December 6, 2013

H.E. Jonas A. Gbian
Minister of Economy and Finance
Ministry of Economy and Finance
B.P. 302
Cotonou, Republic of Benin

Re: Republic of Benin: Advance Agreement for Preparation of Proposed Youth Employment Project
Preparation Advance No. Q884

Excellency:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of Republic of Benin ("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 an amount not to exceed eight hundred and eighty thousand Dollars (US$ 880,000) ("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 employability of youth in Benin ("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of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received this countersigned copy within 90 days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the World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 DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By

Olivier P. Fremond
Count Manager for Benin Africa Region

AGREED:

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

By

Authorized Representative

Name: Jonas A. Gbían

Title: Ministre de l’Économie et des Finances

Date: 06 DEC 2013

Enclosures:

(1) "Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the World Bank under its Project Preparation Facility" dated July 31, 2010

(2) "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

(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) 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


1.02. 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.

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:

(i) Provision of consultants’ services for the preparation, validation and publication of the Project Implementation Manual.
(ii) Provision of consultants’ services for the preparation and publication of the study on workplace safety or apprenticeships.
(iii) Provision of goods and consultant services for the Project Implementation Unit, and conducting workshops.
(iv) Recruiting key consultants for the project implementation unit.

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 Microfinance and Youth and Women’s Employment (MCMEJF) 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 the provisions of Section 2.02 above, the Recipient shall maintain, throughout the Project preparation, the interim project implementation unit, with the MCMEJF, with a composition (a Coordinator, a Procurement Specialist and a Financial Management Specialist), mandate, terms of reference and resources satisfactory to the World Bank, to be responsible 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, and starting from the quarter of the first withdrawal under the Project Preparation Advance, 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 (c) 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, services, and 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 1.13 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 Section 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**

(i) 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: the Recipient shall use standard bidding documents acceptable to the World Bank.

(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) Least Cost Selection; (B) Selection based on Consultants’ Qualifications; (C) Single-source Selection of consulting firms; (D) Selection following national publication of Requests for Expressions of Interest; and (E) 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:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount of the Advance Allocated (expressed in Dollars)</th>
<th>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Consultants' Services and Operating Costs, Goods, Workshop and Training</td>
<td>880,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL AMOUNT</td>
<td>880,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purpose of this table, the term: (i) "Training and Workshop" means the costs associated with the training, study tours and workshop participation of personnel involved in the Activities including travel and subsistence costs for training and workshop participants, costs associated with securing the services of trainers and workshop speakers, rental of training and workshop facilities, preparation and reproduction of training and workshop materials, and other costs directly related to training course and workshop preparation and implementation; and (ii) "Operating Costs" means the operating costs incurred on account of the implementation of the Activities, including maintenance of vehicles and equipment, fuel, office supplies, utilities, consumables, bank charges, advertising expenses, travel, per diems, and accommodation, but excluding 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 27, 2014.

**Article IV**

**Terms of the Advance**

4.01. **Service Charge.** The Recipient shall pay a service charge on the Withdrawn Advance Balance at the rate of three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum. The service charge 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. Service charges shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

4.02. **Repayment.** The Withdrawn Advance Balance shall be repaid by the Recipient to the World Bank (together with any service charges accrued thereon) 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 any service charges 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 service charges, in accordance with the provision 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 such date or at any time thereafter, it has been so executed but terminates without becoming effective, then:

(i) if the amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance does not exceed $50,000, it shall be repaid by the Recipient to the World Bank (together with service charges 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 $50,000, it (together with service charges accrued on the Withdrawn Advance Balance to the Notice Date) shall be paid by the Recipient to the World Bank in ten approximate 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 a service charge on the Aggregate Balance at the rate of three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum, payable in arrears on each Payment Date. The service charge shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

Article V
Recipient’s Representative; Addresses

5.0. Recipient’s Representative. The Recipient’s Representative referred to in Section 9.02 of the Standard Conditions is its minister in charge of finance.

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

Ministry of Economy and Finance
B.P. 302
Cotonou
Republic of Benin

Cable: Telefax: Facsimile:
MINFINANCES 5009 MIF FIN or (229) 30 18 51
Cotonou 5289 CA 1 (229) 31 53 56
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: INDEVAS  
Washington, D.C.  
Telex: 244423 (MCI) or 64445 (MCI)  
Facsimile: 1-202-477-6391