

Date: 08-Sep-2023

H. E. Félix Moloua
Minister of State in charge of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation
Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation
Rue Martin Luther King
BP 696, Bangui
Central African Republic

Re: Central African Republic: Advance Agreement for Preparation of
Proposed Urban Resilience & Inclusive Cities Project
Project Preparation Advance No. V4960-CF

Excellency:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of Central African Republic (“Recipient”), I am pleased to inform you that the International Development Association (“Bank”) proposes to extend to the Recipient an advance out of the Bank’s Project Preparation Facility in an amount not to exceed four million seven hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred forty-seven Dollars (\$ 4,733,347) (“Advance”) on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this letter agreement (“Agreement”), which includes the attached Annex, to assist in financing the activities described in the Annex (“Activities”). The objective of the Activities is to facilitate the preparation of a proposed project designed to improve access to climate resilient infrastructure, basic services and socioeconomic opportunities, and enhance institutional capacity for local service delivery at the national and sub-national levels in select cities (“Project), for the carrying out of which the Recipient has requested the Bank’s financial assistance.

The Recipient represents, by confirming its agreement below, that: (a) it understands that the provision of the Advance does not constitute or imply any commitment on the part of IBRD or IDA to assist in financing the Project; and (b) it is authorized to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the Activities, repay the Advance and perform its other obligations under this Agreement, all in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

Please confirm the Recipient's agreement to the foregoing by having an authorized official of the Recipient sign and date the enclosed copy of this Agreement, and returning it to the Bank. Upon receipt by the World Bank of this countersigned copy, this Agreement shall become effective as of the date of the countersignature; provided, however, that the offer of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the Bank has not received this countersigned copy within 90 days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the Bank, unless the Bank has established a later date for such purpose.

Very truly yours,
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



By _____
Cheick Fantamady Kante
Country Director for Central African Republic
Africa West and Central Region

AGREED:
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

By 

Authorized Representative

FÉLIX MOLOUA

Name _____

Title Ministre de l'Economie, du Plan et de la Coopération

Date 11-sept.-2023

Enclosures:

- (1) "Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the Bank under its Project Preparation Facility", dated August 1, 2022; and
- (2) Disbursement and Financial Information Letter for the Advance of the same date as this Agreement, together with "Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing", dated February 2017.

Article I
Standard Conditions; Definitions

1.01. **Standard Conditions.** The Standard Conditions (as defined in Section 1.02 below) constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

1.02. **Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the Standard Conditions or in this Section, and the following additional terms shall have the following meanings:

- (a) “Anti-Corruption Guidelines” means, for purposes of paragraph 11 of the Appendix to the Standard Conditions, the “Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants”, dated October 15, 2006, and revised in January, 2011, and as of July 1, 2016.
- (b) “Category” means a category set forth in the table in Section 3.01 of this Agreement.
- (c) “Environmental and Social Commitment Plan” or the acronym “ESCP” means the Recipient’s environmental and social commitment plan, acceptable to the Bank, which sets out a summary of the material measures and actions to address the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the Activities, including the timing of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and any instruments to be prepared thereunder; as the ESCP may be revised from time to time, with prior written agreement of the Bank, and such term includes any annexes or schedules to such plan.
- (d) “Environmental and Social Standards” or “ESSs” means, collectively: (i) “Environmental and Social Standard 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts”; (ii) “Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions”; (iii) “Environmental and Social Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management”; (iv) “Environmental and Social Standard 4: Community Health and Safety”; (v) “Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement”; (vi) “Environmental and Social Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources”; (vii) “Environmental and Social Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities”; (viii) “Environmental and Social Standard 8: Cultural Heritage”; (ix) “Environmental and Social Standard 9: Financial Intermediaries”; (x) “Environmental and Social Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure”; effective on October 1, 2018, as published by the Bank.
- (e) “Implementation Unit” means the project implementation unit established within the Recipient’s METP, pursuant to the Financing Agreement for the Emergency Infrastructure and Connectivity Recovery Project between the Recipient and the Association, dated September 17, 2021 (Grant No. D8670-CF)

- (f) “METP” means *Ministere de l’Equipement et des Travaux-Publics* (formerly known as *Ministère des Travaux Publics et de l’Entretien Routier* (MTPER)), Recipient’s Ministry of Public Works and Road Maintenance.
- (g) “Operating Costs” means the incremental operating expenditures incurred by the Recipient on account of the implementation of the Activities, management, monitoring and evaluation, including office supplies, vehicles operation and maintenance cost, vehicle rental and fuel costs, maintenance of equipment, communication costs, office rental and moving expenses, utilities expenses, consumables, printing and publication costs, bank charges, transport and accommodation, *per diem*, and salaries of locally contracted support staff (excluding the salaries of Recipient’s civil servants) and other miscellaneous costs directly associated with the implementation of the Activities as shall be agreed with the World Bank.
- (h) “Procurement Regulations” means, for purposes of paragraph 50 of the Appendix to the Standard Conditions, the “World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers”, dated November 2020.
- (i) “Standard Conditions” means the “Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the Bank under its Project Preparation Facility”, dated August 1, 2022.
- (j) “Training” means the training provided under the Activities, including seminars, workshops, knowledge sharing activities and study tours, and covers the following costs associated with such activity: travel and subsistence expenditures and other travel-related allowances for training participants such as per diems and reasonable accommodation costs, costs associated with securing the services of trainers, rental of training facilities, preparation and reproduction of training materials, and other costs directly related to training preparation and implementation, all based on periodic budgets acceptable to the World Bank (but excluding costs of consulting services).

Article II

Execution of the Activities

2.01. ***Description of the Activities.*** The Activities for which the Advance is provided consist of the following parts:

- (a) Carrying out preparatory studies including technical design studies, and environmental and social framework studies.
- (b) Preparation of key Project documents including implementation manual, and procurement strategy and plan.
- (c) Providing support in establishment of management unit for the proposed Project including recruitment of staff and acquisition of necessary equipment.
- (d) Providing support in activities carried out by preparation focal points positioned within the Recipient’s ministry of urban planning, land reform, urban affairs and housing.

2.02. ***Execution of the Activities Generally.*** The Recipient declares its commitment to the objectives of the Activities. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Activities through the

implementation unit (Implementation Unit) in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article II of the Standard Conditions; (b) this Article II; and (c) the Anti-Corruption Guidelines.

2.03. ***Institutional and Other Arrangements.*** Without limitation upon the provisions of Section 2.02 above, the Recipient shall, throughout the Refinancing Date, maintain the Implementation Unit with functions and resources acceptable to the Bank and with competent staff in adequate numbers with experience and qualifications acceptable to the Bank to be responsible for the overall implementation of the Activities, including financial management and procurement.

2.04. ***Environmental and Social Standards.***

- (a) The Recipient shall ensure that the Activities are carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.
- (b) Without limitation upon paragraph (a) above, the Recipient shall ensure that the Activities are implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (“ESCP”), in a manner acceptable to the Bank. To this end, the Recipient shall ensure that:
 - (i) the measures and actions specified in the ESCP are implemented with due diligence and efficiency, as provided in the ESCP;
 - (ii) sufficient funds are available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP;
 - (iii) policies and procedures are maintained, and qualified and experienced staff in adequate numbers are retained to implement the ESCP, as provided in the ESCP; and
 - (iv) the ESCP, or any provision thereof, is not amended, repealed, suspended or waived, except as the Bank shall otherwise agree in writing, as specified in the ESCP, and ensure that the revised ESCP is disclosed promptly thereafter.
- (c) In case of any inconsistencies between the ESCP and the provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
- (d) The Recipient shall ensure that:
 - (i) all measures necessary are taken to collect, compile, and furnish to the Bank through regular reports, with the frequency specified in the ESCP, and promptly in a separate report or reports, if so requested by the Bank, information on the status of compliance with the ESCP and the environmental and social instruments referred to therein, all such reports in form and substance acceptable to the Bank, setting out, inter alia: (A) the status of implementation of the ESCP; (B) conditions, if any, which interfere or threaten to interfere with the implementation of the ESCP; and (C) corrective and preventive measures taken or required to be taken to address such conditions; and
 - (ii) the Bank is promptly notified of any incident or accident related to or having an impact on the Activities which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, in

accordance with the ESCP, the environmental and social instruments referenced therein and the Environmental and Social Standards.

- (e) The Recipient shall establish, publicize, maintain and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances of Activities-affected people, and take all measures necessary and appropriate to resolve, or facilitate the resolution of, such concerns and grievances, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.

2.05. **Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation of the Activities.** The Recipient shall ensure that each Activity Report is furnished to the Bank not later than forty-five (45) days after each calendar quarter, covering the calendar quarter.

Article III Withdrawal of the Advance

3.01. **Eligible Expenditures.** The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Advance in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article III of the Standard Conditions; and (b) this Section, to finance Eligible Expenditures as set forth in the following table. The table specifies each category of Eligible Expenditures that may be financed out of the proceeds of the Advance (“Category”), the amount of the Advance allocated to each Category, and the percentage of expenditures to be financed for Eligible Expenditures in each Category:

Category	Amount of the Advance Allocated (expressed in Dollars)	Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)
(1) Goods, Operating Costs, non-consulting services, consulting services, and Training under the Activities	4,733,347	100%
TOTAL AMOUNT	4,733,347	

3.02. **Withdrawal Conditions.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3.01 of this Agreement, no withdrawal shall be made for payments made prior to the date of countersignature of this Agreement by the Recipient.

3.03. **Refinancing Date.** The Refinancing Date is January 30, 2025.

Article IV Terms of the Advance

4.01. **Refinancing under the Refinancing Agreement:** If, on or before the Refinancing Date, a Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, then the full amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance shall be paid to the Bank as soon as the Refinancing Agreement becomes effective, by means of a withdrawal by the Bank of such amount of the Refinancing Proceeds, in accordance with the provisions of the Refinancing Agreement.

4.02. *No Repayment in the absence of a Refinancing Agreement:* Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Standard Conditions, if, on or before the Refinancing Date, no Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, or if, by such date, it has been so executed but terminates without becoming effective, then the Recipient shall not be obligated to repay the Withdrawn Advance Balance.

Article V
Recipient's Representative; Addresses

5.01. *Recipient's Representative.* The Recipient's Representative referred to in Section 9.02 of the Standard Conditions is its minister responsible for planning.

5.02. *Recipient's Address.* The Recipient's Address referred to in Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation
Rue Martin Luther King
B.P. 696, Bangui
Central African Republic

Facsimile:

+236-21-619689

5.03. *World Bank's Address.* The World Bank's Address referred to in Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

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

Telex:

Facsimile:

248423 (MCI) or
64145 (MCI)

1-202-477-6391