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October 16, 2017

Honorable Amadou Sanneh
Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
The Quadrangle
Banjul, the Gambia

Re: The Republic of The Gambia: Advance Agreement for the
Preparation of Education Sector Support Program
Project Preparation Advance No. V132

Honorable Minister:

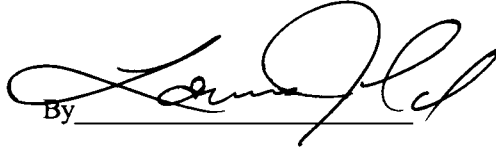
In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of the Republic of the Gambia (“Recipient”), I am pleased to inform you that the International Development Association (“World Bank”) proposes to extend to the Recipient an advance out of the World Bank’s Project Preparation Facility in an amount not to exceed six million United States Dollars (US\$6,000,000) (“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 program designed to increase access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) and basic education and improve quality of teaching and learning (“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 provide financing in support of 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effective as of the date of the countersignature; provided, however, that the offer of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received this countersigned copy within 90 days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the World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 DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By 

Louise Cord
Country Director for The Gambia
Africa Region

AGREED:
REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

By 
Authorized Representative

Name Amadou Sanneh

Title Minister of Finance

Date: 31st October 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 "Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing", dated February 2017.

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 and the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) “Beneficiaries” means persons who meet the eligibility criteria stipulated in the Operations Manual to receive the Hardship Allowance, the Stipend, or the CCT; each an “Eligible Beneficiary”.
- (b) “CCT” or “Conditional Cash Transfer” means a program in which Beneficiaries are given a grant to release their pupils to allow them access to a number of hours of literacy and numeracy per week.
- (c) “ICT” means information and communications technology.
- (d) “Hardship Allowance” means the cash allowances given to selected teachers to attract them to schools in difficult locations in the remote regions of the Recipient’s territory;
- (e) “MoBSE” or “Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education” means the Recipient’s ministry responsible for basic and secondary education.
- (f) “MoHERST” means the Recipient’s Ministry of Higher Education Research Science and Technology, responsible at the time for higher education, research, science and technology and any successors thereto.
- (g) “National Language Program” means a pilot program designed to train students to reading through the Recipient’s national languages.
- (h) “Operating costs” means the incremental expenditures incurred on account of project implementation including office supplies, fuel, 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.
- (i) “Operations Manual” means the Recipient’s manual described in paragraph 2.03. B. of the Annex to this Agreement.
- (j) “PCU” or “Project Coordination Unit” means the unit established by the Recipient within the MoBSE for the purpose of coordinating World Bank projects.

- (k) “Reading Program” means reading methods to effectively teach early graders to improve their reading skills.
- (l) “Stipend” means cash allowances given to selected teacher trainees to attract them to the teacher training program to become certified teachers.
- (m) “The Gambia College” means the Recipient’s main and only institute responsible for training teachers on early childhood development, primary teachers’ certificate and higher teachers’ certificate.
- (n) “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, excluding civil servants; (iv) rental of facilities; (v) materials, supplies; and (vi) translation and interpretation services

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) Provision of technical assistance to review and redesign the Early Childhood Development (ECD), Lower Basic Schools (LBS) and Upper Basic Schools (UBS) classrooms for construction.
- (b) Provision of technical assistance to review and revise the community-based ECD model.
- (c) Conducting National Assessment Test (NAT) and provision of technical assistance to analyze the NAT data.
- (d) Provision of technical assistance to develop a strategic framework and coherent policy for pre-service and in-service teacher training.
- (e) Conducting action research on the curriculum review for basic education.
- (f) Carrying out in-service professional development training sessions for teachers in the Recipient’s territory based on a training assessment to identify individual needs.
- (g) Providing support for the innovative ICT mathematics, science, and English Language of Art (ELA) program.
- (h) Providing support to the Special Needs Education by developing assessment items, data entry and analysis, and training teachers, and cluster monitors.

- (i) Providing financial support for annual data collection, analysis, and capacity building of Education Management Information System (EMIS).
- (j) Preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and of a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for the proposed Project.
- (k) Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), Ministry of Higher Education Research Science and Technology (MoHERST), and the Project Coordination Unit (“PCU”).
- (l) Providing support to the Reading and Numeracy Program for grades 1-3 by printing materials, and providing training to teachers and fuel for monitoring and coordination of training.
- (m) Providing support to school level monitoring by revising the classroom observation tool (COT) and refresher training to head teachers and senior teachers for the use of the COT.
- (n) Providing Hardship Allowance to LBS teachers who teach in designated remote areas in selected regions;
- (o) Providing Stipends to selected teacher trainees at the Gambia College;
- (p) Providing Conditional Cash Transfers (“CCT”) to Majalis centers (religious centers); and
- (q) Providing support to the Reading Program for grades 1-3 by providing goods such as printing pocket readers.

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 Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), 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.***

A. PCU

Without limitations upon Section 2.02 above, the Recipient shall maintain throughout the implementation of the Activities, the PCU, with adequate staffing and functions satisfactory to the World Bank to be responsible for the management of the Activities.

B. Operations Manual

1. The Recipient shall implement the Advance in accordance with the manual acceptable to the World Bank, containing detailed arrangements and procedures for: (a) eligibility criteria, detailed rules and procedures for identification and selection of Beneficiaries

of the Stipends, Hardship Allowance and Conditional Cash Transfers; (b) requirements to be fulfilled by Beneficiaries as conditions for the provision of Conditional Cash Transfers, Stipends and Hardship Allowances; and (c) the mechanisms for verification of compliance with requirements, ("Operations Manual").

2. The Recipient shall carry out the Advance in accordance with the Operations Manual and shall not amend, abrogate, waive or permit to be amended, abrogated or waived, the aforementioned manual, or any provision thereof, without the prior written consent of the World Bank.
3. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and the Operations Manual the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.

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 45 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**

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 25, 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 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, Stipends, Hardship Allowances, Conditional Cash Transfers, non-consulting services and consultants' services	6,000,000	100%
TOTAL AMOUNT	6,000,000	

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 June 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 responsible for finance and economic affairs.

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

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
The Quadrangle,
Banjul, the Gambia
Telephone: +220 4227221/ 4227529
Fax: +2204227954
Email : info@mof.gov.gm

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