Bidders shall submit their Bids as specified in the BDS. Procedures for submission, sealing and marking are as follows:

(a) Bidders submitting Bids by mail or by hand shall enclose the original and each copy of the Bid, including alternative Bids, if permitted in accordance with ITB 13, in separate sealed envelopes, duly marking the envelopes as "ORIGINAL", "ALTERNATIVE" and "COPY." These envelopes containing the original and the copies shall then be enclosed in one single envelope. The rest of the procedure shall be in accordance with ITB 23.2 and ITB 23.3.

(b) Bidders submitting Bids electronically shall follow the electronic bid submission procedures specified in the BDS.

23.2 The inner and outer envelopes shall

(a) bear the name and address of the Bidder;

(b) be addressed to the Purchaser in accordance with ITB 24.1;

(c) bear the specific identification of this bidding process pursuant to ITB 1.1 and any additional identification marks as specified in the BDS; and

(d) bear a warning not to open before the time and date for bid opening, in accordance with ITB 27.1.

23.3 If all envelopes are not sealed and marked as required, the Purchaser will assume no responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of the Bid.

24. Deadline for Submission of Bids

24.1 Bids must be received by the Purchaser at the address and no later than the date and time indicated in the BDS.

24.2 The Purchaser may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of Bids by amending the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 8, in which case all rights and obligations of the Purchaser and Bidders previously subject to the deadline shall thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.

25. Late Bids

25.1 The Purchaser shall not consider any Bid that arrives after the deadline for submission of Bids, in accordance with ITB 24. Any Bid received by the Purchaser after the deadline for submission of Bids shall be declared late, rejected, and returned unopened to the Bidder.

26. Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Bids

26.1 A Bidder may withdraw, substitute, or modify its Bid after it has been submitted by sending a written notice, duly signed by an authorized representative, and shall include a copy of the authorization in accordance with ITB 22.2 (except for withdrawal notices, which do not require copies). The corresponding substitution or modification of the bid must accompany the respective written notice. All notices must be

(a) prepared and submitted in accordance with ITB 22 and ITB 23 (except for withdrawal notices, which do not require copies), and in addition, the respective envelopes shall be clearly marked "WITHDRAWAL," "SUBSTITUTION," "MODIFICATION;" and

(b) received by the Purchaser prior to the deadline prescribed for submission of bids, in accordance with ITB 24.

26.2 Bids requested to be withdrawn in accordance with ITB 26.1 shall be returned unopened to the Bidders.

26.3 No Bid may be withdrawn, substituted, or modified in the interval between the deadline for submission of bids and the expiration of the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder on the Bid Submission Sheet or any extension thereof.

27. Bid Opening

27.1 The Purchaser shall open the Bids in public at the address, on the date, and time specified in the BDS in the presence of Bidders` designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend. Any specific electronic bid opening procedures required if electronic bidding is permitted in accordance with ITB 23.1, shall be as specified in the BDS.

27.2 First, envelopes marked "WITHDRAWAL" shall be opened, read out, and recorded, and the envelope containing the corresponding bid shall not be opened, but returned to the Bidder. No bid withdrawal shall be permitted unless the corresponding withdrawal notice contains a valid authorization to request the withdrawal and is read out at bid opening. Next, envelopes marked "SUBSTITUTION" shall be opened, read out, recorded, and exchanged for the corresponding Bid being substituted. The substituted Bid shall not be opened, but returned unopened to the Bidder. No bid substitution shall be permitted unless the corresponding substitution notice contains a valid authorization to request the substitution and is read out and recorded at bid opening. Envelopes marked "MODIFICATION" shall be opened, read out, and recorded with the corresponding Bid. No bid modification shall be permitted unless the corresponding modification notice contains a valid authorization to request the modification and is read out and recorded at bid opening. Only envelopes that are opened, read out, and recorded at bid opening shall be considered further.

27.3 All other envelopes shall be opened one at a time, reading out the name of the Bidder and whether there is a modification; the Bid Prices (per lot if applicable), discounts, and alternative offers; the presence of a bid security or a Bid-Securing Declaration, if required; and any other details as the Purchaser may consider appropriate. Only discounts and alternative offers read out and recorded at bid opening shall be considered for evaluation. Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, all pages of the Bid Submission Sheet and Price Schedules are to be initialed by at least three representatives of the Purchaser attending

the bid opening. No Bid shall be rejected at bid opening except for late bids, in accordance with ITB 25.1.

27.4 The Purchaser shall prepare a record of the bid opening that shall include, as a minimum: the name of the Bidder and whether there is a withdrawal, substitution, or modification; the Bid Price, per lot if applicable, any discounts, and alternative offers if they were permitted; and the presence or absence of a bid security or Bid-Securing Declaration, if one was required. The Bidders' representatives who are present shall be requested to sign the record. The omission of a Bidder's signature on the record shall not invalidate the contents and effect of the record. A copy of the record shall be distributed to all Bidders who submitted bids on time, and posted online if electronic bidding was permitted.

F. Evaluation and Comparison of Bids

28. Confidentiality

28.1 Information relating to the examination, evaluation, comparison, and postqualification of Bids, and recommendation of contract award, shall not be disclosed to Bidders or any other persons not officially concerned with such process until the publication of Contract award.

28.2 Any attempt by a Bidder to influence the Purchaser in the examination, evaluation, comparison, and postqualification of the Bids or Contract award decisions may result in the rejection of its Bid.

28.3 Notwithstanding ITB 28.2, from the time of bid opening to the time of Contract award, if any Bidder wishes to contact the Purchaser on any matter related to the bidding process, it should do so in writing.

29. Clarification of Bids

29.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation, comparison and post-qualification of the Bids, the Purchaser may, at its discretion, ask any Bidder for a clarification of its Bid. Any clarification submitted by a Bidder with regard to its Bid and that is not in response to a request by the Purchaser shall not be considered. The Purchaser's request for clarification and the response shall be in writing. No change in the prices or substance of the Bid shall be sought, offered, or permitted, except to confirm the correction of arithmetic errors discovered by the Purchaser in the evaluation of the Bids, in accordance with ITB 33.

29.2 If a Bidder does not provide clarifications on its Bid by the date and time set in the Purchaser's request for clarification, its bid may be rejected.

30. Deviations, Reservations, and Omissions

30.1 During the evaluation of Bids, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Deviation" is a departure from the requirements specified in the Bidding Document;

(b) "Reservation" is the setting of limiting conditions or withholding from complete acceptance of the requirements specified in the Bidding Document; and

(c) "Omission" is the failure to submit part or all of the information or documentation required in the Bidding Document.

31. Determination of Responsiveness

31.1 The Purchaser's determination of a bid's responsiveness is to be based on the contents of the bid itself, as defined in ITB 11.

31.2 A substantially responsive bid is one that meets the requirements of the Bidding Document without material deviation, reservation, or omission. A material deviation, reservation, or omission is one that,

(a) if accepted, would

(i) affect in any substantial way the scope, quality, or performance of the Goods and Related Services specified in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply); or

(ii) limits in any substantial way, inconsistent with the Bidding Document, the Purchaser's rights or the Bidder's obligations under the proposed Contract; or

(b) if rectified, would unfairly affect the competitive position of other Bidders presenting substantially responsive bids.

31.3 The Purchaser shall examine the technical aspects of the Bid in particular, to confirm that all requirements of Section 6 (Schedule of Supply) have been met without any material deviation, reservation, or omission.

31.4 If a Bid is not substantially responsive to the requirements of the Bidding Document, it shall be rejected by the Purchaser and may not subsequently be made responsive by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.

32. Nonmaterial Nonconformities

32.1 Provided that a Bid is substantially responsive, the Purchaser may waive nonconformities in the bid that do not constitute a material deviation, reservation, or omission.

32.2 Provided that a Bid is substantially responsive, the Purchaser may request that the Bidder submit the necessary information or documentation, within a reasonable period of time, to rectify nonmaterial nonconformities or omissions in the Bid related to documentation requirements. Requesting information or documentation on such nonconformities shall not be related to any aspect of the price of the Bid. Failure of the Bidder to comply with the request may result in the rejection of its Bid.

32.3 Provided that a Bid is substantially responsive, the Purchaser shall rectify quantifiable nonmaterial nonconformities or omissions related to the Bid Price. To this effect, the Bid Price shall be adjusted, for comparison purposes only, to reflect the price of the missing or non-conforming item or component. The adjustment shall be made using the method indicated in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

33. Correction of Arithmetical Errors

33.1 Provided that the Bid is substantially responsive, the Purchaser shall correct arithmetical errors on the following basis:

(a) If there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the total price that is obtained by multiplying the unit price and quantity, the unit price shall prevail and the total price shall be corrected, unless in the opinion of the Purchaser there is an obvious

misplacement of the decimal point in the unit price, in which case the total price as quoted shall govern and the unit price shall be corrected.

(b) If there is an error in a total corresponding to the addition or subtraction of subtotals, the subtotals shall prevail and the total shall be corrected.

(c) If there is a discrepancy between words and figures, the amount in words shall prevail, unless the amount expressed in words is related to an arithmetic error, in which case the amount in figures shall prevail subject to (a) and (b) above.

33.2 If the Bidder that submitted the lowest evaluated Bid does not accept the correction of errors, its Bid shall be rejected, and its bid security may be forfeited, or its Bid-Securing Declaration executed.

34. Conversion to Single Currency

34.1 For evaluation and comparison purposes, the currency(ies) of the Bid shall be converted into a single currency as specified in the BDS.

35. Domestic Preference

35.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, domestic preference shall not apply.

36. Evaluation and Comparison of Bids

36.1 The Purchaser shall use the criteria and methodologies indicated in this clause. No other criteria or methodologies shall be permitted.

36.2 To evaluate a Bid, the Purchaser shall consider the following:

(a) the bid price as quoted in accordance with ITB 14;

(b) price adjustment for correction of arithmetic errors in accordance with ITB 33.1;

(c) price adjustment due to discounts offered in accordance with ITB 14.4;

(d) adjustment for nonmaterial nonconformities in accordance with ITB 32.3:

(e) assessment whether the bid is abnormally low in accordance with ITB 37; and

(f) price adjustment due to application of the evaluation criteria specified in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria). These criteria may include factors related to the characteristics, performance, and terms and conditions of purchase of the Goods and Related Services which shall be expressed to the extent practicable in monetary terms to facilitate comparison of bids unless otherwise specified in Section 3; and

(g) converting the amount resulting from applying (a) to (c) above, if relevant, to a single currency in accordance with ITB 34.

36.3 The Purchaser's evaluation of a bid will exclude and not take into account,

(a) in the case of Goods offered from within the Purchaser's country, all sales tax and all other taxes, applicable in the Purchaser's country and payable on the Goods if the Contract is awarded to the Bidder;

(b) in the case of Goods offered from outside the Purchaser's country, all customs duties, sales tax, and other taxes, applicable in the Purchaser's country and payable on the Goods if the Contract is awarded to the Bidder; and

(c) any allowance for price adjustment during the period of performance of the Contract, if provided in the Bid.

36.4 If the Bidding Document allows Bidders to quote separate prices for different lots (contracts), and the award to a single Bidder of multiple lots (contracts), the methodology to determine the lowest evaluated price of the lot (contract) combinations, including any discounts offered in the Bid Submission Sheet, is specified in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

36.5 The Purchaser shall compare all substantially responsive Bids to determine the lowest evaluated bid, in accordance with ITB 36.2.

37. Abnormally Low Bids

37.1 An abnormally low bid is one where the bid price, in combination with other elements of the bid, appears to be so low that it raises concerns as to the capability of the Bidder to perform the contract for the offered bid price.

37.2 When the offered bid price appears to be abnormally low, the Purchaser shall undertake a three-step review process as follows:

(a) identify abnormally low costs and unit rates by comparing them with the engineer's estimates, other substantially responsive bids, or recently awarded similar contracts;

(b) clarify and analyze the bidder's resource inputs and pricing, including overheads, contingencies and profit margins; and

(c) decide whether to accept or reject the bid.

37.3 With regard to ITB 37.2 (b) above, the Purchaser will seek a written explanation from the bidder of the reasons for the offered bid price, including a detailed analysis of costs and unit prices, by reference to the scope, proposed methodology, schedule, and allocation of risks and responsibilities. This may also include information regarding the economy of the manufacturing process; the services to be provided, or the construction method to be used; the technical solutions to be adopted; and any exceptionally favorable conditions available to the bidder for the goods or services proposed.

37.4 After examining the explanation given and the detailed price analyses presented by the bidder, the Purchaser may:

(a) accept the bid, if the evidence provided satisfactorily accounts for the low bid price and costs, in which case the bid is not considered abnormally low;

(b) accept the bid, but require that the amount of the performance security be increased at the expense of the bidder to a level sufficient to protect the Purchaser against financial loss. The amount of the performance security shall generally be not more than 20% of the contract price; or

(c) reject the bid if the evidence provided does not satisfactorily account for the low bid price, and make a similar determination for the next lowest evaluated bid, if required

38. Post-qualification of the Bidder

38.1 The Purchaser shall determine to its satisfaction whether the Bidder that is selected as having submitted the lowest evaluated and substantially responsive Bid is qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.

38.2 The determination shall be based upon an examination of the documentary evidence of the Bidder's qualifications submitted by the Bidder, pursuant to ITB 19. Unless permitted in the BDS, the determination shall not take into consideration the qualifications of other firms such as the Bidder's subsidiaries, parent entities, or affiliates.

38.3 An affirmative determination shall be a prerequisite for award of the Contract to the Bidder. The Purchaser reserves the right to reject the bid of any bidder found to be in circumstances described in GCC 35.2. A negative determination shall result in disqualification of the Bid, in which event the Purchaser shall proceed to the next lowest evaluated Bid to make a similar determination of that Bidder's capabilities to perform satisfactorily.

39. Purchaser's Right to Accept Any Bid, and to Reject Any or All Bids

39.1 The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders. In case of annulment, all Bids submitted and specifically, bid securities, shall be promptly returned to the Bidders.

40. Notice of Intention for Award of Contract

40.1 If Standstill provisions apply as specified in the BDS, the standstill period shall be defined in the BDS to specify the duration subsequent to notification of intention for award of contract (before making the actual contract award) within which any unsuccessful bidder can challenge the proposed award.

G. Award of Contract

41. Award Criteria

41.1 The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the Bidder whose offer has been determined, in line with ITB 36 to ITB 38 above, to be the lowest evaluated Bid and is substantially responsive to the Bidding Document, provided further that the Bidder is determined to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.

42. Purchaser's Right to Vary Quantities at Time of Award

42.1 At the time the Contract is awarded, the Purchaser reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of Goods and Related Services originally specified in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply), provided this does not exceed the percentages indicated in the BDS, and without

any change in the unit prices or other terms and conditions of the Bid and the Bidding Document.

43. Notification of Award

43.1 Prior to the expiration of the period of bid validity and upon expiry of the standstill period specified in ITB 40.1, or upon satisfactory resolution of a complaint filed within standstill period, if applicable, the Purchaser shall transmit the Notification of Award using the form included in Section 9 (Contract Forms) to the successful Bidder, in writing, that its Bid has been accepted. At the same time, the Purchaser also notify all other Bidders of the results of the bidding.

43.2 Unless standstill period applies, upon notification of award, unsuccessful Bidders may request in writing to the Purchaser for a debriefing seeking explanations on the grounds on which their Bids were not selected. The Purchaser shall promptly respond in writing and/or in a debriefing meeting to any unsuccessful Bidder who, after publication of contract award, requests a debriefing.

43.3 Until a formal Contract is prepared and executed, the notification of award shall constitute a binding Contract.

43.4 Within 2 weeks of the award of contract or expiry of the standstill period, where such period applies, or, if a complaint has been filed within the standstill period, upon receipt of ADB's confirmation of satisfactory resolution of the complaint, the Borrower shall publish in an English language newspaper or well-known freely accessible website the results identifying the Bid and lot or package numbers as applicable and the following information:

(a) name of each Bidder who submitted a Bid;

(b) bid prices as read out at bid opening;

(c) name and evaluated prices of each Bid that was evaluated;

(d) name of Bidders whose Bids were rejected and the reasons for their rejection; and

(e) name of the winning Bidder, and the price it offered, as well as the duration and summary scope of the contract awarded.

44. Signing of Contract

44.1 Promptly after notification, the Purchaser shall send to the successful Bidder the Contract Agreement.

44.2 Within 28 days of receipt of the Contract Agreement, the successful Bidder shall sign, date, and return it to the Purchaser.

45. Performance Security

45.1 Within 28 days of the receipt of notification of award from the Purchaser, the successful Bidder shall furnish the Performance Security in accordance with the GCC, subject to ITB 37, using for that purpose the Performance Security Form included in Section 9 (Contract Forms), or another form acceptable to the Purchaser. If the bank issuing performance security is located outside the Purchaser's country, it shall be counter-guaranteed or encashable by a bank in the Purchaser's country.

45.2 Failure of the successful Bidder to submit the abovementioned performance security or sign the Contract Agreement shall constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award and forfeiture of the bid security or execution of the Bid-Securing Declaration. In that event, the Purchaser may award the Contract to the next lowest evaluated Bidder whose offer is substantially responsive and is determined by the Purchaser to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.

46. Bidding-Related Complaints

46.1 The procedures for dealing with Bidding-Related Complaints arising out of this bidding process are specified in the BDS.