



October 13, 2017

Hon. Brenson S. Wase
Minister of Finance
PO Box D
Majuro
Republic of the Marshall Islands
96959

Re: Republic of the Marshall Islands: Advance Agreement for
Preparation of Proposed Project for Enhancing the Performance in
Public Financial Management (PEPPFiM)
Project Preparation Advance No. V1190-MH

Honorable Minister:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of Republic of the Marshall Islands (“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 nine hundred ninety thousand Dollars (US\$990,000) (“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 the reliability and timeliness of financial reporting of the Recipient’s government (“Project”), in support 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effective as of the date of the countersignature; provided, however, that the offer of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received this countersigned copy within ninety (90) days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the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 

Michel Kerf
Country Director
Papua New Guinea & Pacific Islands
East Asia and Pacific Region

AGREED:
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

By 
Authorized Representative

Name BRONSON WASE

Title MINISTER OF FINANCE

Date: 15 OCT 2017.

Enclosures:

- (1) "Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the World Bank under its Project Preparation Facility", dated July 31, 2010; and
- (2) Disbursement Letter for the Advance of the same date as this Agreement, together with the "Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing", dated February 2017.

**PPA No. V1190
ANNEX**

**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 (including the cover letter to this Agreement and this Section) as follows:

(a) “Incremental Operating Costs” means reasonable expenditures directly related to the Activities, incurred by the Recipient (which expenditures would not have been incurred absent the Activities), including the Recipient’s staff travel costs, allowances, costs of vehicle rental, fuel and maintenance, bank charges, communication costs, office supplies and equipment, office rental fees, utilities, and consumables required for holding meetings related to the Activities, but excluding salaries of civil servants of the Recipient.

(b) “Ministry of Finance” means the Recipient’s Ministry of Finance, or any successor thereto.

(c) “Training” means the reasonable costs of goods and services required for the participation of personnel involved in training and coordination activities under the Activities, including travel and subsistence costs for training participants, costs associated with securing the services of trainers, rental of training facilities, preparation and reproduction of training materials, and other costs directly related to training course and implementation, but excluding consultants’ fees.

(d) “World Bank’s Safeguard Policies” means the World Bank’s operational policies and procedures set forth in the World Bank’s Operational Manual under OP/BPs 4.01, 4.04, 4.09, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.36, 4.37, 7.50 and 7.60 published at www.worldbank.org/opmanual.

**Article II
Execution of the Activities**

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

(a) Supporting the preparation of strategies, studies and documents required for Project implementation, including: (i) needs assessment and business process review for a new Financial Management Information System (FMIS); and (ii) a Project Procurement Strategy for Development and procurement documents for consulting services under the Project.

(b) Carrying out activities to strengthen the existing FMIS to enable continuity of FMIS operation until a new FMIS is in place, including: (i) improving the information technology (“IT”) hardware platform and system back-up; (ii) conducting an IT audit to review the security and internal control structures; and (iii) conducting basic FMIS Training and providing FMIS operational support.

(c) Carrying out activities relating to the preparation of the Project, its effectiveness and implementation-readiness, including hiring of financial management and procurement specialists as required, with qualifications, experience and under terms of reference acceptable to the World Bank.

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 its Ministry of Finance 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. **Safeguards.** The Recipient shall ensure that:

(a) the terms of reference for any consultancies related to technical assistance and capacity building or the preparation of studies, documents, strategies, assessments, Training, support, technical and functional specifications, reports, consultations or reviews under this Agreement shall be satisfactory to the World Bank following its review thereof and, to that end, such terms of reference shall duly incorporate the requirements of the World Bank’s Safeguard Policies then in force, as applied to the advice conveyed through such technical assistance and capacity building, studies, documents, strategies, assessments, Training, support, technical and functional specifications, reports, consultations and reviews; and

(b) in drafting any regulations, guidelines or procedures and carrying out any capacity building activities under the Activities, due attention is given to said policies and relevant laws.

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 semester, covering the semester, 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. Each audit of the Financial Statements shall cover the period of one fiscal year of the Recipient, 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 nine (9) 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 August 17, 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 100% of Eligible Expenditures consisting of goods, consulting services, non-consulting services, Training, and Incremental Operating Costs under the Activities, inclusive of Taxes.

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 September 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 at the time responsible for finance.

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

Ministry of Finance
PO Box D,
Majuro
Republic of the Marshall Islands 96959

Facsimile:
692-625-3607

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