

CONFORMED COPY

CREDIT NUMBER 4424-BJ

Financing Agreement

(Competitiveness and Integrated Growth Opportunity Project)

between

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dated September 12, 2008

FINANCING AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT dated September 12, 2008, entered into between REPUBLIC OF BENIN (“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) 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 fifteen million seven hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 15,700,000) (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 IV of Schedule 2 to this Agreement. The Recipient’s Representative for purposes of taking any action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to this Section is the Director General of the *Caisse Autonome d’Amortissement* or his representative.
- 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 The Service Charge payable by the Recipient on the Withdrawn Credit Balance shall be equal to three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum.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 15 and October 15 in each year.
- 2.06. The principal amount of the Credit shall be repaid in accordance with the repayment schedule set forth in Schedule 3 to this Agreement.
- 2.07. The Payment Currency is the Euro.

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 through the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the General Conditions.
- 3.02. Without limitation upon the provisions of Section 3.01 of this Agreement, and except as the Recipient and the Association shall otherwise agree, the Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV — EFFECTIVENESS; TERMINATION

- 4.01. The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following:
- (a) The Recipient has initiated the bidding process for the recruitment of an independent audit firm in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, employed under conditions satisfactory to the Association;
 - (b) The Recipient has adopted a Project Implementation Manual, and an Administrative, Accounting and Financing Manual, all in form and substance satisfactory to the Association; and
 - (c) The Recipient has established the PCU within the Ministry of Industry of Commerce, the Steering Committee and the TMC, all in a manner and with functions and resources satisfactory to the Association, and with the following qualified staff of the PCU, recruited under terms of reference and conditions acceptable to the Association: (i) a Project coordinator seconded by: a Procurement Specialist, a Financial Management Specialist, and a Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist; (ii) a Business Development Infrastructure Coordinator (BDC); (iii) a Products & Market Coordinator (PMC), and (iv) an internal auditor.
- 4.02. The Effectiveness Deadline is the date ninety (90) days after the date of this Agreement.

ARTICLE V — REPRESENTATIVE; ADDRESSES

5.01. Except as provided in Section 2.02 of this Agreement, the Recipient's Representative is the Minister of the Recipient at the time responsible for finance.

5.02. The Recipient's Address is:

Ministry of Economy and Finance
B.P. 302
Cotonou
Republic of Benin

Cable address:	Telex:	Facsimile:
MINFINANCES Cotonou	5009 MINFIN or 5289 CAA	(229) 21 30 18 51 (229) 21 31 53 56

5.03. The Association's Address is:

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

Cable:	Telex:	Facsimile:
INDEVAS Washington, D.C.	248423 (MCI)	1-202-477-6391

AGREED at Cotonou, Republic of Benin, as of the day and year first above written.

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

By /s/ Soulé Mana Lawani

Authorized Representative

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By /s/ Madani M. Tall

Authorized Representative

SCHEDULE 1

Project Description

The objective of the Project is to support enterprise and entrepreneurship developments in the Country of the Recipient through improved business development infrastructure, improved trade expansion platform, and catalytic interventions for direct investment promotion and the development of new products and new markets.

The Project consists of the following parts:

Part 1: Improved business development infrastructure through reform of structures

1. Creation of the "Agence pour la Promotion des Investissements et des Exportations" (APIEX)

Establishing and supporting the activities of an agency for the promotion of exports and investments (APIEX) through: (i) the setting up an integrated investment and trade promotion strategy based on the delivery of customized investment promotion packages; (ii) strengthening and integrating the Agency for promotion of trade (*Agence Béninoise de Promotion des Échanges Commerciaux - ABPEC*) and the Center for the Promotion of Investments (*Centre de Promotion des Investissements - CPI*); including the set-up of a one-stop-shop for the handling of export procedures and promotion and a one-stop-shop for the handholding of the investors; (iii) the establishment of one electronic and information technology backbone (EITB) for the two one-stop-shops; (iv) the connection/integration of the data base of ABPEC and CPI; (v) the connection/integration of the EITB and "consolidated" ABPEC/CPI database with the electronic platform and database of the CFE; and the continuing support of the consolidated activities of APIEX after its creation; all through the acquisition of goods, provision of technical advisory services, and carrying out of training.

2. Strengthening the "Secrétariat Permanent du Conseil Présidentiel de l'Investissement" (SPCPI)

Establishing the institutional framework, strengthening the capacity of SPCPI and providing support for SPCPI's activities, in order to enable it to support translation and implementation of the output of the meetings held by the President Investor's Council into policy prescriptions, implementation strategies and programs; all through the acquisition of goods and provision of technical advisory services.

3. Design of an Adaptive Financial Intermediation System

Rationalization and adaptation of the institutional and legal framework for a financial intermediation system that would enable the development of adapted financial intermediation instruments and the provision of technical assistance to financial institutions for the design and

implementation of adaptive financial intermediation systems in selected strategic areas to support product and market development for MSMEs, including through micro-financing mechanisms; all through the provision technical assistance and studies.

4. Consolidation of selected reform of structures

Provision of technical assistance to: (i) support for the separation of the assets of Benin Telecom from those of Benin Post Office; (ii) the design and set-up of a legal framework for the telecommunications sector, including the electronic communications and new information technology based activities and taking into account the separation of postal services from the telecommunications sector; (iii) support to the privatization of Benin Telecom; and (iv) analysis of fiscal and business regulations in view of their rationalization and harmonization; all through the provision of technical assistance and studies.

Part 2: Products and Markets Development

1. The Project Development Fund (PDF)

Establishment and support of the activities of a Project Development Fund for the financing of business preparation activities through provision of technical assistance and studies for identification of business opportunities, market studies, enterprise design, proactive marketing, design of business plans, project promotion, search of partners and borrowing opportunities (collectively, “Project Development Activities”).

2. Set-up of Minimum Integrated Trade Expansion Platform

Establishment of a Minimum Integrated Trade Expansion Platform (MITEP) to assist MSMEs to overcome technical barriers to trade access, through:

(i) the strengthening, rationalization, and harmonization of the existing entities in charge of Metrology, Standardization, Testing, Quality (MSTQ) and their activities, including: (a) assessment of capacities required for more proactive approaches of existing MSTQ institutions; (b) redirecting the MSTQ infrastructure to support government priority sectors (as identified through the Steering Committee) through the edition, dissemination and enforcement of quality standards protocols both for imports and exports; (c) provision of relevant standards for PTIS (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement); (d) integration of certification and quality control throughout the targeted supply chain regulatory measures; (e) improvement of codification to enhance traceability of conformity assessment throughout targeted supply chains; (f) development and implementation of a new regulatory framework to support MSTQ services to SMEs; (g) upgrading the public laboratories of the *Centre Béninois de Normalisation et de Gestion de la Qualité* (CEBENOR) and the *Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin* (INRAB) through the provision of equipment, and capacity development; (h) training in MSTQ; (i) development of linkages between research activities and compliance with quality standards by firms in order to support product adaptation and product development needs; and (j) integration of

MSTQ delivery systems with the delivery systems for ADEX, ABPEC and other trade organizations that can directly help translate standards into product adaptation and product development; all through the acquisition of goods, provision of technical advisory services and studies, and carrying out of training.

(ii) the setting up of an ICT-based proactive trade and business information system (PTIS) initially within ABPEC, and subsequently within APIEX once it is created, involving: (a) the inventory of products that represent short, medium and long-term prospects; (b) technical assistance for the design and the delivery of products identification cards; (c) IT software and hardware equipment for the functioning of the PTIS; (d) the training of the personnel of the PTIS; (e) the setting up of a business database; (f) the set-up of the interface links between the PTIS and other databases; and (g) the training of specialized business development providers to develop their capacity to assist SMEs in use of trade information; all through the provision of studies, technical assistance, training and equipment.

(iii) development of the market of non-financial product and market development services to SMEs, through: (a) capacity development for local specialized business development services (ADEX, Benin Chamber of Commerce, professional organizations); (b) the creation of incentives for SMEs to have recourse to specialized business development services providers through training, seminars, and assistance; and (c) the design of a relevant legal framework to support the market.

(iv) Creation and setting up of a framework for rationalization of private or public, national, local and intermediary trade support structures and the integration of their activities with those of investment promotion services, through the provision of technical assistance.

Part 3: Project Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation

1. Support of the activities of a Project Coordination Unit (PCU), through the financing of operating costs and training.
2. Support of the set-up and functioning of a TMC (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement), through the financing of operating costs and training.

SCHEDULE 2**Project Execution****Section I. Implementation Arrangements****A. Institutional Arrangements**

1. Except as the Association shall otherwise agree, the Recipient shall: (i) apply the criteria, policies, procedures and arrangements set out in the Project Implementation Manual, and the Administrative, Accounting and Financial Manual; and (ii) not amend or waive, or permit to be amended or waived, the Project Implementation Manual, and the Administrative, Accounting and Financial Manual or any provision thereof, without the prior written approval of the Association.
2.
 - (a) The Recipient shall create and maintain for the duration of Project implementation, a Steering Committee with the Minister of State in Charge of Prospective, Development and Evaluation of the Public Action, the Minister of Economy and Finance and the Minister of Trade and Industry. The Steering Committee will meet at least twice a year and shall: (i) provide strategic guidance to the TMC and the PCU; (ii) periodically review progress; (iii) make final decisions on strategic orientations and choices as needed; and (iv) approve the annual work programs and budgets prepared by the PCU before submission to the Association and other stakeholders.
 - (b) The Recipient shall create and maintain for the duration of Project implementation, the Technical Monitoring Committee (TMC) with representatives of lines ministries technical departments and private sector responsible for Project implementation and/or benefiting from the Project, in a form and with functions satisfactory to the Association. Such Committee shall: (i) monitor progress in project implementation; (ii) bring technical operational support to the Project; (iii) verify conformity of the annual work programs, and budgets prepared by the PCU with the orientations determined by the Steering Committee, and submission of such programs and budgets to the Steering Committee; (iv) approve interim unaudited financial reports prepared by the PCU before submission to the Association and other stakeholders; and (v) appraise and resolve strategic and technical issues that may arise in the course of Project implementation.
 - (c) The Recipient shall create and maintain, for the duration of Project implementation, within the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) with: (i) a Project coordinator seconded by: a Procurement Specialist, a Financial Management Specialist, and a Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist; (ii) a Business Development Infrastructure Coordinator

(BDC); (iii) a Products & Market Coordinator (PMC); and (iv) an internal auditor; all in a form and with functions satisfactory to the Association,

The Project Coordination Unit shall: (i) be in charge of day-to-day activities under the Project, in particular accounting, procurement and financial and monitoring activities; (ii) coordinate with the other entities responsible for Project implementation; (iii) preparation of annual work programs, budgets and procurement plans under the Project; (iv) preparation of interim unaudited financial reports; (v) dissemination of internal and external audit reports; and (vi) implementation of their recommendations.

The PCU shall implement Part 1 of the Project through the BDC and Part 2 of the Project through the PMC.

B. Anti-Corruption

The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Guidelines.

C. PDF Financing

1. The Recipient, through the PCU, shall use the funds in the PDF (each such disbursement, a "PDF Financing") for the financing of Project Development Activities (as defined under Part 2.1 of the Project, as set forth on Schedule 1 of this Agreement) that are identified in accordance with the eligibility criteria and procedures acceptable to the Association which will include the following eligibility criteria, as further described in detail in the PDF Manual:
 - (a) the request for financing of Project Development Activities out of the PDF shall have been submitted either: (i) the Recipient or trade or professional associations or agencies for Project Development Activities targeting investment projects intended to fill gaps in the production chain; or (ii) private entrepreneurs (collectively, the "Initiators"); and
 - (b) that a PDF Financing shall only be used by the PCU to finance Project Development Activities (as defined under Part 2.1 of the Project, as set forth on Schedule 1 of this Agreement), in the form of technical assistance and studies.
2. The Recipient shall manage all utilization of funds in the PDF for Project Development Activities, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section III of Schedule 2 of this Agreement, and shall not otherwise advance or transfer any portion of such funds to any Initiator or otherwise.

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

1. (a) The Recipient shall monitor and evaluate the progress of the Project and prepare Project Reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.08 of the General Conditions and on the basis of the indicators set forth below in sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph. Each Project Report shall cover the period of one calendar semester, and shall be furnished to the Association not later than one month after the end of the period covered by such report.
- (b) The performance indicators referred to above in sub-paragraph (a) consist of the following:
 - Full establishment of the business development infrastructure by the end of the Project;
 - Establishment of the Minimum Integrated Trade Expansion Platform;
 - Private investments generated from Project Development Activities are eight times the amount disbursed out of the PDF;
 - Set up of a fiscal regime favorable to investments; and
 - Preparation of a code of investments favorable to investment promotion.
2. For purposes of Section 4.08 (c) of the General Conditions, the report on the execution of the Project and related plan required pursuant to that Section shall be furnished to the Association not later than September 1, 2014.

B. Financial Management, Financial Reports and Audits

1. The Recipient shall maintain or cause to be maintained a financial management system in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.09 of the General Conditions.
2. Without limitation on the provisions of Part A of this Section, the Recipient shall prepare and furnish to the Association as part of the Project Report not later than 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter, interim unaudited financial reports for the Project covering the quarter, in form and substance satisfactory to the Association.
3. The Recipient shall have its Financial Statements audited in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.09 (b) of the General Conditions. Each audit of the Financial

Statements shall cover the period of one fiscal year of the Recipient. The audited Financial Statements for each such period shall be furnished to the Association not later than six months after the end of such period.

Section III. Procurement

A. General

1. **Goods.** All goods required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Financing shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in Section I of the Procurement Guidelines, and with the provisions of this Section.
2. **Consultants’ Services.** All consultants’ services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Financing shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in Sections I and IV of the Consultant Guidelines, and with the provisions of this Section.
3. **Definitions.** The capitalized terms used below in this Section to describe particular procurement methods or methods of review by the Association of particular contracts, refer to the corresponding method described in the Procurement Guidelines, or Consultant Guidelines, as the case may be.

B. Particular Methods of Procurement of Goods

1. **International Competitive Bidding.** Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 below, goods shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of International Competitive Bidding.
2. **Other Methods of Procurement of Goods.** The following table specifies the methods of procurement, other than International Competitive Bidding, which may be used for goods. The Procurement Plan shall specify the circumstances under which such methods may be used:

Procurement Method
(a) National Competitive Bidding
(b) Shopping

C. Particular Methods of Procurement of Consultants’ Services

1. **Quality- and Cost-based Selection.** Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 below, consultants’ services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of Quality- and Cost-based Selection.

2. **Other Methods of Procurement of Consultants' Services.** The following table specifies methods of procurement, other than Quality- and Cost-based Selection, which may be used for consultants' services. The Procurement Plan shall specify the circumstances under which such methods may be used.

Procurement Method
(a) Selection based on the Consultants' Qualifications
(b) Least Cost Selection
(c) Single Source Selection
(d) Selection of Individual Consultants

D. Review by the Association of Procurement Decisions

Except as the Association shall otherwise determine by notice to the Recipient, the following contracts shall be subject to Prior Review by the Association: (a) each contract for goods estimated to cost the equivalent of \$200,000 or more; (b) each contract for consultants' services provided by a firm estimated to cost the equivalent of \$100,000 or more; and (c) each contract for consultants' services provided by individual consultant estimated to cost the equivalent of \$50,000 or more; in addition, the first two (2) contracts of each Procurement and selection methods shall be subject to prior Review. All other contracts shall be subject to Post Review by the Association

Section IV. Withdrawal of the Proceeds of the Financing

A. General

1. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in accordance with the provisions of Article II of the General Conditions, this Section, and such additional instructions as the Association shall specify by notice to the Recipient (including the "World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects" dated May 2006, as revised from time to time by the Association and as made applicable to this Agreement pursuant to such instructions), to finance Eligible Expenditures as set forth in the table in paragraph 2 below.
2. The following table specifies the categories of Eligible Expenditures that may be financed out of the proceeds of the Financing ("Category"), the allocations of the amounts of the Financing to each Category, and the percentage of expenditures to be financed for Eligible Expenditures in each Category:

Category of Expenditures	Credit (DTS)	Percentage of Expenditure to be Financed (inclusive of taxes)
(1) Goods	4,250,000	100%
(2) Services	2,000,000	100%
(3) Training and workshop	1,150,000	100%
(4) Goods and services from the PDF	4,750,000	100%
(5) Operating Cost	1,900,000	100%
(7) Unallocated	1,650,000	
Total Amount	15,700,000	

3. For the purposes of this Section:
- (a) the term “Operating Costs” means the reasonable and necessary expenses, as approved by the Association on the basis of budgets acceptable to the Association, incurred on account of Project implementation, management, monitoring and reporting, including office supplies, vehicles operation and maintenance, communication and insurance costs, rental expenses, office administration costs, utilities, banking charges, equipment maintenance, transport, local per diem for supervision and supervision costs, but excluding salaries of officials of the Recipient’s civil service; and
 - (b) the term “training” means training activities to be carried out under the Project, including the reasonable and necessary travel and visa expenses incurred by participants in training workshops and study tours, as well as lodging, subsistence and per diem allowances, registration, tuition fees, minor organizational expenses (including costs of stationery, handouts and training materials), and other expenditures directly relating to the training workshop and study tour activity, as may be agreed with the Association.

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 date of this Agreement, except that withdrawals up to an aggregate amount not to exceed SDR 650,000 may be made for payments made prior to this date but on or after April 19, 2008, for Eligible Expenditures related to: (i) the recruitment of the staff of the PCU, as described in Section 4.01(c) of this Agreement; (ii) the establishment of TMC; (iii) the recruitment of the external auditor; and (iv) the preparation of the PIM, the PDF Manual and the Administrative, Accounting and Financing Manual
 - (b) for each disbursement under Category (4) above (PDF) unless as of such date, (i) the PDF's legal and institutional structure has been established in a manner satisfactory to the Association; (ii) the PDF Manual has been adopted by the Recipient (including the PDF's operating modalities, the eligibility criteria and procedures for financings out of the PDF), in form and substance satisfactory to the Association; and (iii) the relevant PDF Financing is made in accordance with the criteria and on terms and conditions set forth or referred to in the PDF Manual and the provisions of Section I.C and of Section V.4 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
2. The Closing Date is March 1, 2014.

V. Other Undertakings

1. No later than 30 months after the Effective Date, or such later date as may be agreed upon by the Recipient and the Association, the Recipient and the Association shall carry out a mid-term review of the Project, covering: (i) the progress achieved in the implementation of the Project; and (ii) institutional audits of APIEX and SPCPI.

The Recipient shall prepare under terms of reference satisfactory to the Association, and furnish to the Association about three months prior to the beginning of such mid-term review of the Project, a report integrating the results of the monitoring and evaluation activities performed pursuant to this Agreement, on the progress achieved in the carrying out of the Project during the period preceding the date of such report, and setting out the measures recommended to ensure the efficient carrying out of the Project and the achievement of the objectives of the Project during the period following such date.

2. No later than 18 months after the Effective Date, or such later date as may be agreed upon by the Recipient and the Association, the Recipient shall have established the institutional and legal framework for APIEX, in form and substance satisfactory to the Association.

3. No later than the date on which US\$3.6 million equivalent have been committed under the PDF, the Recipient shall carry out an impact assessment of the activities financed under the PDF.
4. Funds in the PDF shall only be used to finance Project Development Activities (as defined in part 2.1 of the Project on Schedule 1 of this Agreement) for business projects that would not otherwise trigger the Association's safeguard policies, as further detailed in the PDF Manual.
5. No later than 6 months after the Effective Date, the Recipient shall have recruited the external auditor, in compliance with the terms of this Agreement and on the basis of terms of reference satisfactory to the Association.

SCHEDULE 3**Repayment Schedule**

Date Payment Due	Principal Amount of the Credit repayable (expressed as a percentage)*
On each April 15 and October 15:	
commencing on October 15, 2018 to and including April 15, 2028	1
commencing on October 15, 2028 to and including April 15, 2048	2

* 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. “ABPEC” means the center for promotion of trade of the Recipient (*Agence Béninoise de Promotion des Échanges commerciaux*).
2. “ADEX” or “*Association de Développement des Exportations*” means a non-profit public purpose serving company established pursuant to its charter, dated February 16, 1999, as amended.
3. “Administrative, Accounting and Financing Manual” means the Project-specific manual outlining the administrative, financial, accounting and monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the implementation of the Project, referred to in Schedule 2 to this Agreement and adopted pursuant to Section 4.01 (b) of this Agreement, as the same may be amended from time to time, and such term includes any schedules to the Project Administrative, Financial and Accounting Manual.
4. “Anti-Corruption Guidelines” means the “Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants”, dated October 15, 2006.
5. “APIEX” means l’*Agence pour la Promotion des Investissements et des Exportations*, the Recipient’s agency to be created under Part 1.1 of the Project to be in charge of the promotion of investments and trade.
6. “Benin Post Office” means the public purpose serving company in charge of the postal service in the country of the Recipient.
7. “Benin Telecom” means the public purpose serving company in charge national telecommunication in the country of the Beneficiary.
8. “Category” means a category set forth in the table in Section IV of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
9. “CEBENOR” or “*Centre Béninois de Normalisation et de Gestion de la Qualité*” means the public entity of the Recipient in charge of the elaboration and dissemination of quality standards.
10. “CFE” the Center for the Formalization of Enterprises.
11. “CPI” means the center for the promotion of investments (*Centre de Promotion des Investissements - CPI*).

12. “Consultant Guidelines” means the “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers” published by the Bank in May 2004 and revised in October 2006.
13. “General Conditions” means the “International Development Association General Conditions for Credits and Grants”, dated July 1, 2005 (as amended through October 15, 2006).
14. “ICT” means information communication technology.
15. “INRAB” means the national institute of agricultural research of Benin (*Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin*).
16. “MITEP” means the Minimum Integrated Trade Expansion Platform set up under Part 2 of the Project.
17. “MPDEAP” means *Ministère de la Prospective, du Développement et l’Evaluation de l’Action Publique*, the Recipient’s ministry in charge of planning.
18. “MSME” means micro, small and medium enterprises, “*Micro, Petite ou Moyenne Entreprises*”, established and operating pursuant to the laws of the Recipient.
19. “PCU” means the Project Coordination Unit to be established by the Recipient in accordance with Section 4.01(c) of this Agreement.
20. “PDF” means the Project Development Fund to be established by the Recipient under Part 2 of the Project.
21. “PDF Manual” means that the manual referred to in Schedule 2 to this Agreement containing, *inter alia*, the PDF’s operating modalities, the eligibility criteria and the procedures for environmental and social impact assessments applicable to financings out of the PDF, the monitoring and performance indicators, procurement guidelines, bidding procedures, and other relevant arrangements for carrying out Part 2.1 of the Project, as the same may be amended from time to time with the prior written approval of the Association, and such term includes any schedules and attachments supplemental to the PDF Manual.
22. “Procurement Guidelines” means the “Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits” published by the Bank in May 2004 and revised in October, 2006.
23. “Procurement Plan” means the Recipient’s procurement plan for the Project, dated March 20, 2008 and referred to in paragraph 1.16 of the Procurement Guidelines and

- paragraph 1.24 of the Consultant Guidelines, as the same shall be updated from time to time in accordance with the provisions of said paragraphs.
24. “Project Development Activities” means the activities that can be financed out of the PDF, as defined under Part 2.1 of the Project on Schedule 1 of this Agreement.
 25. “Project Implementation Manual” or “PIM” means that the manual referred to in Schedule 2 to this Agreement and adopted pursuant to Section 4.01(b) of this Agreement, containing, *inter alia*, monitoring and performance indicators, procurement guidelines, bidding procedures, and other relevant arrangements for carrying out the Project, as the same may be amended from time to time with the prior written approval of the Association, and such term includes any schedules and attachments supplemental to the Project Implementation Manual;
 26. “PTIS” means the proactive trade information system to be established by the Recipient under Part 2 of the Project;
 27. “SME” means a small or medium scale enterprise, “*Petite ou Moyenne Entreprise*”, established and operating pursuant to the laws of the Recipient.
 28. “SPCPI” means the Permanent Secretariat of the President Investors Advisory Council referred to in Schedule 1 to this Agreement and established pursuant to Decree No. 2006-299 dated June 27, 2006.
 29. “Steering Committee” means the *Comité de Pilotage*, referred to in Schedule 2 to this Agreement established by the Recipient in accordance with Section 4.01(c) of this Agreement.
 30. “TMC” means the Technical Orientation and Monitoring Committee referred to in Schedule 2 to this Agreement established by the Recipient in accordance with Section 4.01(c) of this Agreement.