

# IBRD Flexible Loan: Major Terms and Conditions

Loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) are competitive and more flexible than other financing options available to many public sector borrowers.

## Repayment Terms

The IBRD Flexible Loan (IFL) allows borrowers to customize repayment terms (i.e. grace period, repayment period, and amortization profile) to meet debt management or project needs. For example, if the objective is to reduce the overall refinancing risk of the debt portfolio, a borrower may choose repayment terms that smooth out the debt service profile. This flexibility can also be used in investment operations to match repayment terms to a project's expected cash flows.

The loan's maximum final maturity is 35 years including grace period. The maximum weighted average maturity or average repayment maturity (ARM) is 20 years. Repayment terms are fixed at loan signing<sup>1</sup>.

## Pricing

The price of the IFL reflects IBRD's AAA credit rating and is stable and transparent. Components of the pricing include the interest rate, front-end fee and commitment fee. The interest rate consists of a market-based variable reference rate and a spread. Interest is paid on the disbursed and outstanding amount of the loan. The reference rate varies by currency (currently 6-Month LIBOR for USD, JPY and GBP and EURIBOR for EUR). The borrower may choose between two types of spreads: a variable or a fixed spread. A one-time front-end fee is charged on the committed loan amount.<sup>2</sup> This fee may be paid by the borrower up front from its own resources or financed out of the loan proceeds. A commitment fee, payable semi-annually, is charged on the undisbursed amount of the loan and starts accruing 60 days after the Loan Agreement is signed.

IBRD conducts an annual review of loan charges—the contractual lending spread, the maturity premium, the front-end fee and the commitment fee—to ensure that pricing is aligned with the prevailing needs of the

## At a Glance

The IBRD Flexible Loan offers:

- Long maturities up to 35 years
- Market-based interest rates reflecting IBRD's AAA credit rating
- Flexibility to tailor repayment terms
- Embedded tools to manage currency or interest rate risk over the life of the loan

institution and its shareholders. The Bank also regularly reviews the components of the fixed spread—projected funding cost, risk premium, and basis swap adjustment for non-USD currencies—to ensure that these reflect underlying market conditions. The Bank also recalculates the funding cost element of the variable spread on a quarterly basis.

## Risk Management Tools

The IFL includes options to manage currency and/or interest rate risks over the life of the loan. These options are embedded in the loan agreement and can be executed at a borrower's request at any time.

To mitigate currency risk, the IFL offers a currency conversion option to change the currency of undisbursed and/or disbursed balances between the major currencies offered (see page 2). Subject to the existence of a liquid swap market, borrowers may also choose to repay an IBRD loan in a growing number of local currencies.

To manage interest rate risk, borrowers have the option to change from a floating to a fixed interest rate or vice versa. Borrowers with variable spread loans also have the option of changing from a floating reference rate to the fixed rate equivalent of that reference rate or vice versa, while maintaining the variable spread. Borrowers with variable spread loans also have the option of fixing the spread<sup>3</sup>. The IFL also offers the flexibility of using interest rate caps or collars to manage interest rate volatility.

<sup>1</sup> The repayment schedules of Development Policy Loans with a Deferred Drawdown Option (DPL DDOs) including Catastrophe Risk DDOs (CAT DDOs) may be determined at the time of drawdown within prevailing maturity limits.

<sup>2</sup> DPL DDOs including CAT DDOs carry similar lending rates as regular IBRD loans. However, loan charges vary according to the

type of DDO. Different lending rates also apply to Special Development Policy Loans (SDPLs). See DDO and SDPL product terms: <http://treasury.worldbank.org/bdm/htm/financing.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Except for loans with a variable spread that is first converted into local currency.

<b>Lending Rate</b>	<p>Lending rate consists of a variable reference rate plus a spread. The lending rate is reset on each interest payment date, and applies to interest periods beginning on those dates. The <b>reference rate</b> is the value of the 6-Month LIBOR or EURIBOR at the start of an interest period for most currencies, or another recognized market rate. Borrowers have a choice of <b>spread</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fixed for the life of the loan:</b> Consists of IBRD's projected funding cost margin relative to the applicable reference rate, plus IBRD's contractual spread of 0.50%, risk premium, maturity premium for loans with average maturities greater than eight years, and basis swap adjustment for non-USD loans.</li> <li>• <b>Variable, resets quarterly:</b> Consists of IBRD's average cost margin on related funding relative to the applicable reference rate plus IBRD's contractual spread of 0.50% and a maturity premium for loans with average maturities greater than eight years. The variable spread is recalculated on a quarterly basis, and applies to the interest period commencing on the interest payment date falling on, or immediately following the recalculation date, but falling prior to the next recalculation date.</li> </ul>
<b>Fees</b>	<p>Front-end fee of 0.25% of loan amount is due within 60 days of effectiveness date of the project, but before the first withdrawal from the loan, and may be financed out of loan proceeds. Commitment fee of 0.25% is charged on undisbursed balances, and starts to accrue 60 days after signing date. Effective February 11, 2014, there is a surcharge of 50 basis points per annum on loan balances in excess of \$16.5 billion for Brazil, China, Indonesia, and Mexico and \$17.5 billion for India.</p>
<b>Maturity Limits and Repayment Schedules</b>	<p><u>Policy Limits:</u> Final maturity is 35 years including grace period (during which only interest is paid), while maximum weighted average maturity is 20 years.</p> <p>Borrowers have the flexibility to tailor the repayment schedule during loan preparation and, once the loan is signed, the repayment schedule cannot be changed for the life of the loan. Borrowers have a choice of two types of repayment schedules:</p> <p><u>Commitment-linked Repayment Schedule:</u> The loan repayment schedule begins at loan commitment. Principal repayments are calculated as a share of the total loan amount disbursed and outstanding.</p> <p><u>Disbursement-linked Repayment Schedule:</u> The loan repayment schedule is linked to actual disbursements. Each semester's group of disbursements is similar to a tranche with its own repayment terms (i.e. grace period, final maturity, and repayment pattern). Each semester's group of disbursements would have the same repayment terms.</p>
<b>Loan Currencies</b>	<p><u>Currency of Commitment:</u> Loans are offered in most major currencies like EUR, GBP, JPY and USD. Other currencies may be available if the IBRD can fund itself efficiently in the market. Borrowers may contract loans in more than one currency.</p> <p><u>Currency of Disbursement:</u> Disbursements may take place in any currency, as requested by the client. Currencies are acquired by IBRD and passed on to the client at market terms. The loan obligation, however, remains in the currency of commitment.</p> <p><u>Currency of Repayment:</u> The loan principal, interest, and any other fees must be repaid in the currency(ies) of commitment. However, currency conversion options may be available as specified below.</p>
<b>Currency Conversion</b>	<p><u>Undisbursed Amounts:</u> All or part of the undisbursed balance may be converted from one major currency into another major currency which IBRD can efficiently intermediate (see "Currency of Commitment" above).</p> <p><u>Disbursed Amounts:</u> All or part of the disbursed and outstanding balance may be converted into another currency, including the borrower's local currency, subject to the availability of a liquid swap market for that currency. Amounts converted to certain local currencies may be repaid in a major currency, although the borrower's obligation will be denominated in the local currency.</p>
<b>Interest Rate Conversion</b>	<p><u>Loans with a Fixed Spread:</u> The variable lending rate (i.e. reference rate plus the fixed spread) may be converted to a fixed rate, and may be subsequently converted to a variable lending rate. This option may be exercised by the borrower at any time during the life of the loan for all or part of the disbursed and outstanding balance. Alternatively, a cap or collar on the variable rate may be established for up to the entire disbursed and outstanding amount.</p> <p><u>Loans with a Variable Spread:</u> The variable spread on the entire loan amount may be converted to a fixed spread, but not vice versa. The following options may be exercised by the borrower at any time during the life of the loan for all or part of the disbursed and outstanding balance. The reference rate applicable to the disbursed balance may be converted to a fixed rate, and may be subsequently converted to a variable reference rate. The variable spread component of the lending rate, however, will not be converted. The entire variable lending rate may also be converted to a fixed rate after first fixing the spread. Alternatively, a cap or collar on the reference rate may be established for up to the entire disbursed and outstanding amount.</p>
<b>Conversion Fees</b>	<p>Transaction fee(s) for currency and/or interest rate conversions may apply (see <a href="http://treasury.worldbank.org">treasury.worldbank.org</a>).</p>
<b>Payment Dates</b>	<p>Debt service payment dates will be on the 1st or 15th day of a month and semi-annually thereafter, as decided by the borrower during loan negotiation.</p>
<b>Prepayment</b>	<p>Borrowers may prepay, at any time, all or part of the outstanding loan balance. Prepayment charges apply based on (i) IBRD's redeployment cost of the prepaid loan amount and (ii) the cost of unwinding any outstanding interest or currency conversions plus any transaction fees applicable to amounts that were previously converted.</p>

The above is not necessarily a complete treatment of the terms and conditions of these loans. Borrowers should refer to their loan agreements and General Conditions with respect to their individual loans. Contact: Miguel Navarro-Martin, Head of Banking Products, [mnavarromartin@worldbank.org](mailto:mnavarromartin@worldbank.org), +1 (202) 458-4722.