July 16, 2013

H. E. Sidi Ould Tah
Minister of Economic Affairs and Development
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development
BP 238
Nouakchott, Mauritania

Re: Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)
Grant No. TF014868
Support to NSDS Project

Excellency:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania ("Recipient"), I am pleased to inform you that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association ("World Bank"), acting as administrator of grant funds provided by various donors ("Donors") under the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, proposes to extend to the Recipient, a grant in an amount not to exceed four hundred fifty one thousand two hundred fifty nine United States Dollars (US$451,259) ("Grant") on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this letter agreement ("Agreement"), which includes the attached Annex, to assist in the financing of the project described in the Annex ("Project").

This Grant is funded out of the abovementioned trust fund for which the World Bank receives periodic contributions from the Donors. In accordance with Section 3.02 of the Standard Conditions (as defined in the Annex to this Agreement), the World Bank’s payment obligations in connection with this Agreement are limited to the amount of funds made available to it by the Donors under the abovementioned trust fund, and the Recipient’s right to withdraw the Grant proceeds is subject to the availability of such funds.

The Recipient represents, by confirming its agreement below, that it is authorized to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in 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 return 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effective as of the date of the countersignature; provided, however, that the offer of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received the countersigned
copy of this Agreement within ninety (90) days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the World Bank shall have established a later date for such purpose ("Effective Date").

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
AND
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By Vera Songwe
Country Director for Mauritania
Africa Region

AGREED:

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

Enclosures:

(2) Disbursement Letter of the same date as this Agreement, together with World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects, dated May 1, 2006
(5) 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
copy of this Agreement within ninety (90) days after the date of signature of this Agreement by
the World Bank, unless the World Bank shall have established a later date for such purpose
(“Effective Date”).

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
AND
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By Vera Songwe
Country Director for Africa Region

AGREED:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

By:
Authorized Representative
Name: |
Title: |
Date: 28-07-12

Enclosures:

(1) Standard Conditions for Grants Made by the World Bank Out of Various Funds,
dated February 15, 2012
(2) Disbursement Letter of the same date as this Agreement, together with World Bank
Disbursement Guidelines for Projects, dated May 1, 2006
(3) Guidelines: “Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-consulting Services under
IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January
2011
(4) Guidelines: “Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA
Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers”, dated January 2011
(5) 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
Article I
Standard Conditions; Definitions


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 additional terms have the following meanings:

(a) “GIS” and “Geographical Information System” each means a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of geographical data.

(b) “National Account” means complete and consistent accounting techniques for measuring the Recipient’s economic activity.

(c) “NSDS” and “National Statistics Development Strategy” each means a statistical strategy document prepared and adopted by the Recipient.

(d) “NSS” means the Recipient’s national statistical system.

(e) “NTIC” means new information and communications technologies.

(f) “Project Coordination Unit” and “PCU” each means the Recipient’s unit established for the implementation of the Recipient’s Public Sector Capacity Building Project described in the Financing Agreement dated July 19, 2006 between IDA and the Recipient for a credit in support of such project (credit 4218-MAU).

(g) “ONS” and “Office national de la statistique” each means the Recipient’s office in charge of statistics.

(h) “SNA” means the Recipient’s national system accounts.

(i) “Training” means reasonable non-consultant expenditures incurred by the Recipient to finance training and workshop activities, including: services for training activities and seminars, production of training manuals, training materials, subsistence costs and local transportation for training participants, and rental of training facilities.

Article II
Project Execution

2.01. **Project Objectives and Description.** The objective of the Project is to support the implementation of the NSDS 2011-2015 especially by improving the efficiency of the NSS and the quality and coverage of specific statistics. The Project consists of the following parts:
1. **Improving the efficiency of the NSS**

Carrying out a program of activities aimed at generating more efficient statistical outputs including: (i) organization of a national workshop to validate the proposed NSS architecture; (ii) design and implementation of a communication strategy; (iii) training of ONS staff in procurement and financial management; and (iv) enhancement of the ONS website to include a portal for the overall NSS, and design of selected sector statistical units' websites.

2. **Improving the Quality and Coverage of Specific Statistics**

Improving the quality and coverage of specific statistics through: (a) the carrying out of training to: (i) support the design of a GIS; (ii) build the technical expertise of ONS staff in NTIC to benefit the current implementation of the population census and household survey; (iii) build the capacity of ONS staff in the new SNA methodology used to compute the Recipient's National Accounts; and (iv) build the capacity of staff of statistical units involved in agriculture domains in the use of satellite imaging; and (b) the acquisition of office equipment.

2.02. **Project Execution Generally.** The Recipient declares its commitment to the objectives of the Project. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Project through its Office of National Statistics (ONS) in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article II of the Standard Conditions; (b) 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 ("Anti-Corruption Guidelines"); and (c) this Article II.

2.03. **Institutional and Other Arrangements.** Without limitation upon the provisions of Section 2.02 above, the Recipient shall:

(a) entrust the PCU, for the first six months of Project implementation, with the responsibility of carrying out the overall coordination of the Project, including procurement and financial management thereof; and

(b) thereafter, carry out the overall responsibility of Project implementation, including the fiduciary functions.

2.04. **Project Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation.** (a) The Recipient shall monitor and evaluate the progress of the Project and prepare Project Reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.06 of the Standard Conditions and on the basis of indicators acceptable to the World Bank. Each Project Report shall cover the period of one calendar semester, and shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than forty-five (45) days after the end of the period covered by such report.

(b) The Recipient shall prepare the Completion Report in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.06 of the Standard Conditions. The Completion Report shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six (6) months after the Closing Date.

2.05. **Financial Management.** (a) The Recipient shall ensure that a financial management system is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.07 of the Standard Conditions.
(b) The Recipient shall ensure that interim unaudited financial reports for the Project 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 Section 2.07 (b) of the Standard Conditions. Two audits of the Financial Statements shall cover the entire period during which withdrawals from the Grant Account were made. The audited Financial Statements shall be furnished to the World Bank within six (6) months after the end of the second year of Project implementation and within six (6) months after the Project Closing Date.

2.06. **Procurement**

(a) **General.** All goods and consultants’ services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in:

(i) Section I of the “Guidelines: Procurement of Goods 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 Project 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**

(i) Except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraph (ii) below, goods shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of National Competitive Bidding, subject to the following additional procedures outlined in sub-paragraph (iii) below.

(ii) Other than National Competitive Bidding, Shopping may be used for procurement of goods for those contracts which are specified in the Procurement Plan.

(iii) Exceptions to National Competitive Bidding Procedures: The following provisions shall apply to the procurement of goods under National Competitive Bidding procedures: (a) eligible firms, including foreign firms, will not be excluded from the competition;
(b) no preference margin will be granted to domestic bidders; (c) at least four weeks will be provided for preparation and submission of bids, after the issuance of the Invitation for Bids or the availability of the bidding documents, whichever is later; (d) if bidders are authorized to submit an alternative bid with or without a bid for the base case, the bids offered for alternatives, meeting the specified requirements, shall be evaluated on their own merits; (e) if the bid which results in the lowest Evaluated Bid Price is significantly unbalanced or front loaded in the opinion of the Employer, the Employer may require that performance security be increased at the expense of the Bidder to a level sufficient to protect the Employer against financial loss in the event of default of the successful Bidder under the Contract; (f) provisions related to the use of a merit point system will not be applied; (g) less than three bids submitted should not be considered a reason for re-bidding; (h) the evaluated lowest bidder should be authorized to complete an administrative statement of proof; (i) lack of anonymity of any offer cannot justify bid rejection; (j) a newly-created firm could not qualified based on the management staff experience; (k) no bid will be rejected because it is considered too low.

(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, other than Quality- and Cost-based Selection, 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) Single-source Selection of consulting firms; (F) Selection of Individual Consultants; and (G) 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 Grant Proceeds

3.01. Eligible Expenditures. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Grant in accordance with the provisions of: (i) the Standard Conditions; (ii) this Section; and (iii) 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 the categories of Eligible Expenditures that may be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant (“Category”), the allocations of the amounts of the Grant to each Category, and the percentage of expenditures to be financed for Eligible Expenditures in each Category:
<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount of the Grant Allocated (expressed in USD)</th>
<th>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)</th>
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<td>(1) Goods (not exceeding 20% of Grant amount), consultants’ services and Training</td>
<td>451,259</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**TOTAL AMOUNT** 451,259

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. **Withdrawal Period.** The Closing Date referred to in Section 3.06 (c) of the Standard Conditions is June 30, 2015.

**Article IV**

**Recipient’s Representative; Addresses**

4.01. **Recipient’s Representative.** The Recipient’s Representative referred to in Section 7.02 of the Standard Conditions is its Minister responsible for economy.

4.02. **Recipient’s Address.** The Recipient’s Address referred to in Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

*Ministère des Affaires Economiques et du Développement*

BP 238

Nouakchott

Mauritania

Facsimile:

222-45-25-33-35

4.03. **World Bank’s Address.** The World Bank’s Address referred to in Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

International Development Association

1818 H Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20433

United States of America
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