

CONFORMED COPY

CREDIT NUMBER 4282 ALB

Financing Agreement

(First Development Policy Operation)

between

ALBANIA

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dated May 10, 2007

CREDIT NUMBER 4282 ALB

FINANCING AGREEMENT

Agreement dated May 10, 2007, entered into between ALBANIA ("Recipient") and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION ("Association") for the purpose of providing financing in support of the Program (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement). The Association has decided to provide this financing on the basis, inter alia, of (a) the actions which the Recipient has already taken under the Program and which are described in Section I of Schedule 1 to this Agreement, and (b) the Recipient's maintenance of an appropriate macro-economic policy framework. The Recipient and the Association therefore hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I - GENERAL CONDITIONS; DEFINITIONS

- 1.01. The General Conditions (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement) constitute an integral 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, on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this Agreement, a credit in an amount equivalent to six million eight hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 6,800,000) (variously, "Credit" and "Financing").
- 2.02. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in support of the Program in accordance with Section II of Schedule 1 to this Agreement.
- 2.03. The Maximum Commitment Charge Rate payable by the Recipient on the Unwithdrawn Financing Balance shall be one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) per annum.
- 2.04. The Service Charge payable by the Recipient on the Withdrawn Credit Balance shall be equal to three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum.
- 2.05. The Payment Dates are April 1 and October 1 in each year.

- 2.06. The principal amount of the Credit shall be repaid in accordance with repayment schedule set forth in Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
- 2.07. The Payment Currency is Euro.

ARTICLE III - PROGRAM

- 3.01 The Recipient declares its commitment to the Program and its implementation.

To this end:

- (a) the Recipient 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 Recipient 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; and
- (c) without limitation upon the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Section, the Recipient shall exchange views with the Association on any proposed action to be taken after the disbursement of the Financing which would have the effect of materially reversing the objectives of the Program, or any action taken under the Program including any action specified in Section I of Schedule 1 to this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV - REMEDIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 4.01. The Additional Event of Suspension consists of the following, namely that a situation has arisen which shall make it improbable that the Program, or a significant part of it, will be carried out.
- 4.02. The Additional Event of Acceleration consists of the following, namely that the event specified in Section 4.01 of this Agreement occurs and is continuing for a period of sixty (60) days after notice of the event has been given by the Association to the Recipient.

ARTICLE V - EFFECTIVENESS

- 5.01. The Effectiveness Deadline is the date ninety (90) days after the date of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI - REPRESENTATIVE; ADDRESSES

6.01. The Recipient's Representative is the Ministry of Finance.

6.02. The Recipient's Address is:

Ministry of Finance
Bulevardi "Deshmoret e Kombit"
Tirana, Albania

Facsimile:

355 42 28494

6.03. The Association's Address is:

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

Cable address:

Telex:

Facsimile:

INDEVAS
Washington, D.C.

248423(MCI)

1-202-477-6391

AGREED in the District of Columbia, United States of America, as of the day and year first above written.

ALBANIA

By /s/ Ridvan Bode

Authorized Representative

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By /s/ Nadir Mohammed

Authorized Representative

SCHEDULE 1**Program Actions; Availability of Financing Proceeds****Section I. Actions under the Program****Actions Taken Under the Program**

The actions taken by the Recipient under the Program include the following:

1. The Recipient has completed a review and prepared recommendations for eliminating superfluous licensing requirements in the hydrocarbon, mining, fishery, public works, health, education, agriculture, environment, forestry, water administration, fire safety, customs, construction and transportation sectors.
2. A new Concessions Law, providing for a transparent and fully competitive bidding system, has been enacted, and changes to the implementing regulations, satisfactory to the Association, have been approved by the Council of Ministers or the Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, respectively.
3. Legislation for the establishment of one integrated, non-banking financial regulator has been enacted.
4. A new Public Procurement Law, providing for an improved complaints review, making open tenders the default procedure, granting civil servant status to the head of the Public Procurement Agency (PPA), increasing the applicability of multi-year contracting, and mandating the publishing of tender documents and outcomes on a timely basis, has been enacted.
5. The Recipient has taken action, satisfactory to the Association, to stem the deficit of the Health Insurance Institute and curb pharmaceutical expenditures.
6. The Recipient has made progress, satisfactory to the Association, on improved public investment management procedures and practices.
7. The Recipient has provided evidence, satisfactory to the Association, of the consistency of specific personnel actions falling within the scope of the Civil Service Law, its subsidiary legislation and rules regulating human resource management of civil servants in central Government positions.

Section II. Availability of Financing Proceeds

A. General. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in accordance with the provisions of this Section and such additional instructions as the Association may specify by notice to the Recipient.

B. Allocation of Financing Amounts. The Financing shall be withdrawn in a single tranche.

C. Deposits of Financing Amounts. Except as the Association may otherwise agree:

1. all withdrawals from the Financing Account shall be deposited by the Association into an account designated by the Recipient and acceptable to the Association; and

2. the Recipient shall ensure that upon each deposit of an amount of the Financing into this account, an equivalent amount is accounted for in the Recipient's budget management system, in a manner acceptable to the Association.

D. Excluded Expenditures. The Recipient undertakes that the proceeds of the Financing shall not be used to finance Excluded Expenditures. If the Association determines at any time that an amount of the Financing was used to make a payment for an Excluded Expenditure, the Recipient shall, promptly upon notice from the Association, refund an amount equal to the amount of such payment to the Association. Amounts refunded to the Association upon such request shall be cancelled.

E. Closing Date. The Closing Date is December 31, 2007.

SCHEDULE 2

Date Payment Due	Principal Amount of the Credit repayable (expressed as a percentage)*
On each April 1 and October 1 commencing April 1, 2017 to and including October 1, 2026:	5%

* 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 3.03 (b) of the General Conditions.

APPENDIX

Section I. Definitions

1. “Excluded Expenditure” means any expenditure:
- (a) for goods or services supplied under a contract which any national or international financing institution or agency other than the Association or the Bank has financed or agreed to finance, or which the Association or the Bank has financed or agreed to finance under another credit, grant or loan;
 - (b) for goods included in the following groups or sub-groups 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 Recipient:

Group	Sub-group	Description of Item
112		Alcoholic beverages
121		Tobacco, un-manufactured, 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)

- (c) for goods intended for a military or paramilitary purpose or for luxury consumption;
- (d) for environmentally hazardous goods, the manufacture, use or import of which is prohibited under the laws of the Recipient or international agreements to which the Recipient is a party;
- (e) on account of any payment prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations; and
- (f) under a contract with respect to which the Association determines that corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices were engaged in by representatives of the Recipient or other recipient of the Financing proceeds during the procurement or execution of such contract, without the Recipient (or other such recipient) having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to the Association to remedy the situation.

2. “General Conditions” means the “International Development Association General Conditions for Credits and Grants”, dated July 1, 2005 with the modifications set forth in Section II of this Appendix.
3. “Health Insurance Institute” means the Instituti I Sigurimeve Shendetesore, established pursuant to Law No. 7870 of October 13, 1994.
4. “Program” means the program of actions, objectives and policies designed to promote growth and achieve sustainable reductions in poverty and set forth or referred to in the letter dated February 21, 2007, from the Recipient to the Association declaring the Recipient’s commitment to the execution of the Program, and requesting assistance from the Association in support of the Program during its execution.
5. “Public Procurement Agency” or “PPA” means the entity referenced in Article 13 of Law No. 9643 of November 20, 2006.
6. “Single Tranche” means the amount of the Financing referenced in Part B of Section II of Schedule 1 to this Agreement.

Section II. Modifications to the General Conditions

The modifications to the “International Development Association General Conditions for Credits and Grants”, dated July 1, 2005 are as follows:

1. The last sentence of paragraph (a) of Section 2.03 (relating to Applications for Withdrawal) is deleted in its entirety.
2. Sections 2.04 (*Designated Accounts*) and 2.05 (*Eligible Expenditures*) are deleted in their entirety, and the remaining Sections in Article II are renumbered accordingly.
3. Sections 4.01 (*Project Execution Generally*), and 4.09 (*Financial Management; Financial Statements; Audits*) are deleted in their entirety, and the remaining Sections in Article IV are renumbered accordingly.
4. Paragraph (a) of Section 4.05 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 3 above and relating to *Use of Goods, Works and Services*) is deleted in its entirety.
5. Paragraph (c) of Section 4.06 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 3 above) is modified to read as follows:

“Section 4.06. *Plans; Documents; Records*

... (c) The Recipient shall retain all records (contracts, orders, invoices, bills, receipts and other documents) evidencing expenditures under the Financing until two years after the Closing Date. The Recipient shall enable the Association’s representatives to examine such records.”

6. Section 4.07 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 3 above) is modified to read as follows:

Section 4.07. *Program Monitoring and Evaluation*

... (c) The Recipient shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, and furnish to the Association not later than six (6) months after the Closing Date, a report of such scope and in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request, on the execution of the Program, the performance by the Recipient and the Association of their respective obligations under the Legal Agreements and the accomplishment of the purposes of the Financing.

7. The following terms and definitions set forth in the Appendix are modified or deleted as follows, and the following new terms and definitions are added in alphabetical order to the Appendix as follows, with the terms being renumbered accordingly:

- (a) The definition of the term “Eligible Expenditure” is modified to read as follows:

“‘Eligible Expenditure’ means any use to which the Financing is put in support of the Program, other than to finance expenditures excluded pursuant to the Financing Agreement.”

- (b) The term “Financial Statements” and its definition as set forth in the Appendix are deleted in their entirety.

- (c) The term “Project” is modified to read “Program” and its definition is modified to read as follows:

“‘Program’ means the program referred to in the Financing Agreement in support of which the Financing is made.” All references to “Project” throughout these General Conditions are deemed to be references to “Program”.