

Date: 19-Jan-2024

H.E. M. Jean-Baptiste Ondaye
Minister of Economy and Finance
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Boulevard Denis Sassou-N'guessou
B.P. 2083
Brazzaville
Republic of Congo

**Re: Republic of Congo: Advance Agreement for Preparation of Proposed
Strengthening Electricity Services Project
Project Preparation Advance No. V509-CG**

Excellency:

I refer to the Advance Agreement (“Agreement”) between the Republic of Congo (“Recipient”) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“World Bank”) for the preparation of the above-referenced Project. The Agreement provides that the World Bank may issue additional instructions regarding the withdrawal of the proceeds of Project Preparation Advance No. V509-CG. This letter (“Disbursement Letter”), as revised from time to time, constitutes the additional instructions.

The attached World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing, dated February 2017, (“Disbursement Guidelines”) (Attachment 1), are an integral part of the Disbursement Letter. The manner in which the provisions in the Disbursement Guidelines apply to the PPA is specified below. Sections and subsections in parentheses below refer to the relevant sections and subsections in the Disbursement Guidelines and, unless otherwise defined in this letter, the capitalized terms used have the meanings ascribed to them in the Disbursement Guidelines.

I. Disbursement Arrangements

- (i) **Disbursement Methods (Section 2).** The following Disbursement Methods may be used under the PPA:
- Reimbursement
 - Advance
 - Direct Payment
- (ii) **Disbursement Deadline Date (subsection 3.7).** The Disbursement Deadline Date is the Refinancing Date specified in the Agreement. Any changes to this date will be notified by the World Bank.
- (iii) **Disbursement Condition (subsection 3.8).** Please refer to the Disbursement Condition(s) in Section 3.02 of the Annex to the Agreement.

II. Withdrawal of PPA Proceeds

- (i) **Authorized Signatures (subsection 3.1).** A letter in the Form attached (Attachment 2) should be furnished to the World Bank at the address indicated below providing the name(s) and specimen signature(s) of the official(s) authorized to sign Applications:

The world Bank.
Resident Mission
Brazzaville Republic of Congo
Attention: Country Director for the Republic of Congo

- (ii) **Applications (subsections 3.2 - 3.3).** All Withdrawal and Documentation Applications will be delivered to the Bank via the Bank's website Client Connection
- (iii) **Electronic Delivery (subsection 3.4).** The World Bank may permit the Recipient to electronically deliver to the World Bank Applications (with supporting documents) through the World Bank's Client Connection, web-based portal. The option to deliver Applications to the World Bank by electronic means may be effected if: (a) the Recipient has designated in writing, pursuant to the terms of subparagraph (i) of this Section, its officials who are authorized to sign and deliver Applications and to receive secure identification credentials ("SIDC") from the World Bank for the purpose of delivering such Applications by electronic means; and (b) all such officials designated by the Recipient have registered as users of Client Connection. If the World Bank agrees, the World Bank will provide the Recipient with SIDC for the designated officials. Following which, the designated officials may deliver Applications electronically by completing Form 2380, which is accessible through Client Connection (<https://clientconnection.worldbank.org>). The Recipient may continue to exercise the option of preparing and delivering Applications in paper form. The World Bank reserves the right and may, in its sole discretion, temporarily or permanently disallow the electronic delivery of Applications by the Recipient.
- (iv) **Terms and Conditions of Use of SIDC to Process Applications.** By designating officials to use SIDC and by choosing to deliver the Applications electronically, the Recipient confirms through the authorized signatory letter its agreement to: (a) abide by the *Terms and Conditions of Use of Secure Identification Credentials in connection with Use of Electronic Means to Process Applications and Supporting Documentation* ("Terms and Conditions of Use of Secure Identification Credentials") provided in Attachment 3; and (b) to cause such official to abide by those terms and conditions.
- (v) **Minimum Value of Applications (subsection 3.5).** The Minimum Value of Applications is 20% of DA ceiling.
- (vi) **Advances (sections 5 and 6)**
- **Type of Designated Account[s] (subsection 5.3):** Segregated
 - **Currency of Designated Account[s] (subsection 5.4):** XAF
 - **Financial Institution at which the Designated Account[s] Will Be Opened (subsection 5.5) :** Crédit du Congo
 - **Ceiling (subsection 6.1):** XAF 360,000,000

III. Reporting on Use of PPA Proceeds

(i) **Supporting Documentation (section 4).** Supporting documentation should be provided with each application for withdrawal as set out below:

- **For requests for Reimbursement:**

- o Statement of Expenditure in the form attached (Attachment 4)

- **For reporting eligible expenditures paid from the Designated Account:**

- o Statement of Expenditure in the form attached (Attachment 4)

- **For requests for Direct Payment:** records evidencing eligible expenditures, e.g., copies of receipts, supplier invoices.

(ii) **Frequency of Reporting Eligible Expenditures Paid from the Designated Account (subsection 6.3):** Monthly

IV. Other Important Information

For additional information on disbursement arrangements, please refer to the Disbursement Handbook available on the World Bank's public website at <http://www.worldbank.org> and its secure website "Client Connection" at <http://clientconnection.worldbank.org>. Print copies are available upon request. From the Client Connection website, you will be able to download Applications, monitor the near real-time status of the PPA, and retrieve related policy, financial, and procurement information. If you have not already done so, the World Bank recommends that you register as a user of the Client Connection website (<http://clientconnection.worldbank.org>). From this website you will be able to download Applications, monitor the near real-time status of the PPA, and retrieve related policy, financial, and procurement information. For more information about the website and registration arrangements, please contact the World Bank by email at clientconnection@worldbank.org.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please contact askloans@worldbank.org using the above reference.

Yours sincerely,



Cheick Fantamady Kante
Country Director for Congo
Africa West and Central Region

^{a/}**Attachments**

1. ^{b/} Form of Authorized Signatory Letter
2. ^{c/} Statement of Expenditure (SOE)

Attachment 1 – Form of Authorized Signatory Letter

[Letterhead]
Ministry of Finance
[Street address]
[City] [Country]

[DATE]

The World Bank
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
United States of America

Attention: [Country Director]

Dear [Country Director]:

Re: Republic of Congo: Advance Agreement for Preparation of
Proposed Strengthening Electricity Services Project
Project Preparation Advance No. V509-CG

I refer to the Advance Agreement (Agreement”) between the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“Bank”) and [Recipient Name] (“Recipient”), providing for the above Project Preparation Advance. For the purposes of Section 2.02 of the General Conditions as defined in the Agreement, any ¹ [one/two/three] of the persons whose authenticated specimen signatures appear below is/are authorized on behalf of the Recipient to sign applications for withdrawal [and applications for a special commitment] under this Preparation Advance:

For the purpose of delivering the Applications to the Bank, ² [one/two/three] of the persons whose authenticated specimen signatures appear below is/are authorized on behalf of the Recipient, acting [individually³ /jointly⁴] to deliver the Applications and evidence in support thereof on the terms and conditions specified by the Bank.

¹ Instruction to the Recipient: Stipulate if more than one person needs to sign Applications, and how many or which positions, and if any thresholds apply. *Please delete this footnote in final letter that is sent to the Bank.*

² Instruction to the Recipient: Stipulate if more than one person needs to *jointly* sign Applications, if so, please indicate the actual number. *Please delete this footnote in final letter that is sent to the Bank.*

³ Instruction to the Recipient: Use this bracket if any one of the authorized persons may sign; if this is not applicable, please delete. *Please delete this footnote in final letter that is sent to the Bank.*

This Authorization also confirms that the Recipient is authorizing such persons to accept Secure Identification Credentials (SIDC) and to deliver the Applications and supporting documents to the Bank including by electronic means. The Bank shall rely upon such representations and warranties, including the representations and warranties contained in the *Terms and Conditions of Use of Secure Identification Credentials in connection with Use of Electronic Means to Process Applications and Supporting Documentation* ("Terms and Conditions of Use of SIDC"), the Recipient represents and warrants to the Bank that it will cause such persons to abide by those terms and conditions.

This Authorization replaces and supersedes any Authorization currently in the Bank records with respect to the Agreement(s) referred to in the subject line of this Authorization.

Signatory Details

Name	Position	Email ID
[Signatory Name]	[Title]	[Email]

Specimen Signatures

Signatory Name	Signature 1	Signature 2	Signature 3
[User Name]			
[User Name]			

Yours truly,

/ signed /

[Position]⁵

⁴ Instruction to the Recipient: Use this bracket only if several individuals must jointly sign each Application; if this is not applicable, please delete. *Please delete this footnote in final letter that is sent to the Bank.*

⁵ Instruction to Bank staff: please forward this letter to the Country Lawyer for further processing (Recipient: please do not delete this note).

Attachment 2 – Statement of Expenditures

IBRD- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Statement of Expenditures

Payment made during the period from to

The following expenditures have been incurred during the retroactive financing period (please tick)

Yes	No
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 The following expenditures have been incurred before the closing date of the loan/credit/grant (please tick)

Yes	No
-----	----

Financier	
Loan/Credit/Grant #	
Application #	
Category #	
Page #	

												ONLY for the Designated Account		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	
Item No	Supplier's Name	Brief Description of the expenditure	Prior Review Contract? (YES or NO)	Contract # (Client Connection # for Prior Review contracts)	Contract currency and amount (original + amendment)	Invoice number	Date of payment	Total amount of invoice covered by Application (net of retention)	% Financed by the Bank	Eligible Amount (Col 9 X 10)	Exchange rate	Date of Withdrawal from the Designated Account	Amount Withdrawn from the Designated Account (Col 11 / 12)	
									0.00	0.00	TOTAL		0.00	

Supporting documents for this SOE are retained at _____
 (insert location)

A separate form should be used for each category