

**OFFICIAL  
DOCUMENTS**

Q918-71

**The World Bank**INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION1818 H Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
U.S.A.(202) 473-1000  
Cable Address: INTBAFRAD  
Cable Address: INDEVASJuly 11, 2014

H. E. Patrice KITEBI  
Minister of Finance  
Ministry of Finance  
Boulevard du 30 Juin  
Commune de la Gombe  
Kinshasa 1, Democratic Republic of Congo

Kinshasa  
Democratic Republic of Congo

**Re: Democratic Republic of Congo: Advance Agreement for  
Preparation of a Proposed Eastern Agriculture Growth Poles Project.  
Project Preparation Advance No. Q918**

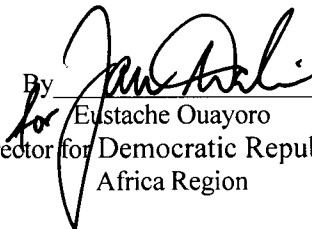
Excellency:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of Democratic Republic of Congo ("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 two million Dollars (US\$ 2,000,000) ("Advance") on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this letter agreement ("Agreement"), which includes the attached Annex, to assist in financing the activities described in the Annex ("Activities"). The objective of the Activities is to facilitate the preparation of a proposed project aimed at increasing productivity of selected agriculture value chains in selected areas of the Recipient's territory ("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.

Very truly yours,  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By   
Eustache Ouayoro  
Country Director for Democratic Republic of Congo  
Africa Region

AGREED:  
**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative  
Name PATRICE KITEBI  
Title MINISTRE DELEGUE  
Date: 21/07/2014



Enclosures:

- (1) "Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the World Bank under its Project Preparation Facility", dated January 15, 2008; and
- (2) Disbursement Letter for the Advance, 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;
- (4) "Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011;
- (5) "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011;

**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, in this Agreement or in this section.

"National Project Coordination Unit" or "NPCU" means the implementation unit of IDA- financed Agriculture Rehabilitation and Recovery Support Project (Grant Number H555-ZR) dated May 20, 2010

**Article II**  
**Execution of the Activities**

2.01. **Description of the Activities.** The Activities for which the Advance is provided consist of the following:

- (i) Conducting detailed agricultural value chains studies for the targeted commodities to be financed by the Project;
- (ii) provision of technical assistance to identify the nodal poles, select the primary intervention areas for the Project and design a detailed plan of operations;
- (iii) preparation of required environmental and social safeguard studies for the Project;
- (iv) preparation of an implementation manual for the Project; and
- (v) support activities of the national and provincial preparation committees and reinforce their capacities to collect needed information and provide inputs to the Project preparation.

2.02. **Execution of the Activities Generally.** The Recipient declares its commitment to the objectives of the Activities. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Activities through the National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU) 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.

2.03. **Institutional and Other Arrangements.** Without limitation upon Section 2.02 above, the Recipient shall maintain, throughout the implementation of the Activities, the NPCU with staff in number and with terms of reference satisfactory to the World Bank to be responsible for the implementation of the Activities.

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 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 Sections 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 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 months after the end of such period.

## 2.06. **Procurement**

(a) **General.** All goods, non-consulting services and consultants' 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:

(i) Section I of the "Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011 ("Procurement Guidelines"), in the case of goods and non-consulting services;

(ii) Sections I and IV of the "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines") in the case of consultants' services; and

(iii) the provisions of this Section, as the same shall be elaborated in the procurement plan prepared and updated from time to time by the Recipient for the Activities in accordance with paragraph 1.18 of the Procurement Guidelines and paragraph 1.25 of the Consultant Guidelines (“Procurement Plan”).

(b) Definitions. The capitalized terms used in the following paragraphs of this Section to describe particular procurement methods or methods of review by the World Bank of particular contracts, refer to the corresponding method described in Sections II and III of the Procurement Guidelines, or Sections II, III, IV and V of the Consultant Guidelines, as the case may be.

(c) Particular Methods of Procurement of Goods and Non-consulting Services

(i) Except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraph (ii) below, goods and non-consulting services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of International Competitive Bidding.

(ii) The following methods, other than International Competitive Bidding, may be used for procurement of goods and non-consulting services for those contracts specified in the Procurement Plan: (A) National Competitive Bidding, subject to the following additional provisions:

**Additional Provisions for National Competitive Bidding**

National Competitive Bidding may be used subject to using the open procedure (“*appel d’offres ouvert*”) set forth in the Recipient’s Public Procurement Law No 10/010 dated April 27, 2010 (the “PPL”) and the Manual of Procedures of the PPL as per Recipient’s Decree No 10/22 dated June 2, 2010 (the “Manual of Procedures”); provided however that such procedure shall be subject to the provisions of Section I and Paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of Section III of the Procurement Guidelines and the additional following modifications:

(a) **Standard Bidding Documents:** All standard bidding documents to be used for the Project under NCB shall be found acceptable to the World Bank before their use during the implementation of Project;

(b) **Eligibility:** Eligibility of bidders and acceptability of their goods and services shall not be based on their nationality and/or their origin; and association with a national firm shall not be a condition for participation in a bidding process;

(c) **Advertising and Bid Preparation Time:** Bidding opportunities shall be advertised at least in a national newspaper of wide circulation and on the website of the Recipient’s Procurement Regulator (*Autorité de Régulation des Marchés Publics*) and bidders should be given at least 30 days from the date of invitation to bid or the date of availability of the bidding documents, whichever is later;

(d) **Criteria for Qualification of Bidders:** Qualification criteria shall only concern the bidder's capability and resources to perform the contract taking into account objective and measurable factors. Such criteria for qualification of bidders shall be clearly specified in the bidding documents;

(e) **Bid Evaluation and Contract Award:** A contract shall be awarded to the substantially responsive and lowest evaluated bidder provided that such bidder meets the qualification criteria specified in the bidding documents. No scoring system shall be allowed for the evaluation of bids, and no "blanket" limitation to the number of lots which can be awarded to a bidder shall apply. The criteria for bid evaluation and the contract award conditions shall be clearly specified in the bidding documents;

(f) **Preferences:** No preference shall be given to domestic/regional bidders; to domestically/regionally manufactured goods; and to bidders forming a joint venture with a national firm or proposing national sub-contractors or carrying out economic activities in the territory of the Recipient;

(g) **Publication of Contract Award:** Information on all contract awards shall be published in at least a national newspaper of wide circulation or in the Recipient's Procurement Regulator (*Autorité de Régulation des Marchés Publics*) web-site;

(h) **Fraud and Corruption:** In accordance with the Procurement Guidelines, each bidding document and contract shall include provisions stating the World Bank's policy to sanction firms or individuals found to have engaged in fraud and corruption as set forth in the Procurement Guidelines;

(i) **Inspection and Audit Rights:** In accordance with the Procurement Guidelines, each bidding document and contract shall include provisions stating the World Bank's policy with respect to inspection and audit of accounts, records and other documents relating to the bid submission and contract performance;

(j) **Requirement for administrative documents and/or tax clearance certificate.** The bidding documents shall not require foreign bidders to produce any administrative or tax related certificates prior to confirmation of awarding a contract;

(k) **Modifications of a Signed Contract:** Any change in the contract amount which, singly or combined with all previous changes, increases the original contract amount by 15% (fifteen percent) or more must be done through an amendment to the signed contract instead of signing a new contract.

(d) Particular Methods of Procurement of Consultants' Services

(i) Except as otherwise provided in item (ii) below, consultants' services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of Quality- and Cost-based Selection.

(ii) The following methods may be used for the procurement of consultants' services for those assignments which are specified in the Procurement Plan: (A) Least Cost Selection; (B) Selection based on Consultants' Qualifications; (C) Single-source Selection; (D)

Selection of Individual Consultants; and (E) Sole Source Procedures for the Selection of Individual Consultants.

(e) Review by the World Bank of Procurement Decisions. The Procurement Plan shall set forth those contracts which shall be subject to the World Bank's Prior Review. All other contracts shall be subject to Post Review by 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 "World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects" dated May 2006, 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)
Goods, Training, Operating Costs, non-consulting services and consultants' services under the Activities	2,000,000	100%
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	2,000,000	

For the purpose of this section, the terms:

(a) "Training" means the following expenditures incurred in providing training, seminars or workshops: (i) travel by participants and presenters to the training or workshop site; (ii) per diem allowances of such persons during the training, seminars or workshop; (iii) honoraria for the presenters; (iv) rental of facilities; (v) materials, supplies; and (vi) translation and interpretation services; and

(b) "Operating Costs" means the incremental operating expenses incurred on account of the implementation of the Activities, management and monitoring including on account of operation and maintenance costs of office and office equipment; office supplies, additional staff costs, travel and supervision costs, per diem, but excluding the salaries and indemnities of officials and public servants of the Recipient's civil service.

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 July 31, 2015.

#### **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 the Recipient's Minister in charge of finance.

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

Ministry of Finance  
Boulevard du 30 Juin  
Commune de la Gombe  
Kinshasa 1, Democratic Republic of Congo

Email: cabfinances@minfinrdc.com  
Tel.: +243 99 39 000 39

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



Cable:

INDEVAS  
Washington, D.C.

Telex:

248423 (MCI) or  
64145 (MCI)

Facsimile:

1-202-477-6391