Corporate Social Responsibility Policy (“CSR Policy”)

1. Background and context:

Azim Premji Foundation for Development (hereinafter referred to as “the Company”) is a not-for profit organisation working towards the vision of “facilitating a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society”. The main thrust of the Company is to contribute to creating a deep, at scale and institutionalised impact on the quality of education in India as well as other important areas of equity and human well-being.

Field Institutes and Azim Premji University are the institutional anchors of the Company’s work in education. The Field Institutes are vibrant, high quality centres located in rural districts and state capitals of select Indian states. These institutes play a leading role in an institution led approach to catalyzing social change and offer on the ground support in different aspects of school education. Azim Premji University (“University”) is a philanthropic initiative that has an explicit social purpose. The University aims to create outstanding and effective programmes that prepare graduates with great competence, integrity and social commitment to contribute significantly to India’s social and education sector.

The Company’s CSR Policy intends to contribute to social, economic and environmental change in India with a significant lasting impact and is effective from the financial year 2021-22.

2. CSR projects, programs and activities:

In accordance with the primary CSR philosophy and the specified activities under section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the “Act”) read with Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 (the “CSR Rules”), and any amendment(s) thereof, the Company has identified the following thrust areas for its CSR programs (“CSR Activities”):

a) Promoting education, including special education and employment-enhancing vocational skills, especially among children, women, the elderly and the differently abled, and livelihood enhancement projects.

b) Engaging with the community to promote health care including preventive health care, eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, making available safe drinking water and promoting sanitation.

c) Strengthening rural areas by improving accessibility, housing, drinking water, sanitation, power and livelihoods, thereby creating sustainable villages.

d) Ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water.

e) Promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans; setting up old age homes, day care centers and such other facilities for senior citizens and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups.
f) Protection of national heritage, art and culture including restoration of buildings and sites of historical importance and works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion and development of traditional arts and handicrafts.

3. **Powers and functions of Board:**

The Board of Directors of the Company (the “Board”) itself shall carry on the activities of Corporate Social Responsibility in line with section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the “Act”) read with the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 (hereinafter referred to as 'the CSR Rules'), as amended from time to time.

The Board shall carry out the following functions:

a) to formulate and amend, from time to time, this CSR Policy indicating activities to be undertaken as specified in Schedule VII of the Act;
b) to approve the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the CSR Activities;
c) to formulate annual action plan in pursuance of the CSR Policy in accordance with the applicable law;
d) to monitor the implementation of the CSR Activities in terms of the CSR Policy;
e) to ensure that the administrative overheads are not more than 5% of the total CSR expenditure;
f) to ensure that the funds so disbursed have been utilized for the purposes and in the manner as approved;
g) to approve for transfer of unspent CSR amount, if any, in accordance with the law; and
h) to ensure annual reporting of CSR Policy and activities to the appropriate governmental authority as mandated by applicable law.

4. **Implementation, monitoring and review mechanism:**

The Company may undertake CSR Activities through Company personnel, or through such other eligible Registered Public Trusts, Registered Societies or companies established under Section 8 of the Act.

The Company may collaborate with other Companies for undertaking the CSR Activities subject to fulfilment of separate reporting requirements as prescribed under the Rules.

The Board shall put in place a transparent monitoring and reporting mechanism for ensuring effective implementation of the projects, programs and activities. Such monitoring mechanisms will include visits, meetings and progress/status reporting by the project teams.

5. **Amendments:**

Any or all provisions of this CSR Policy may be amended by the Board or in accordance with any statutory guidelines that may be issued from time to time.