

CONFORMED COPY

CREDIT NUMBER 3479 BEN

Development Credit Agreement
(Public Expenditure Reform Adjustment Credit)

between

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dated April 19, 2001

CREDIT NUMBER 3479 BEN

DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT, dated April 19, 2001, between REPUBLIC OF BENIN (the Borrower) and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (the Association).

WHEREAS (A) the Association has received from the Borrower a letter dated December 20, 2000, describing a program of actions, objectives and policies designed to achieve structural adjustment of the Borrower's economy (hereinafter called the Program), declaring the Borrower's commitment to the execution of the Program, and requesting assistance from the Association in support of the Program during the execution thereof;

(B) the Borrower has carried out the measures and taken the actions described in Schedule 2 of this Agreement to the satisfaction of the Association and has maintained a macroeconomic policy framework satisfactory to the Association; and

(C) on the basis, inter alia, of the foregoing, the Association has decided in support of the Program to provide such assistance to the Borrower by making the Credit in one tranche as hereinafter provided;

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

General Conditions; Definitions

Section 1.01. The "General Conditions Applicable to Development Credit Agreements" of the Association, dated January 1, 1985 (as amended through October 6, 1999), with the modifications thereof set forth below (the General Conditions) constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

(a) Section 2.01, paragraph 12, is modified to read:

"'Project' means the program, referred to in the Preamble to the Development Credit Agreement, in support of which the Credit is made.";

(b) Section 4.01 is modified to read:

"Except as the Borrower and the Association shall otherwise agree, withdrawals from the Credit Account shall be made in the currency of the deposit account specified in Section 2.02 of the Development Credit Agreement.";

(c) Section 5.01 is modified to read:

"The Borrower shall be entitled to withdraw the proceeds of the Credit from the Credit Account in accordance with the provisions of the Development Credit Agreement and of these General Conditions.";

(d) The last sentence of Section 5.03 is deleted;

(e) Section 9.06 (c) is modified to read:

"(c) Not later than six months after the Closing Date or such later date as may be agreed for this purpose between the Borrower and the Association, the Borrower shall prepare and furnish to the Association a report, of such scope and in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request, on the execution of the program referred to in the Preamble to the Development Credit Agreement, the performance by the Borrower and the Association of their respective obligations under the Development Credit Agreement and the accomplishment of the purposes of the Credit."; and

(f) Section 9.04 is deleted and Sections 9.05, 9.06 (as modified above), 9.07 and 9.08 are renumbered, respectively, Sections 9.04, 9.05, 9.06 and 9.07.

Section 1.02. Unless the context otherwise requires, the several terms defined in the General Conditions and in the Preamble to this Agreement have the respective meanings therein set forth and the following additional terms have the following meanings:

(a) "CFA Franc" means the currency of the Borrower; and

(b) "Deposit Account" means the account referred to in Section 2.02 (b) of this Agreement.

ARTICLE II

The Credit

Section 2.01. The Association agrees to lend to the Borrower, on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in the Development Credit Agreement, an amount in various currencies equivalent to seven million eight hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 7,800,000).

Section 2.02. (a) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Section, the Borrower shall be entitled to withdraw the proceeds of the Credit from the Credit Account in support of the Program.

(b) The Borrower shall open, prior to furnishing to the Association the first request for withdrawal from the Credit Account, and thereafter maintain in its central bank, a deposit account in CFA Francs on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association. All withdrawals from the Credit Account shall be deposited by the

Association into the Deposit Account.

(c) The Borrower undertakes that the proceeds of the Credit shall not be used to finance expenditures excluded pursuant to the provisions of Schedule 1 to this Agreement. If the Association shall have determined at any time that any proceeds of the Credit shall have been used to make a payment for an expenditure so excluded, the Borrower shall, promptly upon notice from the Association: (i) deposit into the Deposit Account an amount equal to the amount of said payment; or (ii) if the Association shall so request, refund such amount to the Association. Amounts refunded to the Association upon such request shall be credited to the Credit Account for cancellation.

Section 2.03. The Closing Date shall be December 31, 2001, or such later date as the Association shall establish. The Association shall promptly notify the Borrower of such later date.

Section 2.04. (a) The Borrower shall pay to the Association a commitment charge on the principal amount of the Credit not withdrawn from time to time at a rate to be set by the Association as of June 30 of each year, but not to exceed the rate of one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) per annum.

(b) The commitment charge shall accrue: (i) from the date sixty days after the date of this Agreement (the accrual date) to the respective dates on which amounts shall be withdrawn by the Borrower from the Credit account or cancelled; and (ii) at the rate set as of the June 30 immediately preceding the accrual date and at such other rates as may be set from time to time thereafter pursuant to paragraph (a) above. The rate set as of June 30 in each year shall be applied from the next date in that year specified in Section 2.06 of this Agreement.

(c) The commitment charge shall be paid: (i) at such places as the Association shall reasonably request; (ii) without restrictions of any kind imposed by, or in the territory of, the Borrower; and (iii) in the currency specified in this Agreement for the purposes of Section 4.02 of the General Conditions or in such other eligible currency or currencies as may from time to time be designated or selected pursuant to the provisions of that Section.

Section 2.05. The Borrower shall pay to the Association a service charge at the rate of three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum on the principal amount of the Credit withdrawn and outstanding from time to time.

Section 2.06. Commitment and service charges shall be payable semiannually on March 15 and September 15 in each year.

Section 2.07. (a) Subject to paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) below, the Borrower shall repay the principal amount of the Credit in semiannual installments payable on each March 15 and September 15 commencing September 15, 2011, and ending March 15, 2041. Each installment to and including the installment payable on March 15, 2021, shall be one percent (1%) of such principal amount, and each installment thereafter shall be two percent (2%) of such principal amount.

(b) Whenever: (i) the Borrower's per capita gross national product (GNP), as determined by the Association, shall have exceeded for three consecutive years the level established annually by the Association for determining eligibility to access the Association's resources; and (ii) the Bank shall consider the Borrower creditworthy for Bank lending, the Association may, subsequent to the review and approval thereof by the Executive Directors of the Association and after due consideration by the Association of the development of the Borrower's economy, modify the repayment of installments under paragraph (a) above by: (A) requiring the Borrower to repay twice the amount of each such installment not yet due until the principal amount of the Credit shall have been repaid; and (B) requiring the Borrower to commence repayment of the principal amount of the Credit as of the first semiannual payment date referred to in paragraph (a) above falling six months or more after the date on which the Association notifies the Borrower that the events set out in this paragraph (b) have occurred, provided, however, that there shall be a grace period of a minimum of five years on such repayment of principal.

(c) If so requested by the Borrower, the Association may revise the modification referred to in paragraph (b) above to include, in lieu of some or all of

the increase in the amounts of such installments, the payment of interest at an annual rate agreed with the Association on the principal amount of the Credit withdrawn and outstanding from time to time, provided that, in the judgment of the Association, such revision shall not change the grant element obtained under the above-mentioned repayment modification.

(d) If, at any time after a modification of terms pursuant to paragraph (b) above, the Association determines that the Borrower's economic condition has deteriorated significantly, the Association may, if so requested by the Borrower, further modify the terms of repayment to conform to the schedule of installments as provided in paragraph (a) above.

Section 2.08. The currency of the French Republic is hereby specified for the purposes of Section 4.02 of the General Conditions.

ARTICLE III

Particular Covenants

Section 3.01. (a) The Borrower and the Association shall from time to time, at the request of either party, exchange views on the progress achieved in carrying out the Program.

(b) Prior to each such exchange of views, the Borrower shall furnish to the Association for its review and comment a report on the progress achieved in carrying out the Program, in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request.

(c) Without limitation upon the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Section, the Borrower shall exchange views with the Association on any proposed action to be taken after the disbursement of the Credit which would have the effect of materially reversing the objectives of the Program, or any action taken under the Program.

Section 3.02. Upon the Association's request, the Borrower shall:

(a) have the Deposit Account audited in accordance with appropriate auditing principles consistently applied, by independent auditors acceptable to the Association;

(b) furnish to the Association as soon as available, but in any case not later than four (4) months after the date of the Association's request for such audit, a certified copy of the report of such audit by said auditors, of such scope and in such detail as the Association shall have reasonably requested; and

(c) furnish to the Association such other information concerning the Deposit Account and the audit thereof as the Association shall have reasonably requested.

ARTICLE IV

Additional Event of Suspension

Section 4.01. Pursuant to Section 6.02 (1) of the General Conditions, the following additional event is specified, namely, that a situation has arisen which shall make it improbable that the Program, or a significant part thereof, will be carried out.

ARTICLE V

Effective Date; Termination

Section 5.01. The following event is specified as an additional condition to the effectiveness of the Development Credit Agreement within the meaning of Section 12.01 (b) of the General Conditions, namely, that the Minister of the Borrower responsible for finance has issued to all the ministries of the Borrower, the notification of

budgetary allocations for 2001.

Section 5.02. The date ninety (90) days after the date of this Agreement is hereby specified for the purposes of Section 12.04 of the General Conditions.

ARTICLE VI

Representative of the Borrower; Addresses

Section 6.01. The Minister of the Borrower at the time responsible for finance is designated as the representative of the Borrower for the purposes of Section 11.03 of the General Conditions.

Section 6.02. The following addresses are specified for the purposes of Section 11.01 of the General Conditions:

For the Borrower:

Ministère des Finances et de l'Economie
B.P. 302
Cotonou
Republic of Benin

Cable address:

Telex:

Facsimile:

MINFINANCES

5009 MINFIN or

(229) 30 18 51

Cotonou

5289 MINFIN

(229)

31 53 56

For the Association:

International Development Association
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
United States of America

Cable address:

Telex:

Facsimile:

INDEVAS

248423 (MCI) or

(202) 477 6391

Washington, D.C.

64145 (MCI)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, acting through their duly authorized representatives, have caused this Agreement to be signed in their respective names in the District of Columbia, United States of America, as of the day and year first above written.

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

By /s/ Abdoulaye Bio-Tchané

Authorized Representative

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By /s/ Sidi Boubacar

Acting Regional Vice President
Africa

SCHEDULE 1

Excluded Expenditures

For purposes of Section 2.02 (c) of this Agreement, the proceeds of the Credit shall not be used to finance any of the following expenditures:

1. expenditures in the currency of the Borrower or for goods or services supplied from the territory of the Borrower;
2. expenditures for goods or services supplied under a contract which any national or international financing institution or agency other than the Bank or the Association shall have financed or agreed to finance, or which the Bank or the Association shall have financed or agreed to finance under another credit or a loan;
3. expenditures for goods included in the following groups or subgroups of the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC, Rev.3), published by the United Nations in Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 34/Rev.3 (1986) (the SITC), or any successor groups or subgroups under future revisions to the SITC, as designated by the Association by notice to the Borrower:

Group	Subgroup	Description of Items
112	-	Alcoholic beverages
121	-	Tobacco, unmanufactured, tobacco refuse
122	-	Tobacco, manufactured (whether or not containing tobacco substitutes)
525	-	Radioactive and associated materials
667	-	Pearls, precious and semiprecious stones, unworked or worked
718	718.7	Nuclear reactors, and parts thereof; fuel elements (cartridges), non-irradiated, for nuclear reactors
728	728.43	Tobacco processing machinery
897	897.3	Jewelry of gold, silver or platinum group metals (except watches and watch cases) and goldsmiths' or silversmiths' wares (including set gems)
971	-	Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)

4. expenditures for goods intended for a military or paramilitary purpose or for luxury consumption;
5. expenditures for environmentally hazardous goods (for purposes of this paragraph the term "environmentally hazardous goods" means goods, the manufacture, use or import of which is prohibited under the laws of the Borrower or international agreements to

which the Borrower is a party);

6. expenditures: (a) in the territories of any country which is not a member of the Bank or for goods procured in, or services supplied from, such territories; or (b) on account of any payment to persons or entities, or any import of goods, if such payment or import is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations; and

7. expenditures under a contract in respect of which the Association determines that corrupt or fraudulent practices were engaged in by representatives of the Borrower or of a beneficiary of the Credit during the procurement or execution of such contract, without the Borrower having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to the Association to remedy the situation.

SCHEDULE 2

Measures and Actions Referred to in Recital (B) of this Agreement

1. Under the Borrower's Ordonnance No. 2000-001 dated January 2, 2000, the Borrower has adopted its 2000 Finance Law including, in particular, the program budgets for each of the ministries of the Borrower in charge of education, health, transport, rural development and environment, respectively (the "Ministries").

2. The Minister of the Borrower responsible for finance has instructed all the ministries of the Borrower to monitor indicators of disbursement lags for the implementation of the 2000 Budget, and provided guidelines for such monitoring.

3. Each of the Ministries has submitted to the Association reports regarding the implementation of the 2000 Budget during the first semester of 2000.

4. The Minister of the Borrower responsible for finance has submitted to the Association a report regarding the lag indicators for the implementation of the 2000 Budget during the months of June, July and August of 2000.

5. Under the Borrower's Arrêté No.057/MFE/DC/DGML/DMP dated February 14, 2000, the Minister of the Borrower responsible for finance has adopted a procurement manual to be applied by all the ministries of the Borrower for procurement purposes.

6. The Borrower has held a first training seminar to disseminate the procurement manual referred to above.

7. Under the Borrower's Decree No. 2000-192 dated April 11, 2000, the Borrower has established a national Procurement Board.

8. The Ministry of the Borrower responsible for finance has issued a budget preparation letter dated June 26, 2000 for the preparation of the 2001 Finance Law, including the procedures to be followed by the Ministries to prepare appropriate program budgets.

9. Under the Borrower's Decree No. 2000-534 dated October 30, 2000, the Borrower has transmitted to the Parliament the draft 2001 Finance Law, satisfactory to the Association, which, in particular, includes the following:

(i) new budget nomenclature consistent with the West African Economic and Monetary Union directives;

(ii) program budgets for each of the Ministries; and

(iii) appropriate funding for monitoring and evaluation for each of the Ministries.

10. Under the Borrower's Decree No. 2000-601 dated November 29, 2000, the Borrower has adopted a reformed budget implementation system satisfactory to the Association.

11. The Minister of the Borrower responsible for finance has designed and started implementing a training program for the Ministries on budget preparation, budget implementation, monitoring and evaluation, satisfactory to the Association.

12. The Minister of the Borrower responsible for finance has issued the final

accounts for the 1998 Finance Law, which have been subsequently audited by the Chamber of Accounts of the Borrower's Supreme Court, and transmitted by the Borrower to the Parliament.

13. The Borrower has adopted a protocol defining the modalities of the ex-post audit by the Chamber of Accounts of the Borrower's Supreme Court of the implementation of the 2001 Budget by the Ministries.

14. Under the Borrower's Arrêté No. 011/MFE/DC/SP dated January 25, 2000, the Borrower has established the technical committee in charge of developing a national anti-corruption strategy.

15. The Minister of Civil Service of the Borrower has appointed and trained during 1998 and 1999, seventeen additional internal auditors for the General Inspectorate of Finance at the Ministry of Finance.

