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OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

July 25, 2017

H. E. Felix Moloua
Minister of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation
Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation
Bangui
Central African Republic

Re: Central African Republic: Advance Agreement for the Preparation of the Proposed Mining and Forest Governance Project in Central African Republic
Project Preparation Advance No. V1100

Excellency:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of the Central African Republic ("Recipient"), I am pleased to inform you that the International Development Association ("World Bank") proposes to extend to the Recipient an advance out of the World Bank's Project Preparation Facility in an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand Dollars (\$300,000) ("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 mining and forest governance, with a view to maximizing the potential socioeconomic benefits of the Recipient's mining and forest industry in targeted areas ("Project"), for the carrying out of which the Recipient has requested the World Bank's financial assistance.

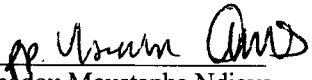
The Recipient represents, by confirming its agreement below, that: (a) it understands that the provision of the Advance does not constitute or imply any commitment on the part of IBRD or IDA to assist in financing the Project; and (b) it is authorized to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the 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 World Bank. Upon receipt by the World 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 World Bank has not received this countersigned copy

within ninety (90) days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the World Bank has established a later date for such purpose.

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By 
Ahmadou Moustapha Ndiaye
Country Director for Central African Republic
Africa Region

AGREED:
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

By: _____
Authorized Representative

Name: Félix MOLOUA

Title: MINISTRE DE L'ECONOMIE, DU PLAN ET DE LA COOPERATION

Date: 18 AOÛT 2017

Enclosures:

- (1) "Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the World Bank under its Project Preparation Facility", dated July 31, 2010
- (2) Disbursement Letter for the Advance of the same date as this Agreement, together with "World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects", dated May 1, 2006
- (3) "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

Article I
Standard Conditions; Definitions

1.01. **Standard Conditions.** The “Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the World Bank under its Project Preparation Facility”, dated July 31, 2010 (“Standard Conditions”), 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 Agreement, and the following additional terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) “Coordination Unit” means the unit established within the Recipient’s ministry responsible for public works, pursuant to the provision of the Financing Agreement for the Additional Financing for CEMAC Transport and Transit Facilitation Project between the Recipient and the Association, dated December 11, 2009 (Grant #H522-CF).

(b) “MEDDEFPCP” means the Recipient’s ministry in charge of environment, sustainable development, water, forests, hunting and fisheries.

(c) “Operating Costs” means the reasonable expenditures incurred by the Recipient to finance the Activities, including consumable materials and supplies (but not the purchase of equipment and fuel), communications, mass media and printing services, vehicle rental, operation and maintenance, charges for the opening and operation of bank accounts required for the Activities, and travel, lodging and per diems, but excluding salaries of officials of the Recipient’s civil service.

Article II
Execution of the Activities

2.01. **Description of the Activities.** The Activities for which the Advance is provided consist of the following part, namely, the preparation of a series of safeguards instruments related to Project implementation, including: (i) an environmental and social management framework; (ii) an indigenous peoples planning framework; (iii) a pest management plan; (iv) a resettlement policy framework; and (v) a process framework.

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 MEDDEFPCP in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article II of the Standard Conditions; (b) this Article II; and (c) 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.

2.03. **Institutional and Other Arrangements.** Without limitation upon the provision of Section 2.02 above:

(a) The Recipient shall, throughout the Refinancing Date, ensure that MEDDEFPC is maintained with staff in adequate numbers with qualifications and experience satisfactory to the World Bank to be responsible for the technical aspect of the Activities' implementation, including technically sound terms of reference.

(b) The Recipient shall, throughout the Refinancing Date, maintain the Coordination Unit with structure, functions and responsibilities acceptable to the World Bank and with competent staff in adequate numbers with qualifications and experience satisfactory to the World Bank to be responsible for the fiduciary aspect of the Activities' implementation, including financial management and procurement.

2.04. **Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation of the Activities.** The Recipient shall monitor and evaluate the progress of the Activities in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.08 of the Standard Conditions.

2.05. **Financial Management.** (a) The Recipient shall ensure that a financial management system is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.09 of the Standard Conditions.

(b) The Recipient shall ensure that interim un-audited financial reports for the Activities are prepared and furnished to the World Bank not later than forty-five (45) days after the end of each calendar quarter, covering the quarter, in form and substance satisfactory to the World Bank.

(c) The Recipient shall have its Financial Statements audited in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.09 (b) of the Standard Conditions.

(i) If, on or before the Refinancing Date, a Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, the Recipient shall have the Financial Statements included in the first audit of financial statements required under the Refinancing Agreement.

(ii) If, by the Refinancing Date, no Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, such audit of the Financial Statements shall cover the period of the Advance, commencing with the fiscal year in which the first withdrawal under the Advance was made. The audited Financial Statements for such period shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six (6) months after the end of the Recipient's fiscal year in which the Refinancing Date occurs.

(iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this Section, the World Bank may request an audit of the Financial Statements prior to the Refinancing Date, covering such period as is indicated in its request. The audited Financial Statements for such period shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six (6) months after the end of such period.

2.06. **Procurement**

All goods, non-consulting services and consulting services required for the Activities and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Advance shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in the "World Bank Procurement Regulations for Borrowers under Investment Project Financing" dated July 1, 2016 ("Procurement Regulations") and the provisions of the Recipient's procurement plan for the Activities dated May 30, 2017

("Procurement Plan") provided for under Section IV of the Procurement Regulations, as the same may be updated from time to time in agreement with the World Bank.

**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; (b) this Section; and (c) such additional instructions as the World Bank may specify by notice to the Recipient (including the "Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing" dated February 2017, as revised from time to time by the World Bank and as made applicable to this Agreement pursuant to such instructions), 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, non-consulting services, consulting services and Operating Costs under the Activities	300,000	100%
TOTAL AMOUNT	300,000	

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 June 30, 2018.

**Article IV
Terms of the Advance**

4.01. **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 paid to the World Bank as soon as the Refinancing Agreement becomes effective, by means of a withdrawal by the World Bank of such amount of the Refinancing Proceeds, in accordance with the provisions of the Refinancing Agreement.

4.02. **No Repayment in the absence of a Refinancing Agreement:** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Standard Conditions, if, on or before the Refinancing Date, no Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, or if, by such date or at any time thereafter, it has been so executed but terminates without becoming effective, then the Recipient shall not be obligated to repay the Withdrawn Advance Balance.

Article V
Recipient's Representative; Addresses

5.01. **Recipient's Representative.** The Recipient's Representative referred to in Section 9.02 of the Standard Conditions is its Minister responsible for planning.

5.02. **Recipient's Address.** The Recipient's Address referred to in Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation
Rue Martin Luther King
B.P. 696, Bangui
Central African Republic

Facsimile:

+236-21-619689

5.03. **World Bank's Address.** The World Bank's Address referred to in Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

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

Telex:

Facsimile:

248423 (MCI) or
64145 (MCI)

(1)-202-477-6391