H.E. Mohamed Ali Soilihi
Vice-president in charge of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Budget
Ministry of Finance
B.P. 324
Moroni
Union of the Comoros

Re: Union of the Comoros: Advance Agreement for Preparation of the Proposed Regional Communications Infrastructure Project (Phase 4)
Project Preparation Advance No. Q806-COM

Excellency:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of Union of Comoros ("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 seven hundred thousand Dollars ($700,000) ("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 support population, businesses and governments across the Eastern and Southern Africa region to have access to quality and affordable information and communication technology services on open, transparent and non-discriminatory terms ("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of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received this countersigned copy within 90 days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the World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

Bridi

Country Director for Union of Comoros
Africa Region

AGREED:

UNION OF THE COMOROS

By

Authorized Representative

Name

Title

Date:

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.

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 legal advice on contractual arrangements between the Recipient and the private sector.

(b) Provision of technical assistance to promote the introduction of competition in the telecommunication sector and to support the privatization of the Recipient’s telecommunication company.

(c) Provision of technical assistance for facilitating the Recipient’s open access to broadband backbone infrastructure.

(d) Carrying out studies required for the proposed terrestrial and submarine infrastructure, including an environmental and social safeguards assessment.

(e) Strengthening the Project’s coordination unit capacity to effectively manage the Activities through the hiring of staff, the provision of goods and operating costs required for the purpose.

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 its ministry responsible for finance, economy, budget, investment and foreign trade, the Ministry of Finance, Economy, Budget, Investment and Foreign Trade, in cooperation with its ministry responsible for post and telecommunications, communication and tourism, the Ministry of Transportation, Post & Telecommunications and the Recipient’s national authority for regulations and information technology and communication (ANRTIC), 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 limitation upon the foregoing, the Recipient shall maintain, at all times during the implementation of the Activities, with functions, responsibilities, staff, experience, qualification and expertise satisfactory to the World Bank:

(i) the Céllule des réformes économiques et financières (CREF), within the Recipient's Ministry of Finance, to be responsible for the implementation of the Activities; and

(ii) the coordination unit for the Project established under the financing agreement dated February 23, 2011 between the World Bank and the Recipient under IDA Grant No. H646-KM, (ABGE), to be responsible for the procurement and financial management functions under 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 (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. Each audit of the Financial Statements shall cover the period of one fiscal year of the Recipient, 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 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:


(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

(i) Goods shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of Shopping.

(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 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>(1) Goods, operating costs and consultants' services under the Activities</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL AMOUNT</strong></td>
<td><strong>700,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purpose of this section, the term “operating costs” means the expenditures incurred to finance the reasonable cost under the Activities: (i) salaries of the staff (excluding civil servants); (ii) per diem and travel expenses of staff required to perform their responsibilities under the Activities; (iii) communication technology (including, without limitation, internet and telephone service); (iv) office maintenance services; (v) translation services, photocopies and publications; and (vi) utilities and office supplies.

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 March 31, 2013.

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**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 at the time 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 Finance  
B.P. 324  
Moroni  
Union of the Comoros

Facsimile: (269) 74 41 40

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)