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**CREDIT NUMBER 7448-MR**  
**And amendment to the Original Financing Agreement for**  
**GRANT NUMBER D5750-MR**

# **Financing Agreement**

**(Additional Financing for the Decentralization and Productive  
Intermediate Cities Support Project)**

**between**

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA**

**and**

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

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## **FINANCING AGREEMENT**

AGREEMENT dated as of the Signature Date between ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA (“Recipient”) and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (“Association”) for the financing of scale up activities of the Original Project. 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, in the Appendix to this Agreement or in the Appendix to the Original Financing Agreement. In case of inconsistency of definitions between the definition of a capitalized term in the Appendix to this Agreement and the Appendix to the Original Financing Agreement, for the interpretation of the terms used in this Agreement, the definition included in the Appendix to this Agreement shall prevail.

### **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 an amount equivalent to nineteen million one hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 19,100,000) (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 The Service Charge is three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum on the Withdrawn Credit Balance.
- 2.05. The Interest Charge is one and a quarter percent (1.25%) per annum on the Withdrawn Credit Balance.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 Dollar.

**ARTICLE III — PROJECT**

- 3.01. The Recipient declares its commitment to the objectives of the Project. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Project in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the General Conditions and Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

**ARTICLE IV — EFFECTIVENESS; TERMINATION**

- 4.01. The Effectiveness Deadline is the date one hundred and twenty (120) 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 economy.
- 5.02. For purposes of Section 11.01 of the General Conditions:

- (a) the Recipient's address is:

Ministry of Economy, and Sustainable Development  
Avenue Nelson Mandela  
BP 238  
Nouakchott  
Mauritania; and

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

Facsimile: 222-45-25-33-35

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

AGREED as of the Signature Date.

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA**

**By**

*Mr. Abdesselam Ould Mohamed Saleh*

**Authorized Representative**

**Name:** Mr. Abdesselam Ould Mohamed Saleh

**Title:** MINISTRE ECONOMY

**Date:** 21-Dec-2023

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

**By**

**Keiko Miwa**

**Authorized Representative**

**Name:** Keiko Miwa

**Title:** Country Director

**Date:** 12-Dec-2023

## **SCHEDULE 1**

### **Project Description**

The objectives of the Project are to: (i) improve access to local services in selected localities; and (ii) strengthen the capacities of local governments to plan and manage local public services.

The Project consists of the following parts:

#### **Part 1. Improving Access to Infrastructures and Services for Economic Development**

- 1.1 Supporting eligible investments for resilient urban infrastructure and services in selected Municipalities, through the provision of Municipal Grants covering costs related to, *inter alia*: (a) feasibility studies for investments identified through Communal Development Plans; (b) technical and safeguards studies of eligible infrastructure investments; and (c) works and equipment necessary for the required purpose.
- 1.2 Increasing urban and rural electrification, through the development and establishment of: (a) a PPP scheme to: (i) build, operate and maintain solar photovoltaic generation and related mini-grid distribution systems, networks and connections, in selected Localities in three priority areas outside the national grid; and (ii) recruit an owner's engineer to assist SOMELEC with management, coordination, supervision and implementation support in connection to the design, procurement, construction, commissioning, contractors, and Safeguards Instruments; (b) feasibility studies, related works and goods for the upgrade and grid extension of distribution medium- and low-voltages networks to the city of Bassikounou; and (c) technical assistance and training to support the Ministry of Oil, Energy and Mining to strengthen the institutional and legal framework applying to urban and rural electrification.
- 1.3 Reducing urban flood risk and improving resilience of recovery, primarily in the cities of Rosso and Kaédi and other intermediate cities which the Recipient and the Association agree show great vulnerability and may be supported by the Financing, through: (a) the development of urban planning instruments and technical flood management studies and tools taking into consideration the effect of climate change; such as urban masterplans, flood-related data collection for urban agglomeration; and flood prevention and urban resilience plans; (b) the completion of priority investments for sustainable flood risk reduction identified in the studies referred to in (a) immediately above, through the completion of technical studies and the construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure, such as rehabilitating pumping stations, cleaning/dredging and rehabilitating existing drainage and stormwater management systems, city cleaning; rehabilitating retention ponds and associated nature-based solutions for infiltration; and rehabilitating the existing

drainage and stormwater management systems, constructing landfill and supporting a functioning solid waste management system at Kaédi; carrying out studies and works for the reconstruction of dikes; and implementing other rapid civil works to strengthen the urban resilience, based on prior studies and cost estimates; and (c) the provision of technical assistance and critical materials to strengthen institutional capacity to manage the sector and prepare for and respond to disasters, including the efficient management of solid waste management by local governments and the operation and maintenance of the drainage system by ONAS, the implementation of urban development in a manner sensitive to risks and climate change sustainability, and the provision of basic emergency management equipment.

## **Part 2. Strengthening decentralization and Local Government capacity**

- 2.1 Strengthening the legal and institutional decentralization framework by providing technical assistance, training, studies and goods to:
  - (a) improve central government oversight of Local Governments, including human resources management and information management systems;
  - (b) improve fiscal decentralization, including by developing: (i) Local Governments' legal framework on financing mechanisms, and (ii) Local Governments' planning and budgeting manuals and financial management software;
  - (c) improve the Recipient's territorial development planning's systems, including by developing manuals and processes for regional development planning and a study on the national voluntary resettlement program;
  - (d) strengthen Local Governments' human resource management system through studies on the update of the legal framework for Local Governments' staffing; and
  - (e) support decentralization policy-making, through: (i) the development of a program for the deployment of public human and financial resources across the Recipient's territory; (ii) a stock-taking study of the implementation of the Decentralization Reform; and (iii) a strategy for gender equality in local elected office.
- 2.2 Building the capacity of selected Local Governments by providing technical assistance, training, studies and goods to:
  - (a) improve regional development planning, through: (i) the establishment of Regional Development Plans; (ii) the development of conventions with

sector ministries; (iii) the provision of training for selected Regional Governments' executive staff in public finance and human resource management; and (iv) the coordination of development actors, especially in the selected regions hosting refugees;

- (b) improve public finance management of selected Municipalities, through: (i) the development of Communal Development Plans and annual implementation updates; (ii) the provision of trainings on local revenue mobilization; (iii) the installation of municipal budgeting and accounting software and the provision of training of key fiduciary staff, local counselors and deconcentrated services of Treasury; (iv) the implementation of a pilot of concertation mechanisms between local private sector and Local Governments; and (v) the provision of strategic and legal advice on municipal PPPs;
- (c) improve human resource management of selected Municipalities, through: (i) functional reviews of the human resources; (ii) human resources adjustment plans; and (iii) human resources management tools;
- (d) improve citizen engagement in selected Municipalities, through: (i) a municipal simplified budget report; (ii) participatory development planning and monitoring mechanisms; and (iii) a municipal GRM; and
- (e) support urban development planning, through: (i) the elaboration of urban master plans and sector plans for selected Municipalities and (ii) the implementation of urban land mobilization tools for infrastructure investments in the Municipalities selected under Part 1 of the Project.

### **Part 3. Project management**

Supporting the Recipient in the areas of Project management, coordination, supervision, fiduciary aspects, financial management, procurement, audits, communication, environmental and social safeguards, monitoring and evaluation, and training and operation of the implementation arrangement established for the coordination and supervision of the Project activities.

### **Part 4. Contingency Emergency Response Component**

Providing immediate response to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, as needed.

## SCHEDULE 2

### Project Execution

#### Section I. Implementation Arrangements

##### A. Institutional Arrangements.

1. Existing Institutional Arrangement. The Recipient shall maintain the Project Steering Committee and the Project Coordination Unit with composition and mandate as described or referred to in the Original Financing Agreement.
2. The Recipient shall maintain, throughout the implementation of the Project, a multi-skilled firm on the basis of terms of reference, qualifications and experience acceptable to the Association, for the purpose of, among other things, providing technical advice and supporting the PCU in the implementation of the activities included in Part 1.3 of the Project.
3. The Recipient shall, no later than two (2) months after the Effective Date, enter into a delegated management contract with ONAS, to clarify their respective roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the civil works under Part 1.3(b) of the Project.
4. The Recipient shall maintain its arrangements with the Municipalities and continue to ensure that the Municipalities have sufficient resources and capacities to carry out their responsibilities for the successful implementation of the Project, as described or referred to in the Original Financing Agreement.

##### B. Manuals.

1. (a) The Recipient shall, no later than one (1) month after the Effective Date, update the Project Operations Manual in form and substance acceptable to the Association, for the purpose of integrating the detailed information on all aspects of implementation of Part 1.3 of the Project, including: (i) fiduciary functions and requirements, organization and human resource management; (ii) environmental and social safeguards; (iii) procurement, financial management, accounting and disbursements; and (iv) monitoring, evaluation and internal audits; and
- (b) Without limitation to the generality of Section I.B.1(a) of this Schedule, the Recipient shall continue to implement the Project and cause the Project to be implemented, in accordance with the Project Operations Manual (as amended in accordance with Section I.B.1(a) of this Schedule) and the Municipal Grant Manual, with rights and obligations of the Recipient regarding the application and modification of these manuals as further described or referred to in the Original Financing Agreement.

**C. Annual Work Plans and Budgets**

1. The Recipient shall:
  - (a) prepare a draft Annual Work Plan and Budget (“AWP&B”) for each Fiscal Year, setting forth, *inter alia*: (i) a detailed description of planned Project activities for the following Fiscal Year (which shall not include any activities excluded from the scope of the Project); (ii) the sources and uses of funds therefor, including the funds of the Financing, those provided by the Recipient and any other funds which may become available for the Project; and (iii) responsibility for execution of said Project activities (with the confirmation that the arrangements are in place between the PCU and the agencies under whose mandate the activities to be carried out are falling, if needed), budgets, start and completion date, outputs, and monitoring indicators to track progress of each activity;
  - (b) on or about December 15 of each Fiscal Year furnish to the Association for its comments and approval, the draft AWP&B and, promptly thereafter, finalize the AWP&B, taking into account the Association’s views and recommendations thereon;
  - (c) adopt, through the Project Steering Committee, the final version of the AWP&B in the form approved by the Association not later than January 15 of such Fiscal Year; and
  - (d) ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the AWP&B.
2. Training shall be carried out on the basis of AWP&B, 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;
  - (g) the estimate of the cost of such training.
3. AWP&B may be revised as needed during Project implementation subject to the Association’s prior approval.

**D. Environmental and Social Standards**

1. The obligations of the Recipient described or referred to in Section I.E of Schedule 2 to the Original Financing Agreement continue to apply to the Project as if repeated in full here.
2. 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.

3. The Recipient shall ensure that neither the Financing nor the Original Financing is used to finance activities excluded from the scope of the Project in the ESCP, in the safeguard instruments or in the POM, and in particular any activity which would have otherwise required that the Recipient notifies riparian states in application of the Association's policy referred to as OP 7.50 (Projects on International Waterways).

**E. Contingent Emergency Response**

1. For the implementation of Part 4 of the Project (referred to as the Contingent Emergency Response Component or "CERC"), the Recipient shall ensure that:
  - (a) a manual ("CERC Manual") is prepared and adopted in form and substance acceptable to the Association, which shall set forth detailed implementation arrangements for the CERC, including: (i) any structures or institutional arrangements for coordinating and implementing the CERC; (ii) specific activities which may be included in the CERC, Eligible Expenditures required therefor ("Emergency Expenditures"), and any procedures for their inclusion in the CERC; (iii) financial management arrangements for the CERC; (iv) procurement methods and procedures for the CERC; (v) documentation required for withdrawals of Financing amounts to finance Emergency Expenditures; (vi) a description of the environmental and social assessment and management arrangements for the CERC; and (vii) a template Emergency Action Plan;
  - (b) the Emergency Action Plan is prepared and adopted in form and substance acceptable to the Association;
  - (c) the CERC is carried out in accordance with the CERC Manual and the Emergency Action Plan; provided, however, that in the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of the CERC Manual or the Emergency Action Plan and this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail; and

- (d) neither the CERC Manual nor the Emergency Action Plan is amended, suspended, abrogated, repealed or waived without the prior written approval by the Association.
- 2. The Recipient shall ensure that the structures and arrangements referred to in the CERC Manual are maintained throughout the implementation of the CERC, with adequate staff and resources satisfactory to Association.
- 3. The Recipient shall ensure that:
  - (a) the environmental and social instruments required for the CERC are prepared, disclosed and adopted in accordance with the CERC Manual and the ESCP, and in form and substance acceptable to the Association; and
  - (b) the CERC is carried out in accordance with the environmental and social instruments in a manner acceptable to the Association.
- 4. Activities under the CERC shall be undertaken only after an Eligible Crisis or Emergency has occurred.

**F. Counterpart financing**

Without limitation to Section 5.03 of the General Conditions, the Recipient shall make available to the Project a minimum amount of counterpart financing equivalent to US\$2,500,000, to be disbursed throughout the period of implementation of the Project, in the manner agreed in the Annual Work Plans and Budgets, for the financing of, among other things, expenditures under Part 3 of the Project and payments to be made for the implementation of the environmental and social instruments.

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

The obligations of the Recipient included or referred to in Section II of Schedule 2 to the Original Financing Agreement are applicable to this Agreement as if repeated here in full.

**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 Financing Allocated (expressed in SDR)</b>	<b>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)</b>
(1) Goods, works, non-consulting services, and consulting services for Part 1.3 of the Project	19,100,000	100%
(2) Emergency Expenditures under Part 4 of the Project	0	100%
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>19,100,000</b>	

**B. Withdrawal Conditions; Withdrawal Period**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A of this Section, no withdrawal shall be made:
  - (a) for payments made prior to the Signature Date, except that withdrawals up to an aggregate amount not to exceed SDR 1,530,000 may be made for payments made prior to this date but on or after March 1, 2023, for Eligible Expenditures; or
  - (b) under Category (2) for the financing of Emergency Expenditures, unless and until the Association is satisfied, and has notified the Recipient of its satisfaction, that the following conditions of disbursement have been satisfied:
    - (i) (A) the Recipient has determined that an Eligible Crisis or Emergency has occurred, and has furnished to the Association a request to withdraw Financing amounts under Category (3); and (B) the Association has agreed with such determination, accepted said request and notified the Recipient thereof; and
    - (ii) the Recipient has adopted the CERC Manual and Emergency Action Plan, in form and substance acceptable to the Association and is in compliance with all its obligations under the CERC Manual and Emergency Action Plan at the time of the application for the withdrawal of funds; and

- (iii) the Recipient has ensured that all environmental and social standards instruments required for said activities have been prepared and disclosed, and that any actions which are required to be taken under said instruments have been implemented, all in accordance with the provisions of Section I.E. of this Schedule.

2. The Closing Date is December 31, 2027.

**Section IV. Amendments to the Original Financing Agreement**

The following provisions of the Original Financing Agreement are amended as follows:

- 1. Schedule 1 to the Original Financing Agreement is deleted in its entirety and replaced by a new Schedule 1 strictly identical to the Schedule 1 to this Agreement.
- 2. In Section I.E of Schedule 2 to the Original Financing Agreement, a new Paragraph 6 is added in terms strictly identical to Section I.D.2 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, and a new paragraph 7 is added in terms strictly identical to Section I.D.3 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
- 3. The disbursement table in Section III.A of Schedule 2 to the Original Financing Agreement is deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following disbursement table:

QUOTE

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount of the Grant Allocated (expressed in SDR)</b>	<b>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)</b>
(1) Goods, works, non-consulting services, consulting services, Operating Costs and Training for the Project (except for Part 1.2 of the Project) [pro memoria]	4,865,000	100%
(2) Goods, works, non-consulting services, consulting services, Operating Costs and Training for Part 1.2 of the Project	13,800,000	100%

(3) Municipal Grants under Part 1.1 of the Project	23,300,000	100%
(4) Emergency Expenditures under Part 4 of the Project	0	100%
(5) Goods, works, non-consulting services, consulting services, Operating Costs and Training for the Project (except for Part 1.2 and Part 1.3 of the Project)	6,035,000	100%
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>48,000,000</b>	100%

UNQUOTE

4. Section III.B.2 of Schedule 2 to the Original Financing Agreement is amended to read as follows:

“2. The Closing Date is December 31, 2027.”

**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, 2029, to and including November 15, 2048	<b>1.65%</b>
commencing May 15, 2049, to and including November 15, 2053	<b>3.40%</b>

\* 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).

## **APPENDIX**

### **Definitions**

1. “Annual Work Plan and Budget” or “AWP&B” means the plan and corresponding budget to be prepared annually by the Recipient in accordance with Section I.C.1 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, which has been finalized in a manner which incorporates the comments provided by the Association.
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. “Category” means a category set forth in the table in Section III.A of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
4. “CERC Manual” means the manual referred to in Section I.E.1 (a) of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, as such manual may be updated from time to time with the agreement of the Association, and which is an integral part of the Operational Manual.
5. “Contingent Emergency Response Component” or CERC” means any activity or activities to be carried out under Part 4 of the Project to respond to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency.
6. “Eligible Crisis or Emergency” means an event that has caused, or is likely to imminently cause, a major adverse economic and/or social impact to the Recipient, associated with a natural or man-made crisis or disaster.
7. “Emergency Expenditures” means any of the eligible expenditures set forth in the CERC Manual referred to in Section I.E.1(a) of Schedule 2 to this Agreement and required for the Contingent Emergency Response Component.
8. “Emergency Action Plan” means the plan referred to in Section I.E.1(b) detailing the activities, budget, implementation plan, and monitoring and evaluation arrangements, to respond to the Eligible Crisis or Emergency.
9. “Environmental and Social Commitment Plan” or “ESCP” means the environmental and social commitment plan for the Project, dated October 25, 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.

10. “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”; and (x) “Environmental and Social Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure”; effective on October 1, 2018, as published by the Association.
11. “Fiscal Year” means a period of twelve consecutive calendar months starting on January 1 each year.
12. “General Conditions” means the “International Development Association General Conditions for IDA Financing, Investment Project Financing”, dated December 14, 2018 (Last revised on July 15, 2023).
13. “Original Financing Agreement” means the Financing Agreement between the Recipient and the Association dated April 10, 2020, pursuant to which the Association agreed to provide to the Recipient grant no. D5753-MR to contribute to the financing of the Decentralization and Productive Intermediate Cities Support Project.
14. “ONAS” means *Office National d’Assainissement*, the Recipient’s corporate body responsible for sanitation, established by the Recipient’s decree no. 2009-122 dated April 14, 2009, *portant création de l’Office National d’Assainissement*.
15. “Original Project” means the project described in Schedule 1 to the Original Financing Agreement, prior to its amendment under this Agreement.
16. “Procurement Regulations” means, for purposes of paragraph 85 of the Appendix to the General Conditions, the “World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers”, dated September 2023.

17. “Project Coordination Unit” or “PCU” means the unit established for the Project, pursuant to the Recipient’s *arrêté no. 809/MAEPSP portant création de la cellule de coordination du Projet d’appui à la décentralisation et au développement des villes intermédiaires productives (MOUDOUN)*, dated October 16, 2020.
18. “Project Operation Manual” means the Recipient’s manual adopted by its ministry responsible for economy for the implementation of the activities included in the Project, entitled *Projet d’appui à la Décentralization et au Développement des Villes intermédiaires Productives -MOUDOUN- Manuel des Procédures Administratives, Financières et Comptables (MdP)*, dated November 30, 2022.
19. “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.
20. “Steering Committee” means the committee established for the Project pursuant to the Recipient’s *arrêté no. 66/MAEPSP portant création du comité de pilotage du Projet d’appui à la décentralisation et au développement des villes intermédiaires productives (MOUDOUN)*, dated January 15, 2021.