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**The World Bank**

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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Monday, July 1st, 2013

H. E. Mr. Luc Oyoubi  
Minister of Economy, Labor and Sustainable Development  
Ministry of Economy, Labor and Sustainable Development  
Libreville, Gabonese Republic

**Re: Gabonese Republic: Advance Agreement for Preparation of Proposed Economic  
Diversification and Competitiveness Project  
Project Preparation Advance No. P4670**

Excellency,

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of the Gabonese Republic ("Recipient"), I am pleased to inform you that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("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 million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) ("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 Recipient's investment climate in order to generate domestic and foreign private investment, and enhance competitiveness ("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effective as of the date of the countersignature; provided, however, that the offer this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received this countersigned copy within ninety (90) days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the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 BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

By   
Gregor Birken  
Country Director for Gabon  
Africa Region



AGREED:  
GABONESE REPUBLIC

By   
Authorized Representative



Name OYOUBI

Title MINISTRE

Date: 09 JUL. 2013

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 "World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects", dated May 1, 2006.

**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.

- (a) “Project Coordination Unit” or “PCU” means the unit established within the Recipient’s Ministry for Investment Promotion, Public Works, Transportation, Habitat and Tourism, pursuant to the Act establishing the Recipient’s government of February 28, 2012.
- (b) “CN-TIPPEE” means the Recipient’s National Commission – Labor Intensive Small-Scale Public Infrastructure Works (“*Commission Nationale – Travaux d’Intérêt Public pour la Promotion de l’Entreprenariat et de l’Emploi*”), established and operating pursuant to the Recipient’s Ministerial Decision (*Arrêté*) No. 00007/PRIMPPD dated January 4, 2006.
- (c) “Export Promotion Agency” means the agency established pursuant to the Recipient’s Law No. 011/2010, dated May 28, 2010 for the purpose of promoting exports.
- (d) “Chamber of Commerce” means the Recipient’s Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture, Industries, Mines and Crafts established pursuant to Decree N. 0728/PR/MECIT dated 21 June 2011.

**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) setting up a presidential investment council to serve as the platform for an effective dialogue between the public and private sector with the aim of improving the investment climate in the Recipient’s territory;
- (b) providing technical assistance to the Export Promotion Agency to enable it to improve the investment and export promotion framework, including the revision of the investment code;
- (c) strengthening the capacity of the Chamber of Commerce to carry out its mandate in supporting small and medium enterprises, including (i) providing training to its staff and members; (ii) setting up centers for commercial dispute settlement; (iii) setting up a business center with conferencing services for promotional and distance learning events; and (iv)

setting up an information and documentation desk to make available business related information such as procurement notices;

- (d) setting up the framework for a matching grant program aimed at supporting technical learning in private firms registered and operating in the Recipient's territory, including the development of a sound monitoring and evaluation system and the development of an operations manual for the Project, through the recruitment of staff required for the purpose; and
- (e) strengthening the capacity of the PCU to implement the Activities.

**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 Project Coordination Unit ("PCU") 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 limitations upon Section 2.02 above, the Recipient shall maintain, until completion of the Activities:

- (a) the PCU with staffing, mandate and resources satisfactory to the World Bank, to carry out the coordination of the Activities; and
- (b) the CN-TIPPEE with staffing, mandate and resources satisfactory to the World Bank, to carry out the fiduciary aspects 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 [one month] after the end of each calendar quarter, covering the quarter, in form and substance satisfactory to the World Bank.

- (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

Goods and non-consulting services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of: (A) Shopping; and (B) Direct Contracting.

(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) Selection based on Consultants' Qualifications; (B) Selection under a Fixed Budget; (C) Least Cost

Selection; (D) Single-source Selection of consulting firms; (E) Selection of Individual Consultants; and (F) Single-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	3,000,000	100%
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	3,000,000	

For the purpose of this Section, the terms:

(a) “Training” means the following expenditures incurred in providing training or workshops: (i) travel by participants and presenters to the training or workshop site; (ii) per diem allowances of such persons during the training 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 expenditures incurred on account of project implementation including, *inter-alia*, office supplies, transportation, office administration, insurance, publication of training materials, reasonable bank charges relating to operation of the designated account, and salaries of locally contracted employees, but excluding consultant fees and salaries of civil servants.

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 1, 2014.

#### **Article IV Terms of the Advance**

4.01. **Interest.** The Recipient shall pay interest on the Withdrawn Advance Balance at a rate, for each Interest Period, equal to the Reference Rate plus the Fixed Spread. Interest shall accrue from the respective dates on which amounts of the Advance are withdrawn and shall be paid in arrears in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.02 of this Agreement. The Interest Period Determination Dates are January 1 and July 1 in each year.

4.02. **Repayment.** The Withdrawn Advance Balance, together with interest accrued thereon shall be repaid by the Recipient to the World Bank in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Standard Conditions and the following provisions:

(a) **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 repaid to the World Bank (together with interest accrued on the Advance to the date of repayment) as soon as the Refinancing Agreement becomes effective, by means of a withdrawal by the World Bank of an amount of the Refinancing Proceeds equivalent to the Withdrawn Advance Balance plus such interest, in accordance with the provisions of the Refinancing Agreement.

(b) **Repayment in the absence of a Refinancing Agreement:** If, on or before the Refinancing Date, no Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, or if, by this date, it has been so executed but terminates without becoming effective, then:

(i) if the amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance does not exceed US\$50,000, it shall be repaid by the Recipient to the World Bank (together with interest accrued on the Withdrawn Advance Balance to the date of repayment), on such date as the World Bank shall specify in a notice to the Recipient, which shall in no event be earlier than 60 days following the date of dispatch of such notice; and

(ii) if the amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance exceeds US\$50,000, it (together with interest accrued on the Withdrawn Advance Balance to the Notice Date) (the "Aggregate Balance") shall be paid by the Recipient to the World Bank in ten approximately equal semiannual installments, in the amounts and on the dates ("Payment Dates") which the World Bank shall specify in a notice to the Recipient. In no event shall the first Payment Date be set earlier than 60 days following the date ("Notice Date") of dispatch of such notice. The Recipient shall pay interest on the Aggregate Balance at a rate, for each Interest Period, equal to the Reference Rate plus the Fixed Spread, payable in arrears on each Payment Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any amount of the

Aggregate Balance remains unpaid when due and such non-payment continues for a period of thirty days, then the Recipient shall pay the Default Interest Rate on such overdue amount in lieu of the interest rate specified above in this subparagraph (ii) until such overdue amount is fully paid. Interest at the Default Interest Rate shall accrue from the first day of each Default Interest Period and shall be payable semi-annually in arrears on each Payment Date.

**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 finance.

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

Ministry of Economy, Labor and Sustainable Development  
Libreville  
Gabonese Republic

Facsimile:  
+241-(0)7 9 55 27

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

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
1818 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
United States of America

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