

**TRADE AND AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE  
PARTICIPANTS TO THE ARRANGEMENT ON OFFICIALLY SUPPORTED EXPORT  
CREDITS****CIRR REFORM TEXT**

This document contains a revised version of the CIRR reform text. In addition to the text formally agreed by Participants on 15 July 2021, it includes the update regarding the CIRR margin agreed by Participants on 30 December 2022.

This reform will be applicable as of 15 July 2023 to transactions supported according to the main body of the Arrangement as well as the different sector understandings, with the exception of the Ship Sector Understanding (SSU) and the Aircraft Sector Understanding (ASU).

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## *CIRR REFORM TEXT*

### **I. NEW ANNEX XVII**

#### **SECTION 1: CONSTRUCTION OF THE CIRR**

1. A CIRR shall be established for each Participant's currency, provided that the required data is made available to the Secretariat. A Participant or a non-Participant may request that a CIRR be established for the currency of a non-Participant. In consultation with the interested non-Participant, a Participant or the Secretariat on behalf of that non-Participant may make a proposal for the construction of the CIRR in that currency.
2. Other Participants shall use the CIRR set for a particular currency should they decide to finance in that currency.
3. The CIRR is composed of a base rate and a margin.
4. The minimum CIRR for any currency shall be no lower than 15 basis points.

#### **I. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASE RATE**

5. CIRR rates shall be calculated monthly and will take effect on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month.
6. CIRR base rates are computed using government bond yields.
7. The maturity of the government bond to be used for each transaction shall be determined according to the following formula: Drawdown Period + 0.5 Repayment Period + 0.5 Repayment Frequency in years<sup>1</sup> (for standard repayment profiles). For transactions with a non-standard repayment profile, the following formula shall be applied:  $DP + [\sum_{i=1}^n (t_{li} - t_{sp}) * D_{li}] / \sum_{i=1}^n D_{li} * 1/365]^2$ . The result will be rounded to the nearest year, capped at ten years and floored at three years.
8. Participants shall compute the bond yields using the arithmetic mean of all the daily yields of the 3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and 10-year government bonds of the previous calendar month for their respective currencies. Those yields shall be reported to the Secretariat no later than five days after the end of each month and shall be made publicly available on a monthly basis.
9. Participants may use linear interpolation in order to achieve the necessary yields as long as it is within the interpolation region of 2-year government bonds up to and including 15-year government bonds. Extrapolation to a lower or higher bond yield shall not be allowed.
10. In the event where the data for one or more of the necessary government bonds could not be obtained (according to Articles 8 and 9), there will be no CIRR in that currency for transactions requiring such maturities (Article 7 refers) unless the missing data concerns shorter maturities and data for higher maturities (up to 10 years) has been provided. In such event, the yields of the nearest higher government bond shall be used to compute the base rates requiring such shorter maturities.

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<sup>1</sup> Repayment Frequency for annual repayment = 1, for semi-annual repayments = 0,5 and for quarterly repayments = 0,25.

<sup>2</sup>  $t_{li}$  = date of the  $i_{st}$  installment;  $t_{sp}$  = date of the starting point ;  $D_{li}$  = amount paid at the  $i_{st}$  installment.

## II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARGIN

*Following the discontinuation of Libor, Participants agreed on 30 December 2022 to implement a temporary margin of 100 basis points for all currencies for one year as of the implementation of the new CIRR rules (i.e., until 14 July 2024) or until Participants can agree to a better alternative. This temporary margin replaces the margin described below.*

11. The margin shall be calculated on a quarterly basis (respectively on 15 January, 15 April, 15 July and 15 October of each year) according to the five-year swap spread yields (difference between the five-year government bond rate and the five-year swap rate).
12. The margin shall be computed using the following formula:  $0.5 * (\text{three-month average of daily five-year swap spread yields}) + 80$  basis points. The result shall be rounded to the nearest basis point and capped at a maximum of 120 basis points and floored at a minimum of 80 basis points.
13. The three-month average of the daily five-year swap spreads to be used shall be obtained by calculating the arithmetic mean of the daily five-year swap spread of the last three calendar months in the relevant currencies. They shall be reported to the Secretariat no later than five days after the end of each quarter.
14. In the event where the five-year swap spread is not available in the market for a given currency, the margin shall be set at 100 bps.
15. The resulting margins shall be made publicly available at the beginning of each quarter.

## SECTION 2: APPLICATION OF THE CIRR

16. Where official financing support is provided for floating rate loans, banks and other financing institutions shall not be allowed to offer the option of the lower of either the CIRR (at time of the original contract) or the short-term market rate throughout the life of the loan.

### I. VALIDITY PERIOD OF CIRR

17. A CIRR may be locked in before, at, or after the Date of Financial Contract (DFC).
18. In the case where a CIRR is locked in and held prior to DFC, the Holding Period shall not exceed 12 consecutive months<sup>3</sup>, the length of the Holding Period shall be decided at the latest at the Date of Quote (DoQ), and an additional spread shall be added to the applicable CIRR according to the table below.

Holding period (in months)	Cost of holding period
1 m hold	20 bps
2 m hold	20 bps
3 m hold	20 bps
4 m hold	20 bps
5 m hold	20 bps
6 m hold	20 bps
7 m hold	23 bps
8 m hold	26 bps
9 m hold	30 bps
10 m hold	34 bps
11 m hold	39 bps
12 m hold	44 bps

<sup>3</sup> If there is a reset of the CIRR, it resets the countdown for the number of months back to zero.

19. If the Holding Period lapses prior to the DFC, the CIRR rate may be reset immediately or at a later time and held for a new Holding Period. If the signature of the commercial contract (SCC) has occurred prior to the reset, the reset rate shall not be lower than the latest previously locked-in rate. There is no limit to the number of times a CIRR may be reset.

20. Any change in the Interest Accrual Period prior to or at DFC shall trigger a recalculation of the CIRR base rate. Such recalculation shall be based on the new Interest Accrual Period using the base rates in effect at the initial DoQ; it shall not be considered as a reset or a cancellation of the CIRR rate.

## II. COMMITMENT FEE

21. A commitment fee shall be charged for direct credits. If the CIRR was locked in prior to or at DFC, the commitment fee shall be charged immediately following DFC. If the CIRR was locked in after DFC, then it shall be charged immediately following DoQ.

22. Participants shall charge a commitment fee at or above commercial market practices provided that such information is available.

## III. VOLUNTARY CANCELLATION AND VOLUNTARY PREPAYMENT

23. If a CIRR rate is voluntarily cancelled, any subsequent CIRR rate that is quoted for the same transaction and the same exporter shall be no lower than the latest previously quoted CIRR.

24. Prior to DFC, there is no cost for cancelling a CIRR rate or switching to a floating rate.

25. Once the DFC has occurred and irrespective of when the CIRR was set, in the event of voluntary cancellation or voluntary prepayment of a loan or any portion thereof, the borrower shall compensate the government institution providing official support for all costs and losses incurred as a result of such early prepayment or voluntary cancellation. This includes the costs to the government institution of replacing the part of the expected fixed rate cash inflow interrupted by the early prepayment or voluntary cancellation.

## SECTION 3: REVIEW AND TRANSITIONAL AGREEMENTS

26. The provisions set out in this Annex shall come into force on 15 July 2023 for transactions committed from that date onwards.

27. The Participants shall undertake a comprehensive review of the CIRR provisions detailed in this annex at the latest four years after the date of agreement of the reform.

## II. ADDITIONS TO ANNEX XV (LIST OF DEFINITIONS)

- **Date of Financial Contract (DFC):** the date at which all parties to the Financial Contract are bound, taking into account any entailing legal obligations.
- **Date of Quote (DoQ):** the date at which a CIRR is locked-in.
- **Holding Period:** the period starting at DoQ and ending at DFC.
- **Interest Accrual Period:** the period during which interest accrues (i.e., from first disbursement until the last repayment of principal: drawdown period + repayment period).

### III. MODIFICATION OF ARTICLE 20 OF THE ARRANGEMENT UPON ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE REFORM

#### 20. CONSTRUCTION AND APPLICATION OF CIRRS

- a) The CIRR for official financing support provided under ~~the Arrangement and all of its Annexes other than~~ the Sector Understanding on Export Credits for ~~Ships~~ Civil Aircraft (~~Annex III~~) is determined and applied according to the provisions of Annex XVI.
- b) The CIRR for official financing support provided under the Arrangement and all of its Annexes, other than the Sector Understanding on Export Credits for Ships (Annex I) and the Sector Understanding on Export Credits for Civil Aircraft (Annex III), is determined and applied according to the provisions of Annex XVII.