

CONFORMED COPY

CREDIT NUMBER 3352 MAU

Development Credit Agreement

(Fiscal Reform Support Credit)

between

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dated June 16, 2000

CREDIT NUMBER 3352 MAU

DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT, dated June 16, 2000, between ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA (the Borrower) and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (the Association).

WHEREAS: (A) the Association has received a letter, dated February 29, 2000, (the Policy Letter) from the Borrower, describing a program of actions, objectives and policies designed to achieve improvement of the fiscal administration and increase the domestic tax base (hereinafter called the Program), declaring the Borrower's commitment to the execution of the Program, and requesting assistance from the Association in support of the Program during the execution thereof;

(B) the Borrower has carried out the measures and taken the actions described in Schedule 2 to this Agreement to the satisfaction of the Association and has maintained a macroeconomic policy framework satisfactory to the Association; and

(C) on the basis, inter alia, of the foregoing, the Association has decided, in support of the Program, to provide such assistance to the Borrower by making the Credit in one tranche as hereinafter provided;

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

General Conditions; Definitions

Section 1.01. The "General Conditions Applicable to Development Credit Agreements" of the Association, dated January 1, 1985 (as amended through October 6, 1999), with the modifications set forth below (the General Conditions), constitute an integral part of this Agreement:

(a) Section 2.01, of paragraph 12, is modified to read:

"Project" means the program, referred to in the Preamble to the Development Credit Agreement, in support of which the Credit is made;

(b) Section 4.01 is modified to read:

"Except as the Borrower and the Association shall otherwise agree, withdrawals from the Credit Account shall be made in the currency of the deposit account specified in Section 2.02 of the Development Credit Agreement.";

(c) Section 5.01 is modified to read:

"The Borrower shall be entitled to withdraw the proceeds of the Credit from the Credit Account in accordance with the provisions of the Development Credit Agreement and of these General Conditions";

(d) Section 9.06 (c) is modified to read:

"(c) Not later than six months after the Closing Date or such later date as may be agreed for this purpose between the Borrower and the Association, the Borrower shall prepare and furnish to the Association a report, of such scope and in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request, on the execution of the program referred to in the Preamble to the Development Credit Agreement, the performance by the Borrower and the Association of their respective obligations under the Development Credit Agreement and the accomplishment of the purposes of the Credit."; and

(e) Section 9.04 is deleted and Sections 9.05, 9.06 (as modified above), 9.07 and 9.08 are renumbered, respectively, Sections 9.04, 9.05, 9.06 and 9.07.

Section 1.02. Unless the context otherwise requires, the several terms defined in the General Conditions and in the Preamble to this Agreement have the respective meanings therein set forth and the following additional terms have the following meanings:

(a) "BIC" means "Bénéfices Industriels et Commerciaux" - corporate profits, a term defined for taxation purposes in the laws of the Borrower;

(b) "BNC" means "Bénéfice Non-commercial" - non commercial benefits - a term defined for taxation purposes in the laws of the Borrower;

(c) "Deposit Account" means the account referred to in Section 2.02 (b) of this Agreement;

(d) "FY" means the Borrower's fiscal year which begins January 1 and ends December 31 of the same year;

(e) "IMF" means Impôt Minimum Forfaitaire, the minimum presumptive tax in effect in the territory of the Borrower; and

(f) "Mauritanian Ouguiya" and "UM" means the currency of the Borrower.

ARTICLE II

The Credit

Section 2.01. The Association agrees to lend to the Borrower, on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in the Development Credit Agreement, an amount in various currencies equivalent to twenty two million four hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR22,400,000).

Section 2.02. (a) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Section, the Borrower shall be entitled to withdraw the proceeds of the Credit from the Credit Account in support of the Program.

(b) The Borrower shall open, prior to furnishing to the Association the first request for withdrawal from the Credit Account, and thereafter maintain in its central bank, a deposit account in UM on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association. All withdrawals from the Credit Account shall be deposited by the Association into the Deposit Account.

(c) The Borrower undertakes that the proceeds of the Credit shall not be used to finance expenditures excluded pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to this Agreement. If the Association shall have determined at any time that any proceeds of the Credit shall have been used to make a payment for an expenditure so excluded, the Borrower shall, promptly upon notice from the Association: (i) deposit into the Deposit Account an amount equal to the amount of said payment, or, (ii) if the Association shall so request, refund such amount to the Association. Amounts refunded to the Association upon such request shall be credited to the Credit Account for cancellation.

Section 2.03. The Closing Date shall be December 31, 2000, or such later date as the Association shall establish. The Association shall promptly notify the Borrower of such later date.

Section 2.04. (a) The Borrower shall pay to the Association a commitment charge on the principal amount of the Credit not withdrawn from time to time at a rate to be set by the Association as of June 30 of each year, but not to exceed the rate of one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) per annum.

(b) The commitment charge shall accrue: (i) from the date sixty days after the date of this Agreement (the accrual date) to the respective dates on which amounts shall be withdrawn by the Borrower from the Credit Account or canceled; and (ii) at the rate set as of the June 30 immediately preceding the accrual date or at such other rates as may be set from time to time thereafter pursuant to paragraph (a) above. The rate set as of June 30 in each year shall be applied from the next payment date in that year specified in Section 2.06 of this Agreement.

(c) The commitment charge shall be paid: (i) at such places as the Association shall reasonably request; (ii) without restrictions of any kind imposed by, or in the territory of, the Borrower; and (iii) in the currency specified in this Agreement for the purposes of Section 4.02 of the General Conditions or in such other eligible currency or currencies as may from time to time be designated or selected pursuant to the provisions of that Section.

Section 2.05. The Borrower shall pay to the Association a service charge at the rate of three fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum on the principal amount of the Credit withdrawn and outstanding from time to time.

Section 2.06. Commitment and service charges shall be payable semiannually on June 15 and December 15 in each year.

Section 2.07. (a) Subject to paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) below, the Borrower shall repay the principal amount of the Credit in semiannual installments payable on each June 15 and December 15 commencing June 15, 2010 and ending December 15, 2039. Each installment to and including the installment payable on December 15, 2019 shall be one percent (1%) of such principal amount, and each installment thereafter shall be two percent (2%) of such principal amount.

(b) Whenever (i) the Borrower's per capita gross national product (GNP), as determined by the Association, shall have exceeded for three consecutive years the level established annually by the Association for determining eligibility to access

the Association's resources; and (ii) the Bank shall consider the Borrower creditworthy for Bank lending, the Association may, subsequent to the review and approval thereof by the Executive Directors of the Association and after due consideration by the Association of the development of the Borrower's economy, modify the repayment of installments under paragraph (a) above by: (A) requiring the Borrower to repay twice the amount of each such installment not yet due until the principal amount of the Credit shall have been repaid; and (B) requiring the Borrower to commence repayment of the principal amount of the Credit as of the first semiannual payment date referred to in paragraph (a) above falling six months or more after the date on which the Association notifies the Borrower that the events set out in this paragraph (b) have occurred, provided, however, that there shall be a grace period of a minimum of five years on such repayment of principal.

(c) If so requested by the Borrower, the Association may revise the modification referred to in paragraph (b) above to include, in lieu of some or all of the increase in the amounts of such installments, the payment of interest at an annual rate agreed with the Association on the principal amount of the Credit withdrawn and outstanding from time to time, provided that, in the judgment of the Association, such revision shall not change the grant element obtained under the above-mentioned repayment modification.

(d) If, at any time after a modification of terms pursuant to paragraph (b) above, the Association determines that the Borrower's economic condition has deteriorated significantly, the Association may, if so requested by the Borrower, further modify the terms of repayment to conform to the schedule of installments as provided in paragraph (a) above.

Section 2.08. The currency of the United States of America is hereby specified for the purposes of Section 4.02 of the General Conditions.

ARTICLE III

Particular Covenants

Section 3.01. (a) The Borrower and the Association shall from time to time, at the request of either party, exchange views on the progress achieved in carrying out the Program.

(b) Prior to each such exchange of views, the Borrower shall furnish to the Association, for its review and comment, a report on the progress achieved in carrying out the Program, in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request.

(c) Without limitation upon the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Section, the Borrower shall exchange views with the Association on any proposed action to be taken after the disbursement of the Credit which would have the effect of materially reversing the objectives of the Program, or any action taken under the Program.

Section 3.02. Upon the Association's request, the Borrower shall:

(a) have the Deposit Account audited in accordance with appropriate auditing principles consistently applied, by independent auditors acceptable to the Association;

(b) furnish to the Association as soon as available, but in any case not later than six (6) months after the date of the Association's request for such audit, a certified copy of the report of such audit by said auditors, of such scope and in such detail as the Association shall have reasonably requested; and

(c) furnish to the Association such other information concerning the Deposit Account and the audit thereof as the Association shall have reasonably requested.

ARTICLE IV

Additional Event of Suspension

Section 4.01. Pursuant to Section 6.02 (1) of the General Conditions, the following additional events are specified, namely that a situation has arisen which

shall make it improbable that the Program, or a significant part thereof, will be carried out.

ARTICLE V

Termination

Section 5.01 The date ninety (90) days after the date of this Agreement is hereby specified for the purposes of Section 12.04 of the General Conditions.

ARTICLE VI

Representatives of the Borrower; Addresses

Section 6.01. The Minister of the Borrower at the time responsible for economic affairs and development is designated as representative of the Borrower for the purposes of Section 11.03 of the General Conditions.

Section 6.02. The following addresses are specified for the purposes of Section 11.01 of the General Conditions:

For the Borrower:

Ministre des Affaires Economiques et du Développement
Ministère des Affaires Economiques et du Développement
B.P. 238
Nouakchott
République Islamique de Mauritanie

Cable address:

2559 MJ

Telex:

840MTN

For the Association:

International Development Association
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States of America

Cable address:

INDEVAS

Washington, DC

Telex:

248423 (MCI)

64145 (MCI)

Facsimile:

(202) 477

6391

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, acting through their duly authorized representatives, have caused this Agreement to be signed in their respective names in the District of Columbia, United States of America, as of the day and year first above written.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

By /s/ Ahmed Ould Khalifa Ould Jiddou

Authorized Representative

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By /s/ Hasan Tuluy

Acting Regional Vice President

SCHEDULE 1

Withdrawal of the Proceeds of the
Credit and Excluded Expenditures

1. For purposes of Section 2.02 (c) of this Agreement, the proceeds of the Credit shall not be used to finance any of the following expenditures:

(a) expenditures in the currency of the Borrower or for goods supplied from the territory of the Borrower, excluding, if the currency of the Borrower is also that of another country, expenditures in such currency for goods supplied from the territory of such other country;

(b) expenditures for goods or services supplied under a contract which any national or international financing institution or agency other than the Bank or the Association shall have financed or agreed to finance, or which the Bank or the Association shall have financed or agreed to finance under another credit;

(c) expenditures for goods included in the following groups or sub-groups of the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC, Rev. 3), published by the United Nations in Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 34/Rev.3 (1986) (the SITC), or any successor groups or sub-groups under future revisions to the SITC, as designated by the Association by notice to the Borrower:

Group	Sub-group	Description of Items
112	-	Alcoholic beverages
121	-	Tobacco, unmanufactured, tobacco refuse
122	-	Tobacco, manufactured (whether or not containing tobacco substitutes)
525	-	Radioactive and associated materials
667	-	Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, unworked or worked
718	718.7	Nuclear reactors, and parts thereof; fuel elements (cartridges), non-irradiated, for nuclear reactors
728	728.43	Tobacco processing machinery
897	897.3	Jewelry of gold, silver or platinum group metals (except watches and watch cases) and goldsmiths' or silversmiths' wares (including set gems)
971	-	Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates);

(d) expenditures for goods intended for a military or para-military purpose or for luxury consumption;

(e) expenditures for environmentally hazardous goods (for purposes of this paragraph, the term "environmentally hazardous goods" means goods, the manufacture, use or import of which is prohibited under the laws of the Borrower or international agreements to which the Borrower is a party, and any other goods designated as environmentally hazardous by agreement between the Borrower and the Association);

(f) expenditures (a) in the territories of any country which is not a member of the Bank or for goods procured in, or services supplied from, such territories or (b) on account of any payment to persons or entities, or any import of goods, if such payment or import is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council

taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations; and

(g) expenditures under a contract in respect of which the Association determines that corrupt or fraudulent practices were engaged in by representatives of the Borrower or of a beneficiary of the Credit during the procurement or execution of such contract, without the Borrower having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to the Association to remedy the situation.

SCHEDULE 2

Actions Referred to in Recital (B) of the Preamble to this Agreement

The Borrower has achieved progress in strengthening tax administration, broadening the tax base and reducing tax and customs duty exemptions compared to the status on December 31, 1998, by implementing a reform of direct taxes through the Council of Ministers' declaration, dated October 6, 1999, translated into the Budget Law (Loi des Finances) 2000, approved by Parliament by Resolution No. 147 AN, dated December 6, 1999, which amended the previously existing tax regulations by:

- (a) reducing the tax allowance on imposable land tenure tax from 30% to 20%;
 - (b) introducing an accelerated tax depreciation rate system for registered enterprises;
 - (c) extending carry-over of losses in previous years to offset revenues in the current year from 3 to 4 years for registered enterprises;
 - (d) introducing a withholding system on property transfer tax;
 - (e) introducing a withholding system of 4% (four percent) on all non-commercial income (BNC) for registered enterprises; and
 - (f) increasing from 25% to 50% the deduction of IMF from the corporate commercial and non-commercial income tax (BIC and BNC).
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