Son Excellence Madame Fily Bouaré Sissoko  
Ministre de l’Economie et des Finances  
Ministère de l’Economie et des Finances  
Bamako

Re: REPUBLIC OF MALI: Advance Agreement for Preparation of Proposed Skills Development and Youth Employment Project  
Project Preparation Advance No. Q913-ML

Excellency:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of REPUBLIC OF MALI (“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 five hundred sixty two thousand US Dollars (USD562,000) (“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 readiness of a proposed project designed to support education and training for employability and private-sector led job opportunities for youth in Mali (“Project”), in support 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effective as of the date of the countersignature; provided, however, that the offer of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received this countersigned copy within 15 days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the World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

Paul Noumba Um
Country Director for Chad, Mali and Niger
Africa Region

AGREED:
REPUBLIC OF MALI

By
Authorized Representative

Name
Title
Date: March 31, 2014
Enclosures:

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

(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;

(3) Guidelines for “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; and

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 additional terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Anti-corruption Guidelines" means 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.

(b) "Consultants' Guidelines" means the "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

(c) "Operating Costs" means the expenditures incurred by the Recipient under Advance and Project to finance: (i) allowances of the staff of the PCU-AD, as well as of staff of the coordination unit to be established under the Project; (ii) travel expenditures and other travel-related allowances of staff required to perform their responsibilities under Advance and Project; (iii) vehicle operation, maintenance, repair and insurance but not the purchase of fuel; (iv) media information campaigns and communications' expenses (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; (vii) materials and office supplies but not the purchase of equipment; (viii) utilities; and (ix) bank charges.

(d) "PCU-ACD" means the unit established within the Recipient’s Ministry of Agriculture under the Agricultural Competitiveness and Diversification Project between the Recipient and the World Bank, dated September 8, 2005 as amended to the date of this Agreement (Credit No 4094-MLI).


(f) "Procurement Plan" means the Recipient’s procurement plan referred to in Section 2.06(a)(iii) of this Agreement.

(g) "Standard Conditions" means the “Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the World Bank under its Project Preparation Facility” dated July 31, 2010.

(h) "Steering Committee" means the Recipient’s committee referred to in Section 2.04 (i) of this Agreement.

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

2.01. Description of the Activities. The Activities for which the Advance is provided consist of the following parts:

(i) Providing support for the development of: (a) a comprehensive project implementation manual; and (b) operational manuals for a matching grants scheme and business plan competition, and private sector school grants scheme;

(ii) Carrying out and launching necessary studies and assessments related to the Project’s readiness, comprising, inter alia: (a) the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions’ detailed investment feasibility studies; (b) assessments and mappings for the readiness of the informal skills training programs; (c) the environmental and social management plan; and (d) a communication plan;

(iii) Providing support to establish a coordination unit for the Project, including, inter alia: (a) the recruitment process of the Project coordination unit’s staff; (b) acquisition of equipment; (c) organization of workshops; and (d) provision of Operating Costs for the Project coordination unit; and

(iv) Provision of goods, consultant’s services, Training and Operating Costs for PCU-ACD for the management and implementation of the Advance.

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 unit established by the Recipient within its ministry for agriculture (the “PCU-ACD”) in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article II of the Standard Conditions; (b) this Article II; and (c) the Anti-Corruption Guidelines.

2.03. 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.

2.04. Institutional and Other Arrangements.

(i) The Recipient shall maintain, throughout the implementation of the Activities, a Project Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) responsible to oversee the Activities. The Steering Committee shall be composed inter-alia of representatives from concerned ministries and representatives from the private sector.

(ii) Without limitations upon the provisions of Section 2.02 above, the Recipient shall maintain, throughout the Refinancing Date, PCU-ACD under terms of reference and staffed with resources acceptable to the World Bank to ensure overall coordination and management of the Activities, including procurement and financial management thereof.

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 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 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 Procurement Guidelines in the case of goods and non-consulting services;

(ii) Sections I and IV of the Consultants’ Guidelines in the case of consultants’ services; and

(iii) the provisions of this Section, as the same shall be elaborated in the 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

(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 use of the provisions of the World Bank’s Guidelines and Standard Bidding Documents;

(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) Selection based on Consultants’ Qualifications; (B) Single-source Selection of consulting firms; (C) Selection of
Individual Consultants; and (D) 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 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, non-consulting services, consultants' services, Training and Operating Costs under the Activities</td>
<td>562,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL AMOUNT</td>
<td>562,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 December 31, 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 paid to the World Bank (together with any service charges accrued thereon) on the day of the Refinancing Date.
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 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 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) (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 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

5.01. Recipient’s Representative. The Recipient’s Representative referred to in Section 9.02 of the Standard Conditions is the minister of economy and 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
P. O. Box 234
Bamako
Republic of Mali

Facsimile:
223-2022-14-88
223-2022-07-93

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