

17-Aug-2023

H. E. Adama COULIBALY
Minister of Economy and Finance
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Abidjan
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Re: Republic of Cote d'Ivoire: Advance Agreement for Preparation of the Proposed Cote d'Ivoire Digital Acceleration Project
Project Preparation Advance No. V4930-001

Excellency:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of Republic of Cote d'Ivoire ("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 Dollars (\$4,000,000) ("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 the delivery and adoption of selected digital public services, expand access to climate-resilient broadband connectivity, and enhance the digital foundations ("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 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effective as of the date of the countersignature ; provided, however, that the offer of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the Bank has not received this countersigned copy within 90 days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the Bank, unless the Bank has established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.

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

- (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) “CIDAP” means Cote d'Ivoire Digital Acceleration Project (P180059).
- (d) “CIDAP PIU” is the unit to be established and to be responsible for the implementation and fiduciary aspects of the proposed CIDAP Project as per Article 2.01.a of this PPA Agreement.
- (e) “Environmental and Social Commitment Plan” or “ESCP” means the environmental and social commitment plan for the Project, dated July 7, 2023, 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.
- (f) “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.

- (g) “*MICEN*” means the “Recipient’s Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy (in French, *Ministère de la Communication et de l’Économie Numérique*)”
- (h) “PAGDS” means “Enhancing Government Effectiveness for Improved Public Services Project (P164302, P176882)”, in French *Projet d’Amélioration de la Gouvernance pour la Délivrance des Services de bases aux citoyens*).
- (i) “OSEP” means *Observatoire du Service Public*, the Recipient’s Public Service Observatory, a state agency body created by Decree No. 2017-83 dated February 8, 2018, located in Abidjan and under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Public Service. OSEP is responsible for the collection of complaints, observations, suggestions and requests for information from citizens.
- (j) “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.
- (k) “PPA Project Implementation Unit”, “PPA PIU” or “CIDAP PPA PIU” means the unit already established within the Recipient’s Ministry of Economy and Finance, responsible for the implementation and fiduciary aspects of PAGDS and CIDAP PPA.
- (l) “Standard Conditions” means the “Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the Bank under its Project Preparation Facility”, dated August 1, 2022.
- (m) “Technical Unit” is the unit located at MICEN composed of MICEN staff assigned by the Minister to oversee and advise on the technical aspects of the PPA.

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) Providing technical assistance for: (i) the establishment of the CIDAP-PIU; (ii) the preparation of: (A) the Project Operations Manual; (B) a Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD), a draft procurement plan, and the design and establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework; and (C) the draft Project social and environmental instruments.
- (b) Carrying out conferences, workshops, with key stakeholders.
- (c) Carrying out technical, analytical and feasibility studies on, *inter alia*: (i) legal and regulatory framework for the provision of public and private digital services in Côte d’Ivoire; (ii) "design-thinking" methodology for the digitization of public services; (iii) authentication requirements for access to government platforms (iv) digital public service houses model; (v) deployment of connectivity infrastructures in white zones and in the public administration; (vi) development of a normative framework for the pre-wiring of buildings with optical fiber; (vii) rehabilitation, extension, and construction of

technological universities; and (viii) deployment of a national program to strengthen digital skills, with a focus on youth, women, and the environment.

- (d) Providing capacity building of: (i) OSEP team in digital public services; and (ii) civil servants in the implementation of a “design-thinking” methodology for digital public services; and carrying study tours.

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 Project 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.***

(a) The Recipient shall, throughout the Refinancing Date, maintain within the Ministry of Economy and Finance a Project Implementation Unit (PIU), with resources and functions acceptable to the Bank and with staff in adequate numbers with qualifications and experience satisfactory to the Bank, vested with the fiduciary management responsibility and the day-to-day coordination of the Activities.

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, including, any case of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and violence against minors, 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 one month after each calendar semester, covering the calendar semester.

**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, Consulting Services, Non-Consulting Services, Operating Costs and Training.	4,000,000	100%
TOTAL AMOUNT	4,000,000	

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 November, 30 2024.

Article IV Terms of the Advance

4.01. **Service Charge.** The Recipient shall pay a service charge on the Withdrawn Advance Balance at the rate of three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum. The service charge shall accrue from the respective dates on which amounts of the Advance are withdrawn and shall be paid in arrears in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.02 of this Agreement. Service charges shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

4.02. **Repayment.** The Withdrawn Advance Balance shall be repaid by the Recipient to the Bank (together with any service charges accrued thereon) in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Standard Conditions and the following provisions:

(a) *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 repaid to the Bank (together with any service charges accrued on the Advance to the date of repayment) as soon as the Refinancing Agreement becomes effective, by means of a withdrawal by the Bank of an amount of the Refinancing Proceeds equivalent to the Withdrawn Advance Balance plus such service charges, in accordance with the provisions of the Refinancing Agreement.

(b) *Repayment in the absence of a Refinancing Agreement:* 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:

- (i) if the amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance does not exceed \$50,000, it shall be repaid by the Recipient to the Bank (together with service charges accrued on the Withdrawn Advance Balance to the date of repayment) on such date as the Bank shall specify in a notice to the Recipient, which shall in no event be earlier than 60 days following the date of dispatch of such notice; and
- (ii) if the amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance exceeds \$50,000, it (together with service charges accrued on the Withdrawn Advance Balance to the Notice Date) (the "Aggregate Balance") shall be paid by the Recipient to the Bank in ten approximately equal semiannual installments, in the amounts and on the dates ("Payment Dates") which the Bank shall specify in a notice to the Recipient. In no event shall the first Payment Date be set earlier than 60 days following the date ("Notice Date") of dispatch of such notice. The Recipient shall pay a service charge on the Aggregate Balance at the rate of three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum, payable in arrears on each Payment Date. The service charge shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

Article V
Effectiveness; Termination

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

Article VI
Recipient's Representative; Addresses

6.01. **Recipient's Representative.** The Recipient's Representative referred to in Section 9.02 of the Standard Conditions is its minister in charge of finance.

6.02. **Recipient's Address.** For purposes of Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions: (a) the Recipient's Address is:

Ministry of Economy and Finance
BP V 163
Abidjan
Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

(b) the Recipient's Electronic Address is: adcoulibaly01@gmail.com

Facsimile:

225-20-30-25-25
225-20-30-25-28

6.03. **Bank's Address.** For purposes of Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions: (a) the Bank's Address is:

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

(b) the Bank's Electronic Address is:

Telex:

Facsimile:

248423 (MCI) or
64145 (MCI)

1-202-477-6391