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CREDIT NUMBER 6634-CG

# Financing Agreement

(Republic of Congo COVID-19 Emergency Response Project)

between

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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**CREDIT NUMBER 6634-CG**

**FINANCING AGREEMENT**

AGREEMENT dated as of the Signature Date between REPUBLIC OF CONGO (“Recipient”) and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (“Association”). The Recipient and the Association hereby agree as follows:

**ARTICLE I — GENERAL CONDITIONS; DEFINITIONS**

- 1.01. The General Conditions (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement) apply to and form part of this Agreement.
- 1.02. Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the General Conditions or in the Appendix to this Agreement.

**ARTICLE II — FINANCING**

- 2.01. The Association agrees to extend to the Recipient a credit, which is deemed as Concessional Financing for purposes of the General Conditions, in the amount of ten million four hundred thousand Euros (€10,400,000) (variously, “Credit” and “Financing”), to assist in financing the project described in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (“Project”).
- 2.02. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in accordance with Section III of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
- 2.03. The Maximum Commitment Charge Rate is one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) per annum on the Unwithdrawn Financing Balance.
- 2.04. The Service Charge is the greater of: (a) the sum of three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum plus the Basis Adjustment to the Service Charge; and (b) three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum; on the Withdrawn Credit Balance.
- 2.05. The Interest Charge is the greater of: (a) the sum of one and a quarter percent (1.25%) per annum plus the Basis Adjustment to the Interest Charge; and (b) zero percent (0%) per annum; on the Withdrawn Credit Balance.
- 2.06. The Payment Dates are May 15 and November 15 in each year.
- 2.07. The principal amount of the Credit shall be repaid in accordance with the repayment schedule set forth in Schedule 3 to this Agreement.
- 2.08. The Payment Currency is Euro.

**ARTICLE III — PROJECT**

- 3.01. The Recipient declares its commitment to the objective of the Project and the MPA Program. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Project through its Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development (“MoH”) in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the General Conditions and Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

**ARTICLE IV — TERMINATION**

- 4.01. The Effectiveness Deadline is the date ninety (90) days after the Signature Date.
- 4.02. For purposes of Section 10.05(b) of the General Conditions, the date on which the obligations of the Recipient under this Agreement (other than those providing for payment obligations) shall terminate is twenty (20) years after the Signature Date.

**ARTICLE V — REPRESENTATIVE; ADDRESSES**

- 5.01. The Recipient’s Representative is its minister responsible for finance.
- 5.02. For purposes of Section 11.01 of the General Conditions:

- (a) the Recipient’s address is:

Ministry of Finance and Budget  
*Boulevard Denis Sassou-N’guesso*  
B.P. 2083  
Brazzaville  
Republic of Congo; and

- (b) the Recipient’s Electronic Address is:

Facsimile:

(242) 2281 43 69

- 5.03. For purposes of Section 11.01 of the General Conditions:

- (a) The Association’s address is:

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

(b) the Association's Electronic Address is:

Telex:                      Facsimile:  
248423 (MCI)              1-202-477-6391

AGREED as of the Signature Date.

**REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

By:



Authorized Representative

Name: Ludovic NGATSE

Title: Ministre délégué auprès du Ministre des Finances et du Budget chargé du Budget

Date: 24.04.2020

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

By

Jean-Christophe Carret

Authorized Representative

Name: Jean-Christophe Carret

Title: Country Director

Date: 23-Apr-2020

## **SCHEDULE 1**

### **Project Description**

The objective of the Project is to prevent, detect, and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in the Republic of Congo.

The Project constitutes a phase of the MPA Program, and consists of the following parts:

#### **Part 1: Emergency COVID-19 Response and Health System Strengthening**

Providing immediate support to prevent COVID-19 from arriving or limiting local transmission through containment strategies, including the following:

##### **1.1. Early Case Detection, Laboratory Confirmation, Contact Tracing, Recording, Reporting**

Enhancing early case detection, laboratory confirmation, contact tracing, recording and reporting through, *inter alia*: (a) strengthening disease surveillance systems, public health laboratories, and epidemiological capacity for early detection and confirmation of cases; (b) combining detection of new cases with active contact tracing; (c) supporting epidemiological investigation; (d) strengthening risk assessment; (e) providing on-time data and information for guiding decision-making, response and mitigation activities; and (f) strengthening the health management information systems to facilitate recording, on-time virtual sharing of information, and decision-making based on data.

##### **1.2. Health System Strengthening**

- (a) Relieving the burden on health care services, by:
  - (i) rehabilitating and equipping selected (A) primary health care facilities and hospitals, in particular intensive care facilities, (B) public health laboratories, and (C) the national blood transfusion center, in order to deliver critical medical services;
  - (ii) financing the establishment of specialized units in selected hospitals to strengthen clinical capacity;
  - (iii) developing treatment guidelines; and
  - (iv) establishing strategies to increase hospital bed availability, including deferring elective procedures, more stringent triage for admission and earlier discharge with follow-up by home health care personnel.

- (b) Improving infection prevention and control through, *inter alia*: (i) developing intra-hospital infection control measures; (ii) ensuring the availability of safe blood products; (iii) ensuring safe water and basic sanitation in health facilities; (iv) strengthening medical waste management and disposal systems; (v) providing critical medical supplies including protective equipment; and (vi) promoting personal hygiene including handwashing among health workers, and raising awareness on COVID-19 to slow the spread of the pandemic.
- (c) Strengthening human resource through the financing of activities in connection with, *inter alia*: (i) communication activities (including outreach or advertisement) in order to identify and mobilize health workers across the Recipient's territory; (ii) Training to health facilities staff on hygiene, infection prevention and control; (iii) clinical Training to health teams; (iv) Training on risk mitigation measures for health facilities' staff and front-line workers; (v) Training for animal health workers on treatment of infected animals and reporting procedures; and (vi) reasonable Hazard Pay for health workers addressing the pandemic.
- (d) Providing quality critical medical supplies (including equipment, reagents, and commodities) by implementing a procurement and supply chain plan, based on the national supplies list for the COVID-19 response, in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, WFP, the Recipient's national drug regulatory authority, and the Recipient's national drug medical stores.

### 1.3. National and Sub-National Prevention and Preparedness

- (a) Developing observatories within the Recipient's public health emergency operations center and building analytical and assessment capacity within national primary human health systems.
- (b) Supporting the development of the Integrated National COVID-19 Response and Preparedness Plan to:
  - (i) improve prevention of and response planning for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) in the context of human and animal health;
  - (ii) support simulation exercises in selected provinces; and
  - (iii) supplement the activities of the Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement IV Project ("REDISSE IV Project"), by strengthening the One Health system at the department level through the organization of workshops and the development of a departmental guidance to address One Health.

**Part 2: Communication campaign, Community Engagement and Behavior Change**

- 2.1. Supporting communication campaigns through, *inter alia*:
- (a) massive nationwide campaigns promoting and marketing handwashing through different communication channels;
  - (b) increasing the attention and commitment of the government, private sector, civil society, community leaders, and religious leaders to raise awareness, knowledge and understanding among the general population on the risk and potential impact of the pandemic;
  - (c) developing multi-sectoral strategies to address the pandemic; and
  - (d) developing and distributing basic communication materials including (i) materials on COVID-19; (ii) general preventative measures for the general public; (iii) symposia on surveillance, treatment and prophylaxis.
- 2.2. Developing community and multi-stakeholder engagement through *inter alia*:
- (a) improving inclusion and healthcare worker safety;
  - (b) developing: (i) community-centered feedback mechanisms, (ii) anthropologist and social scientist feedback, (iii) community engagement activities with local religious, traditional and community leaders, and (iv) community-based structures for health workers to better communicate with local populations;
  - (c) improving community-based epidemiological surveillance networks;
  - (d) carrying out community-based animal disease surveillance and early warning networks;
  - (e) establishing at the community level of early warning systems to support an emergency reporting and feedback system against notifiable diseases;
  - (f) developing, testing, and sending key messages and materials for pandemic and other emerging infectious disease outbreak; and
  - (g) enhancing communication infrastructure to disseminate information at the national, state and local levels as well as between the public and private sectors.

### **Part 3: Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation**

#### **3.1. Coordination, Financial Management and Procurement**

Supporting Project coordination by: (a) using existing PRISP-PIU (or REDISSE-PIU, as the case may be) to coordinate Project activities, procurement and financial management of the Project; (b) recruiting additional staff and consultants dedicated to the implementation of the Project, placed within the PRISP-PIU (or the REDISSE-PIU as the case may be), responsible for overall administration, procurement and financial management, and Environmental and Social Standards compliance of the Project; and (c) financing Project coordination activities.

#### **3.2. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Supporting the monitoring and evaluation of Project implementation: (a) based on an agreed monitoring and evaluation section in the Project Implementation Manual; and (b) using traditional and innovative tools for remote monitoring as needed.

## **SCHEDULE 2**

### **Project Execution**

#### **Section I. Implementation Arrangements**

##### **A. Institutional Arrangements**

##### **1. Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development (“MoH”)**

The Recipient, through its MoH, shall vest the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Project, with the involvement of other relevant ministries as may be required.

##### **2. Project Steering Committee**

(a) The Recipient shall maintain throughout the Project implementation period, a Project Steering Committee chaired by the Recipient’s Minister of Planning, Statistics, Regional Integration, Transports, Civil Aviation, and Merchant Navy and vice-chaired by the Recipient’s MoH.

(b) To this end, the Recipient shall ensure that the Project Steering Committee is responsible for (a) providing strategic and policy guidance to PRISP-PIU (or REDISSE-PIU, as the case may be), (b) carrying out cross-sectoral coordination and consistency with sector policy and strategies, and (c) endorsing the Annual Work Plans and Budgets, as detailed in the Project Implementation Manual.

##### **3. Project Technical Committee**

The Recipient shall maintain, throughout the period of COVID-19 (as determined by the Recipient in the Integrated National COVID-19 Response and Preparedness Plan), the Project Technical Committee, chaired by the Recipient’s Minister of Health and supervised by the Recipient’s Prime Minister, and responsible for (a) providing technical oversight of the Project; (b) Project performance monitoring; (c) developing and concurring with the Annual Work Plans and Budgets, and monitoring their implementation; and (d) developing procurement plans and progress reports.

##### **4. Project Implementation Unit**

(a) The Recipient shall maintain, throughout the Project implementation period: (i) a Project Implementation Unit established under the Integrated Public Sector Reform Project (“PRISP-PIU”); and (ii) thereafter, at a date agreed upon in writing between the Recipient and the Association, a

Project Implementation Unit established under the REDISSE IV Project (“REDISSE-PIU”), each with composition, mandate and resources satisfactory to the Association.

- (b) The PRISP-PIU (or the REDISSE-PIU, as the case may be), will be responsible for day to day management of the Project activities, including: (i) providing technical assistance for the Project; (ii) carrying out Project fiduciary management of the Project (including financial management, internal audit, disbursement and procurement activities); (iii) monitoring and evaluating Project activities; (iv) collaborating with the Project Technical Committee to prepare the Annual Work Plans and Budgets; (v) preparing and consolidating periodic progress reports in accordance with provisions of the PIM; (vi) coordinating with stakeholders involved in Project implementation; (vii) monitoring and evaluation of the Project; and (viii) ensuring compliance with the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (“ESCP”) and environmental and social instruments therein for Project activities.
  - (c) The PRISP-PIU (or the REDISSE-PIU, as the case may be), shall be expanded to include, *inter alia*, a dedicated Project team with: (i) a deputy coordinator; (ii) a financial management specialist; and (iii) an accountant, each of whose qualifications, experience and terms of reference shall be acceptable to the Association.
  - (d) The PRISP-PIU shall, not later than two (2) months after the Effective Date, recruit for the dedicated Project team the following additional key personnel: (i) an environmental safeguard specialist; (ii) a social safeguard specialist; and (iii) sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment specialist, each of whose qualifications, experience and terms of reference shall be acceptable to the Association.
5. No later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date (or such later date as agreed by the Association), the Recipient, through the MoH, shall:
- (a) update the PRISP project implementation manual (or the REDISSE project implementation manual, as the case may be), in form and substance acceptable to the Association (“Project Implementation Manual” or “PIM”) to include, in an annex, specificities of the Project such as, *inter alia*, detailed arrangements and procedures for: (i) implementation arrangements; (ii) administrative aspects; (iii) procurement; (iv) terms and conditions, criteria and procedures to be applied for the provision of Hazard Pay; (v) implementation of Environmental and Social Standards; (vi) financial management and accounting; (vii) monitoring and evaluation; (viii) personal data collection and processing in accordance with good international practice; (ix) development and approval of the

Annual Work Plans and Budgets; and (x) such other technical, administrative, fiduciary or coordination arrangements as may be necessary to ensure effective Project implementation;

- (b) (i) furnish the updated PIM referred to in Section I.A.5(a) above to the Association for review; (ii) afford the Association a reasonable opportunity to exchange views with the Recipient on said PIM and (iii) thereafter adopt said updated PIM as shall have been approved by the Association;
  - (c) thereafter, implement the Project in accordance with the PIM; and
  - (d) not amend, assign, abrogate, or waive the PIM, except as the Association shall otherwise agree.
6. In case of any conflict between the provisions of the PIM and the provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.

**B. Annual Work Plans and Budgets**

1. The Recipient shall:
- (a) not later than November 30 of each calendar year during Project implementation (but not later than May 1, 2020 for the first year of Project implementation), prepare and furnish to the Association for its approval, the Annual Work Plan and Budget (“AWPB”), setting forth, *inter alia*: (i) a detailed description of planned Project activities for the following calendar year; (ii) the sources and uses of funds therefor; (iii) responsibility for execution of said Project activities; (iv) a detailed timetable for the sequencing and implementation of said activities; and (v) the types of expenditures required for such activities, a proposed financing plan and a budget, outputs, and monitoring indicators to track progress of each activity;
  - (b) afford the Association a reasonable opportunity to exchange views with the Recipient on such proposed AWPB;
  - (c) approve the AWPB, on an absence-of objection basis of the Project Steering Committee (as detailed in the PIM);
  - (d) ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the AWPB as shall have been approved by the Association, and only those activities which are included in the AWPB shall be implemented (provided, however, that in the event of any conflict between the AWPB and the provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail).

2. The Recipient shall carry out Training on the basis of AWPBs, which shall identify: (a) particulars of the training envisaged; (b) the personnel to be trained; (c) the selection methods and criteria of the institution or individuals conducting such training; (d) the institution conducting such training if identified; (e) the purpose and justification for such training; (f) the location and duration of the proposed training; and (g) the estimate of the cost of such training.
3. Except with the prior and written concurrence of the Association, the AWPBs shall not be waived, amended or otherwise modified to include new activities.

**C. Environmental and Social Standards**

1. The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards, in a manner acceptable to the Association.
2. Without limitation upon paragraph 1 above, the Recipient shall ensure that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (“ESCP”), in a manner acceptable to the Association. To this end, the Recipient shall ensure that:
  - (a) the measures and actions specified in the ESCP are implemented with due diligence and efficiency, and provided in the ESCP;
  - (b) sufficient funds are available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP;
  - (c) 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
  - (d) the ESCP, or any provision thereof, is not amended, repealed, suspended or waived, except as the Association shall otherwise agree in writing, as specified in the ESCP, and ensure that the revised ESCP is disclosed promptly thereafter.
3. In case of any inconsistencies between the ESCP and the provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
4. The Recipient shall ensure that:
  - (a) all measures necessary are taken to collect, compile, and furnish to the Association through regular reports, with the frequency specified in the ESCP, and promptly in a separate report or reports, if so requested by the Association, 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 Association, setting out, *inter alia*: (i) the status of implementation of the ESCP; (ii) conditions, if

any, which interfere or threaten to interfere with the implementation of the ESCP; and (iii) corrective and preventive measures taken or required to be taken to address such conditions; and

- (b) the Association is promptly notified of any incident or accident related to or having an impact on the Project 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.
- 5. The Recipient shall establish, publicize, maintain and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances of Project-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 Association.
  - 6. The Recipient shall ensure that all bidding documents and contracts for civil works under the Project include the obligation of contractors and subcontractors, and supervising entities to: (a) comply with the relevant aspects of ESCP and the environmental and social instruments referred to therein; and (b) adopt and enforce codes of conduct that should be provided to and signed by all workers, detailing measures to address environmental, social, health and safety risks, and the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and violence against children, all as applicable to such civil works commissioned or carried out pursuant to said contracts.

**Section II. Project Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation**

The Recipient shall furnish to the Association each Project Report not later than one month after the end of each calendar semester, covering the calendar semester.

**Section III. Withdrawal of the Proceeds of the Financing**

**A. General**

Without limitation upon the provisions of Article II of the General Conditions and in accordance with the Disbursement and Financial Information Letter, the Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing to finance Eligible

Expenditures; in the amount allocated and, if applicable, up to the percentage set forth against each Category of the following table:

| <b>Category</b>   | <b>Amount of the Credit Allocated<br/>(expressed in EUR)</b> | <b>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed<br/>(exclusive of Taxes)</b> |
|---|--|---|
| (1) Goods, works, non-consulting services (including Training), consulting services, Hazard Pay and Operating Costs for the Project | 10,400,000   | 100%  |
| <b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>   | 10,400,000   |   |

**B. Withdrawal Conditions; Withdrawal Period**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A above, no withdrawal shall be made for payments made prior to the Signature Date, except that withdrawals up to an aggregate amount not to exceed four million one hundred sixty thousand Euros (€4,160,000) may be made for payments made prior to this date but on or after January 1, 2020, for Eligible Expenditures.
2. The Closing Date is April 30, 2022.

**SCHEDULE 3**

**Repayment Schedule**

| <b>Date Payment Due</b>                                     | <b>Principal Amount of the Credit repayable (expressed as a percentage)*</b> |
|---|--|
| On each May 15 and November 15:                             |  |
| commencing May 15, 2025, to and including November 15 2044  | 1.65%  |
| Commencing May 15, 2045, to and including November 15, 2049 | 3.40%  |

\* The percentages represent the percentage of the principal amount of the Credit to be repaid, except as the Association may otherwise specify pursuant to Section 3.05(b) of the General Conditions.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Definitions**

1. “Annual Work Plan and Budget” or “AWPB” means each annual work plan, together with the related budget, to be prepared by the Recipient for the Project approved by the Association pursuant to the provisions of Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
2. “Anti-Corruption Guidelines” means, for purposes of paragraph 5 of the Appendix to the General 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.
3. “Basis Adjustment to the Interest Charge” means the Association’s standard basis adjustment to the Interest Charge for credits in the currency of denomination of the Credit, in effect at 12:01 a.m. Washington, D.C. time, on the date on which the Credit is approved by the Executive Directors of the Association, and expressed either as a positive or negative percentage per annum.
4. “Basis Adjustment to the Service Charge” means the Association’s standard basis adjustment to the Service Charge for credits in the currency of denomination of the Credit, in effect at 12:01 a.m. Washington, D.C. time, on the date on which the Credit is approved by the Executive Directors of the Association, and expressed either as a positive or negative percentage per annum.
5. “Category” means a category set forth in the table in Section III.A of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
6. “COVID-19” means the coronavirus disease caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).
7. “EID” means emerging infectious disease.
8. “Environmental and Social Commitment Plan” or “ESCP” means the environmental and social commitment plan for the Project, dated April 10, 2020, as the same may be amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions thereof, which sets out the material measures and actions that the Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out to address the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project, including the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and any environmental and social instruments to be prepared thereunder.
9. “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 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 Association.

10. “General Conditions” means the “International Development Association General Conditions for IDA Financing, Investment Project Financing”, dated December 14, 2018.
11. “Hazard Pay” means a reasonable benefit provided directly to eligible community workers/health care workers implementing COVID-19 pandemic response activities under the Project, in accordance with terms and conditions (including *inter alia*, eligibility criteria, payment terms and methods, maximum amount per person and per pay period) set forth in the Project Implementation Manual.
12. “Integrated National COVID-19 Response and Preparedness Plan” means the Recipient’s emergency response plan for COVID-19, dated March 2020, as said document may be modified from time to time during the Emergency, and such term includes all schedules and annexes to said document.
13. “Integrated Public Sector Reform Project” or “PRISP” means the project financed by the Association under the Financing Agreement (Credit No. 6023-CG) between the Recipient and the Association dated June 23, 2017.
14. “Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development” and “MoH” each means the Recipient’s Ministry in charge of health, or any successor thereto.
15. “Minister of Planning, Statistics, Regional Integration, Transports, Civil Aviation, and Merchant Navy” means the Recipient’s Minister in charge of planning, or any successor thereto.
16. “MPA Program” means the global emergency multiphase programmatic approach program designed to assist countries to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness.

17. “One Health” means the concept that the health of animals, the health of people, and the viability of ecosystems are inextricably linked.
18. “Operating Costs” means the reasonable incremental expenses incurred by the Recipient on account of Project implementation, including costs related office equipment and supplies, vehicle operation and maintenance, shipping costs, office rentals, communication and insurance costs, office administration costs, bank charges, utilities, transport costs, travel, per diem and supervision costs, and salaries of contracted employees, including reasonable hazard payments/indemnity pay, but excluding salaries of officials of the Recipient’s civil service.
19. “Procurement Regulations” means, for purposes of paragraph 87 of the Appendix to the General Conditions, the “World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers”, dated July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018.
20. “Project Implementation Manual” or “PIM” means the implementation manual for the Project referred to in Section I.A.5 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
21. “Project Implementation Unit” or “PIU” means the project implementation unit established under the Integrated Public Sector Reform Project (“PRISP-PIU”), to be replaced by the project implementation unit established under the REDISSE IV Project once effective and operational and approved in writing by the Association (“REDISSE-PIU”), both referred to in Section I.A.4 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
22. “Project Steering Committee” means the guiding committee established and operating under the Recipient’s Decree No. 2020-112 dated April 16, 2020, for purposes of Project implementation, as referred to in Section I.A.2 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
23. “Project Technical Committee” means the technical committee established and operating under the Recipient’s Decree No. 2020-91 dated March 27, 2020 for purposes of the COVID-19 national response, as referred to in Section I.A.2 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
24. “Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement IV Project” or “REDISSE IV Project” means the project financed by the Association under the Financing Agreement (Credit No. 64990-CG) between the Recipient and the Association dated October 19, 2019.
25. “Signature Date” means the later of the two dates on which the Recipient and the Association signed this Agreement and such definition applies to all references to “the date of the Financing Agreement” in the General Conditions.

26. “Training” means the reasonable costs incurred by the Recipient associated with training under the Project, based on the relevant Annual Work Plan and Budget, and attributable to study tours, training courses, seminars, workshops and other training activities, not included under service providers’ contracts, including costs of purchase and publication of training materials, facilities and equipment rental, travel, accommodation and *per diem* costs of trainees and trainers, trainers’ fees, and other training related miscellaneous costs.
27. “UNICEF” means United Nations Children’s Fund.
28. “WHO” means World Health Organization.
29. “WFP” means World Food Program.