



CHEICK FANTAMADY KANTE
Country Director
Vice Presidency, GP, Unit (Upper/Lower case)

Date: 03-Jul-2024

H.E. M. Jean-Baptiste Odaye
Minister of Economy and Finance
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Boulevard Denis Sassou Nguesso
B.P. 2083
Brazzaville
Republic of Congo

**Re: IDA Credits 7600-CG CG; 7599-CG & Grant E344-CG
(Transforming the Education Sector for Better Outcomes and Results TRESOR- Program)**

Additional Instructions: Disbursement and Financial Information Letter

Excellency:

I refer to the Financing Agreement between the Republic of Congo (“Recipient”) and the International Development Association (“Association”) for the above-referenced Program. The General Conditions, as defined in the Financing Agreement, provide that the Recipient may from time-to-time request withdrawals of Financing¹ amounts from the Financing Account² in accordance with the Disbursement and Financial Information Letter, and such additional instructions as the Association may specify from time to time by notice to the Recipient. The General Conditions also provide that the Disbursement and Financial Information Letter may set out Program specific financial reporting requirements. This letter constitutes such Disbursement and Financial Information Letter (“DFIL”) and may be revised from time to time.

I. Disbursement Arrangements, Withdrawal of Financing Funds, and Reporting of Uses of Financing Funds

(i) Disbursement Arrangements

The table in Schedule 1 sets out the disbursement methods which may be used by the Recipient, information on registration of authorized signatories, processing of Withdrawal Applications (including processing of advances), instructions on supporting documentation, and reporting of advances.

• ***For the Project***

¹ “Financing” means: (a) the Credit if the Financing Agreement provides for a Credit only; (b) the Grant if the Financing Agreement provides for a Grant only; or both the Credit and the Grant if the Financing Agreement provides for both a Credit and a Grant.

² “Financing Account” means: (a) the Credit Account if the Financing Agreement provides for a Credit only; (b) the Grant Account if the Financing Agreement provides for a Grant only; or (c) the Credit Account in respect of the Credit and the Grant Account in respect of the Grant if the Financing Agreement provides for a Credit and a Grant.

The *Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing*, dated February 2017 (“Disbursement Guidelines”), are available in the Association’s public website at <https://www.worldbank.org> and its secure website “Client Connection” at <https://clientconnection.worldbank.org>. The Disbursement Guidelines are an integral part of the DFIL, and the manner in which the provisions in the Disbursement Guidelines apply to the Financing is specified below.

(ii) Withdrawal Applications (Electronic Delivery)¹

The Recipient will deliver Withdrawal Applications (with supporting documents, “Applications”) electronically through the Association’s web-based portal “Client Connection” at <https://clientconnection.worldbank.org>. This option will be effected after the officials designated in writing by the Recipient who are authorized to sign and deliver Applications have registered as users of “Client Connection”. The designated officials will deliver Applications electronically by completing the Form 2380, which is accessible through “Client Connection”. By signing the Authorized Signatory Letter, the Recipient confirms that it is authorizing such persons to accept Secure Identification Credentials (SIDC) and to deliver the Applications and supporting documents to the Association by electronic means. The Recipient may exercise the option of preparing and delivering Applications in paper form on exceptional cases (including those where the Recipient encounters legal limitations), and which were previously agreed with the Association. 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, available in the Association's public website at <https://www.worldbank.org> and “Client Connection” at <https://clientconnection.worldbank.org>; and (b) to cause such officials to abide by those terms and conditions.

(iii) Disbursement Linked Results (DLRs) (Program only)

Applications of amounts of the Loan allocated to individual Disbursement Linked Results (“DLRs”) may, pursuant to the provisions of Section IV.A. 2 of Schedule 2 of the Financing Agreement, be sent to the Association at any time after the Association has notified the Recipient in writing that it has accepted evidence of achievement of the specific DLRs.

(iv) Withdrawal Amount for the Program

The Applications may be for an amount not to exceed the amount of the Financing confirmed by the Association for the specific DLRs in respect of which the withdrawal is requested, as specified in the Association’s notice to the Recipient.

(v) Advances and Recovery of Advances for the Program²

The Recipient may, in accordance with provisions of the Financing Agreement, request advances of amounts of the Financing allocated to DLIs/DLRs that have not yet been achieved using the Form attached (Attachment 2). The aggregated amount of all such advances made in respect of amounts allocated to DLRs may not exceed USD 21,156,250 equivalent (25% of Program value, of which USD 17,500,000 financed by IDA) under the Financing Agreement.

¹ Section 10.01 (c) of the General Conditions

² *Advances and Recovery of Designated Account(s)/advances for the project, please ref to Disbursement Guidelines section 5 and 6.*

The Association records an amount of the advance as disbursed for an achieved DLR (“recovered”) after it has notified the Recipient of its acceptance of the evidence of achievement of the DLR for which the advance was provided. The amount so reclassified becomes available for further advances in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

II. Financial Reports and Audits ¹

(i) For the Program

- ***Financial Reports***

The interim unaudited financial reports (“IFRs”) for the Program are not required. However, in line with PforR policy requirements, at the end of the Program, there will be a reconciliation carried out to ensure that the total disbursed amount under the PforR does not exceed the net amount corresponding to the expenditures of the Program.

- ***Audits***

Each audit of the Financial Statements must cover the period of one fiscal year of the Recipient, commencing with the fiscal year in which the first withdrawal was made. The audited Financial Statements for each such period must be furnished to the Association not later than nine (9) months after the end of such period.

(ii) For the Project

- ***Financial Reports***

The Recipient must prepare and furnish to the Association not later than forty-five (45) days after the end of each calendar quarter, interim unaudited financial reports (“IFRs”) for the Project covering the quarter.

- ***Audits***

Each audit of the Financial Statements must cover the period of one (1) fiscal year of the Recipient, commencing with the fiscal year in which the first withdrawal was made. The audited Financial Statements for each such period must be furnished to the Association not later than six (6) months after the end of such period. The same audit report will cover the Project and the Program.

¹ Section 5.09 of the General Conditions

III. Other Important Information

For additional information on disbursement arrangements, please refer to the Loan Handbook available on the Association's public website at <https://www.worldbank.org> and "Client Connection" at <https://clientconnection.worldbank.org>. The Association recommends that you register as a user of "Client Connection". From this website you will be able to prepare and deliver Applications, monitor the near real-time status of the Financing, and retrieve related policy, financial, and procurement information. For more information about the website and registration arrangements, or if you have any queries in relation to the above, please contact the Association by email at AskLoans@WorldBank.org using the above reference.

Yours sincerely,



Cheick Fantamady Kante
Country Director
Republic of Congo, West and Central Africa Region.

Attachments

1. Form of Authorized Signatory Letter
2. Sample Form for Advances
3. Statement of Expenditure (SOE) Model Template

Schedule 1 : Disbursement Provisions

A. Basic Information					
IDA Credits /Grant Number	7600--CG 7599-CG E344--CG	Country	Republic of Congo	Closing Date	Section IV.D.1 of Schedule 2 to the Financing Agreement.
		Recipient	Republic of Congo		
		Name of the Operation	Transforming the Education Sector for Better Outcomes and Results (TRESOR)	Disbursement Deadline Date	Six (6) months after the closing date.
B. Disbursement Methods and Supporting Documentation					
• Under the Program					
Disbursement Methods	Methods	Supporting Documentation			
Reimbursement (DLI payment for achieved results)	Yes	Confirmation issued by the Association			
Advance	Yes	Request in the format provided in Attachment 2 of the DFIL			
• Under the Project					
Disbursement Methods	Methods	Supporting Documentation			
Direct payment	Yes	Copy of Records			
Reimbursement	Yes	Statement of Expenditure (SOE) in the format provided in Attachment 3 of the DFIL			
Advance (into a Designated Account)	Yes	Statement of Expenditure (SOE) in the format provided in Attachment 3 of the DFIL			
C. Advances					
• Under the Program					
Financial Institution - Name	Single Treasury Account managed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance	Limit	13 billion (of which 10.7 financed by IDA)		
		Currency	Francs CFA		
• Under the Project					
Type and Management Unit	Pooled, managed by PIU		Ceiling	Fixed	
Financial Institution - Name	Financial Institution acceptable to the Association		Currency	FCFA	
Frequency of Reporting¹	Same as IFR: Quarterly		Amount	650 million	

¹ Subsection 6.3 of Disbursement Guidelines

D. Authorized Signatories
Withdrawal and Documentation Applications

The form for Authorized Signatory Letter is provided in Attachment 1 of this letter.

E. Additional Instructions

The minimum value of applications for Reimbursement, Direct Payment and Special Commitment is FCFA 130 million

The PIU may open a secondary bank account at an institution deemed acceptable by IDA.

Attachment 1 – Form of Authorized Signatory Letter

Date _____

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

Attention: Country Director¹

Dear Country Director:

**Re: IDA Credits 7600-CG CG; 7599-CG & Grant E344-CG
(Transforming the Education Sector for Better Outcomes and Results TRESOR- Program)
Additional Instructions: Disbursement and Financial Information Letter**

I refer to the [Credit] [Grant] Agreement (“Agreement”) between the International Development Association (“Association”) [, acting as implementing of the]² and [name of recipient] (“Recipient”), providing the above [Credit] [Grant]. For the purposes of Section 2.03 of the General Conditions as defined in the Agreement, any ³[one] of the persons whose authenticated specimen signatures appear below is authorized on behalf of the Recipient to sign Withdrawal Applications (“Application”) [and applications for a special commitment] under this [Credit] [Grant].

For the purpose of delivering Applications to the Association, including by electronic means, ⁴[each] of the persons whose authenticated specimen signatures appears below is authorized on behalf of the Recipient, acting ⁵[individually] ⁶[jointly], to deliver Applications, and evidence in support thereof on the terms and conditions specified by the Association.

This confirms that the Recipient is authorizing such persons to accept Secure Identification Credentials (SIDC) and to deliver the Applications and supporting documents to the Association by electronic means. In full recognition that the Association shall rely upon such representations and warranties, including without limitation, 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 Association that it will cause such persons to abide by those terms and conditions.

¹ Instruction to Association staff: please forward this letter to Country Lawyer for further processing (Recipient: please do not delete this note).

² Instruction to the Recipient: add text in line with the Grant Agreement if applicable; if not applicable delete it. *Please delete this footnote in final letter that is sent to the Associations*

³ 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 Association.*

⁴ 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 Association.*

⁵ 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 Association.*

⁶ 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 Association.*

This Authorization replaces and supersedes any Authorization currently in the Association records with respect to this Agreement.

[Name], [position] Specimen Signature: _____

[Name], [position] Specimen Signature: _____

[Name], [position] Specimen Signature: _____

Yours truly,

/ signed /

Attachment 2 - Sample Form for Advances

[Ministry/Implementing Agency Letterhead]

[Date]

Loan Department – [name of Regional Center]
The World Bank
[address of regional center]
Attention: [name of regional center team lead]

**Subject: Re: IDA [Credit] [Grant] _____ - ____ (name of Program/Operation)
-Request for Advance**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We refer to the Financing Agreement between the Association (the “Association”) and [*insert the name of the Recipient*] (the “Recipient”) providing for the above [Grant][Credit].

In accordance with the provisions of the Disbursement Letter and Schedule ____, Section _____ of the Financing Agreement, to support the implementation of the above Program and to facilitate the achievement of the planned results, we request an Advance in the amount of [*insert amount*]¹.

[We request that the Advance be disbursed in [*currency requested for disbursement*] equivalent to the Total Advance Requested above.]² We acknowledge that the amount disbursed will be charged to the [Grant][Credit] Account in the currency of the Financing at the rate of exchange in effect at the time of disbursement.

Sincerely,

[*insert Name, and Position*]³

¹ The Proposed Advance should be in the currency of the DLI/DLR as set out in the disbursement table in the [Grant][Financing] Agreement, and in accordance with provisions in the Disbursement and Financial Information Letter. Normally, this is the currency of commitment of the [Grant][Credit].

² Use this text to designate the currency of the Advance if it should be different from the currency set out in the disbursement table in the [Grant][Financing] Agreement.

³ To be signed by a representative of the implementing/coordinating agency of the Recipient, OR by the person(s) authorized on behalf of the Recipient to sign applications for withdrawal under the Credit/Grant as set out in the applicable Authorized Signatory Letter.

Attachment 3 - SOE Model Template (incl. listing of prior review payments)

**IBRD – International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/IDA – International Development Association
Statement of Expenditures**

Payment made during the period from to

The following expenditures have been incurred during the retroactive financing period (please tick)
The following expenditures have been incurred before the closing date of the loan/credit/grant (please tick)

Yes	No
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	12	13	14	
Item No	Supplier's Name	Brief Description of the Expenditure	Prior Review (Contract?) <i>(YES or NO)</i>	Contract # <i>(Client Connection # for Prior Review Contracts)</i>	Contract Currency and Amount <i>(Original + Amendment)</i>	Invoice Number	Date of Payment	Total Amount of Invoice Covered by Application <i>(Net of Retention)</i>	% Financed from the Bank	Eligible Amount <i>(Col 9 x 10)</i>	Exchange Rate	Date of Withdrawal from the Designated Account	Amount Withdrawn from the Designated Account <i>(Col 9/12)</i>	
									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.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Alfred Jean-Marie Borgonovo, Senior Finance Officer (WFACS)

Cleared with and cc: *Murat Cengizlier, Counsel, LEGAM*
Vincent De Paul Mboutchouang, Task Team Leader, EAWG2

Cc: Henie Dahlia Takodjou Meku, SGF principal (EAWG2)