

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS P 4440

**The World Bank**  
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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July 7, 2016

H. E. Régis Immongault  
Minister of Sustainable Development, Economy and  
Promotion of Investments and Prospective  
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Economy and  
Promotion of Investments and Prospective  
Immeuble Arambo, Boulevard Triomphal B.P. 747  
Libreville, Gabonese Republic

Re: Gabonese Republic: Advance Agreement for Preparation of  
Proposed Statistical Development Project  
Project Preparation Advance No. P4770

Excellency:

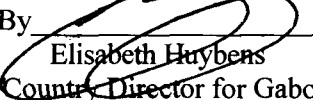
In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of the Republic of Gabon (“Recipient”), I am pleased to inform you that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“World Bank”) proposes to extend to the Recipient an advance out of the World Bank’s Project Preparation Facility in an amount not to exceed three million seven hundred and fifty thousand Dollars (\$3,750,000) (“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 strengthen the capacity of the Recipient’s national statistical system to fill data gaps, improve statistical production and enhance statistical dissemination practices (“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 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   
Elisabeth Haybens  
Country Director for Gabon  
Africa Region

AGREED

GABON REPUBLIC

By   
Authorized Representative

Name Régis IMMONGAULT

Title Minister of Economy

Date: 08 JULI. 2016

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) "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, and responsible for carrying out projects which are in the public interest on behalf of all stakeholders with a view to implement best practices and sound governance.
- (b) “*Direction Générale de la Statistique* ” means the Recipient’s directorate responsible for statistics.

**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) Preparation and data collection for the 2016 household income, expenditure and living standards survey, including the carrying out of a pilot testing survey, the acquisition of vehicles and tablets for the field work and the hiring of enumerators, controllers and supervisors required for the purpose.
- b) Preparation of the 2017 Demographic and health Survey (DHS).
- c) Preparation of the rebasing and geographical extension of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), including the hiring of staff, missions to the regional capitals to be included in the CPI and provision of training to price collectors.
- d) Carrying out activities aimed at reducing the backlog of statistical reporting on the national accounts and preparation of the rebasing exercise, including the hiring of experts, the data collection, the acquisition of computers and the provision of training.
- e) Preparation of an implementation manual for the Project.
- f) Operational support to the CN-TIPPEE.

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 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:

(a) The Recipient shall maintain throughout the implementation of the Activities the CN-TIPPEE with staff and resources adequate and acceptable to the World Bank, to be responsible for the fiduciary aspects of the Advance; and

(b) The *Direction Générale de la Statistique* shall provide technical inputs 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, revised July 2014 (“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, revised July 2014 (“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

Except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraph (ii) below, goods and non-consulting services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of National Competitive Bidding subject to the following additional procedures: Each bidding document and contract financed out of the proceeds of the Loan shall provide that: (i) in accordance with paragraph 1.16 (e) of the Procurement Guidelines, each bidding document and contract financed out of the proceeds of the financing will provide that (a) the bidders, suppliers, contractors, and their subcontractors, agents, personnel, consultants, service providers, or suppliers will permit the World Bank as the Supervising Entity, at its request, to inspect all accounts, records and other documents relating to the submission of bids and contract performance, and will have said accounts and records audited by auditors appointed by the Bank/Supervising Entity; and (b) the deliberate and material violation of such provision may amount to an obstructive practice as defined in paragraph 1.16 (a)(v) of the Procurement Guidelines; (ii) invitations to bid shall be advertised in national newspapers with wide circulation; (iii) the bid evaluation, qualification of bidders and contract award criteria shall be clearly indicated in the bidding documents; (iv) bidders shall be given adequate response time (at least four weeks) to submit bids from the date of the invitation to bid or the date of availability of bidding documents, whichever is later; (v) eligible bidders, including foreign bidders, shall be allowed to participate; (vi) no domestic or CEMAC’s regional preference shall be given to domestic or regional contractors, domestically or regionally manufactured goods; and association with national or regional firm shall not be a condition for participation in a bidding process; (vii) bids are awarded to the substantially responsive and the lowest evaluated bidder proven this bidder is qualified. 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; (viii) qualification criteria shall only concern the bidder’s capability and resources to perform the contract taking into account objective and measurable factors

(ii) The following methods, other than National Competitive Bidding, may be used for procurement of goods and non-consulting services for those contracts specified in the Procurement Plan: (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) Quality-based Selection; (B) Selection under a Fixed Budget; (C) Least Cost Selection; (D) Selection based on Consultants' Qualifications; (E) Selection of Individual Consultants; and (F) Single-source Selection.

(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:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount of the Advance Allocated (expressed in Dollars)</b>	<b>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)</b>
Goods, non-consulting services, consultants' services, Training and Operating Costs under the Activities	3,750,000	100%
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	3,750,000	

For the purpose of this section, the terms:

(a) "Training" means the reasonable costs associated with training, workshop and study tour participation under the Activities, consisting of travel and subsistence costs for training participants to the training, workshop or study tour site, costs (other than consulting services) associated with securing the services of trainers and presenters at the training or workshop site, rental of training, workshop or study tour facilities, translation and interpretation services, preparation and reproduction of training, workshop or study tour materials.

(b) "Operating Costs" means the expenditures incurred by the Recipient to finance: (i) salaries of the staff of the CN-TIPEE; (ii) per diem and travel expenses of staff required to perform their responsibilities under the Activities; (iii) fuel, and vehicle maintenance and insurance services; (iv) communication technology (including, without limitation, internet and telephone service); (v) rent for office space and building security and office maintenance services; (vi) translation services, photocopies and publications; and (vii) utilities and office supplies. It excludes 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 February 13, 2017.

#### **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 Economy.

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

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Economy and Promotion of Investments and Prospective  
Immeuble Arambo, Boulevard Triomphal B.P. 747  
Libreville, Gabonese Republic

Main Phone : 241-(0) 795527  
Fax: 241-(0) 721818

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

Cable:	Telex:	Facsimile:
INTBAFRAD Washington, D.C.	248423 (MCI) or 64145 (MCI)	1-202-477-6391