Financing Agreement

(Sixth Poverty Reduction Development Policy Financing)

between

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dated May 25, 2010
CREDIT NUMBER 4722-BJ

FINANCING AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT dated May 25, 2010, entered into between REPUBLIC OF BENIN (“Recipient”) and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (“Association”) for the purpose of providing financing in support of the Program (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement). The Association has decided to provide this financing on the basis, inter alia, of (a) the actions which the Recipient has already taken under the Program and which are described in Section I of Schedule 1 to this Agreement, and (b) the Recipient’s maintenance of an appropriate macro-economic policy framework. The Recipient and the Association therefore hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I — GENERAL CONDITIONS; DEFINITIONS

1.01. The General Conditions (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement) constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

1.02. Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the General Conditions or in the Appendix to this Agreement.

ARTICLE II — FINANCING

2.01. The Association agrees to extend to the Recipient, on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this Agreement, a credit in an amount equivalent to up to nineteen million six hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 19,600,000) (variously, “Credit” or “Financing”).

2.02. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in support of the Program in accordance with Section II of Schedule 1 to this Agreement.

2.03. The Maximum Commitment Charge Rate payable by the Recipient on the Unwithdrawn Financing Balance shall be one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) per annum.

2.04. The Service Charge payable by the Recipient on the Withdrawn Credit Balance shall be equal to three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum.

2.05. The Payment Dates are April 15 and October 15 in each year.

2.06. The principal amount of the Credit shall be repaid in accordance with repayment schedule set forth in Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

2.07. The Payment Currency is Euro.
ARTICLE III — PROGRAM

3.01. The Recipient declares its commitment to the Program and its implementation. To this end:

(a) the Recipient and the Association shall from time to time, at the request of either party, exchange views on the Recipient’s macroeconomic policy framework and the progress achieved in carrying out the Program;

(b) prior to each such exchange of views, the Recipient shall furnish to the Association for its review and comment a report on the progress achieved in carrying out the Program, in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request; and

(c) without limitation upon the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Section, the Recipient shall promptly inform the Association of any situation that would have the effect of materially reversing the objectives of the Program or any action taken under the Program.

ARTICLE IV — REMEDIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

4.01. The Additional Event of Suspension consists of the following, namely a situation has arisen which shall make it improbable that the Program, or a significant part of it, will be carried out.

ARTICLE V — EFFECTIVENESS; TERMINATION

5.01. The Additional Condition of Effectiveness consists of the following, namely the Association is satisfied with (i) the progress achieved by the Recipient in carrying out the Program and (ii) the adequacy of the Recipient’s macroeconomic policy framework.

5.02. The Effectiveness Deadline is the date one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of this Agreement.
ARTICLE VI — REPRESENTATIVE; ADDRESSES

6.01. The Recipient’s Representative is the Recipient’s Minister responsible for finance.

6.02. The Recipient’s Address is:

Ministère de l’Économie et des Finances
B.P. 302
Cotonou
Republic of Benin

Cable address: Telex: Facsimile:
MINFINANCES 5009 MINFIN or (229) 21 30 18 51
Cotonou 5289 CAA (229) 21 31 53 56

6.03. The Association’s Address is:

International Development Association
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
United States of America

Cable address: Telex: Facsimile:
INDEVAS 248423(MCI) 1-202-477-6391
Washington, D.C.
AGREED at Cotonou, Republic of Benin, as of the day and year first above written.

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

By /s/ Idriss L. Daouda

Authorized Representative

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By /s/ Joseph Baah-Dwomoh

Authorized Representative
SCHEDULE 1

Program Actions; Availability of Financing Proceeds

Section I. Actions under the Program

A. Actions Taken Under the Program. The actions taken by the Recipient under the Program in a manner satisfactory to the Association include the following:

1. To improve the regulatory framework and policy environment for private investment and infrastructure:
   (a) Adoption of a fiscal reform strategy simplifying business taxes.
   (b) Adoption of a decree establishing the regulatory code for the energy sector.
   (c) Completion of SONAPRA’s privatization, such that at least 51% of its shares are privately owned.

2. To pursue progress towards the Millennium Development Goals by improving access to basic services and ensuring greater efficiency of public expenditures on human capital formation:
   (a) At least 90% of the Recipient’s municipalities (communes) have contracted directly with non-governmental agencies (NGOs) in an effort to obtain, by application, decentralized funds from the Recipient’s authorities earmarked for water-related investments.
   (b) Implementation of the Recipient’s health strategic plan, through the extension of the hygiene and basic sanitation marketing approach to train communities in hygiene and basic sanitation, to the Recipient’s twelve (12) departments.

3. To promote better governance through public financial management reforms:
   (a) Implementation of the first three quarters of the Recipient’s Fiscal Year 2009 budget for the Priority Sectors.
   (b) The SIGMP has been established and the Recipient has adopted a development strategy designed to integrate the SIGMP with the Recipient’s other budget execution information systems.
   (c) Submission of the 2005 draft central budget audit report (Lois de Règlement) to the Recipient’s National Assembly.
Section II. Availability of Financing Proceeds

A. General. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in accordance with the provisions of this Section and such additional instructions as the Association may specify by notice to the Recipient.

B. Allocation of Financing Amounts. The Financing is allocated in a single tranche, from which the Recipient may make withdrawals. The allocation of the amounts of the Financing to this end is set out in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocations</th>
<th>Amount of the Financing Allocated (expressed in SDR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Single Withdrawal Tranche</td>
<td>19,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL AMOUNT</td>
<td>19,600,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Withdrawal Tranche Release Conditions

No withdrawal shall be made of the Single Withdrawal Tranche unless the Association is satisfied (a) with the Program being carried out by the Recipient, and (b) with the appropriateness of the Recipient’s macroeconomic policy framework.

D. Deposits of Financing Amounts

1. The Recipient shall open, prior to furnishing to the Association the first request for withdrawal from the Financing Account, and thereafter maintain a dedicated deposit account (“Deposit Account”) on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Bank.

2. The Recipient shall ensure that upon each deposit of an amount of the Financing into the Dedicated Account, an equivalent amount is accounted for in the Recipient’s budget management system, in a manner acceptable to the Association.

E. Audit. Upon the Association’s request, the Recipient shall:

1. have the Deposit Account audited by the Recipient’s Chamber of Accounts (Chambres des Comptes) (or such other independent auditors acceptable to the Association), in accordance with consistently applied auditing standards acceptable to the Association;
2. furnish to the Association as soon as available, but in any case not later than four months after the date of the Association’s request for such audit, a certified copy of the report of such audit, of such scope and in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request; and

3. furnish to the Association such other information concerning the Deposit Account and its audit as the Association shall reasonably request.

F. **Excluded Expenditures.** The Recipient undertakes that the proceeds of the Financing shall not be used to finance Excluded Expenditures. If the Association determines at any time that an amount of the Financing was used to make a payment for an Excluded Expenditure, the Recipient shall, promptly upon notice from the Association, refund an amount equal to the amount of such payment to the Association. Amounts refunded to the Association upon such request shall be cancelled.

G. **Closing Date.** The Closing Date is March 31, 2011.
### SCHEDULE 2

**Repayment Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Payment Due</th>
<th>Principal Amount of the Credit repayable (expressed as a percentage)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On each April 15 and October 15:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commencing October 15, 2020 to and including April 15, 2030</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commencing October 15, 2030 to and including April 15, 2050</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The percentages represent the percentage of the principal amount of the Credit to be repaid, except as the Association may otherwise specify pursuant to Section 3.03 (b) of the General Conditions.
APPENDIX

Section I. Definitions

1. “Deposit Accounts” means the dedicated deposit account referred to in Section II.D.1 of Schedule 1 to this Agreement.

2. “Excluded Expenditure” means any expenditure:

   (a) for goods or services supplied under a contract which any national or international financing institution or agency other than the Association or the Bank has financed or agreed to finance, or which the Association or the Bank has financed or agreed to finance under another credit, grant or loan;

   (b) for goods included in the following groups or sub-groups of the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC, Rev.3), published by the United Nations in Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 34/Rev.3 (1986) (the SITC), or any successor groups or subgroups under future revisions to the SITC, as designated by the Association by notice to the Recipient:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Sub-group</th>
<th>Description of Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alcoholic beverages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tobacco, un-manufactured, tobacco refuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tobacco, manufactured (whether or not containing tobacco substitutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>525</td>
<td></td>
<td>Radioactive and associated materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>667</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pearls, precious and semiprecious stones, unworked or worked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>718</td>
<td>718.7</td>
<td>Nuclear reactors, and parts thereof; fuel elements (cartridges), non-irradiated, for nuclear reactors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>728</td>
<td>Tobacco processing machinery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>728.43</td>
<td>Tobacco processing machinery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>897</td>
<td>Jewelry of gold, silver or platinum group metals (except watches and watch cases) and goldsmiths’ or silversmiths’ wares (including set gems)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>971</td>
<td>Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) for goods intended for a military or paramilitary purpose or for luxury consumption;

(d) for environmentally hazardous goods, the manufacture, use or import of which is prohibited under the laws of the Recipient or international agreements to which the Recipient is a party);

(e) on account of any payment prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations; and

(f) with respect to which the Association determines that corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices were engaged in by representatives of the Recipient or other recipient of the Financing proceeds, without the Recipient (or other such recipient) having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to the Association to address such practices when they occur.

3. “General Conditions” means the “International Development Association General Conditions for Credits and Grants”, dated July 1, 2005 (as amended through October 15, 2006) with the modifications set forth in Section II of this Appendix.


6. “Priority Sectors” means the following sectors: education, health, road infrastructure, water and energy, agriculture and environment, as outlined in the PRSP.

7. “Program” means the program of actions, objectives and policies designed to promote growth and achieve sustainable reductions in poverty and set forth or referred to in the letter dated April 1, 2010 from the Recipient to the Association declaring the Recipient’s commitment to the execution of the Program, and requesting assistance from the Association in support of the Program during its execution.

8. “Single Withdrawal Tranche” means the amount of the Financing allocated to the category entitled “Single Withdrawal Tranche” in the table set forth in Part B of Section II of Schedule 1 to this Agreement.

9. “SIGMP” means the Recipient’s integrated procurement management system (système intégré de gestion des marchés publics) designed to manage procurement operations.

10. “SONAPRA” means the Recipient’s National Cotton Company (Société Nationale pour la Promotion Agricole) established pursuant to “Decree 91-161 of July 22, 1991 with regard to the endorsement of the statute of SONAPRA”.

Section II. Modifications to the General Conditions

The modifications to the “International Development Association General Conditions for Credits and Grants”, dated July 1, 2005 (as amended through October 15, 2006) are as follows:

1. The last sentence of paragraph (a) of Section 2.03 (relating to Applications for Withdrawal) is deleted in its entirety.

2. Sections 2.04 (Designated Accounts) and 2.05 (Eligible Expenditures) are deleted in their entirety, and the remaining Sections in Article II are renumbered accordingly.
3. Section 2.05 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 2 above) is modified to read as follows:

   “Section 2.05. Refinancing Preparation Advance

   If the Financing Agreement provides for the repayment out of the proceeds of the Financing of an advance made by the Association or the Bank (“Preparation Advance”), the Association shall, on behalf of the Recipient, withdraw from the Financing Account on or after the Effective Date the amount required to repay the withdrawn and outstanding balance of the advance as at the date of such withdrawal from the Financing Account and to pay all accrued and unpaid charges, if any, on the advance as at such date. The Association shall pay the amount so withdrawn to itself or the Bank, as the case may be, and shall cancel the remaining unwithdrawn amount of the advance.”

4. Sections 4.01 (Project Execution Generally), and 4.09 (Financial Management; Financial Statements; Audits) are deleted in their entirety, and the remaining Sections in Article IV are renumbered accordingly.

5. Paragraph (a) of Section 4.05 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 3 above and relating to Use of Goods, Works and Services) is deleted in its entirety.

6. Paragraph (c) of Section 4.06 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 3 above) is modified to read as follows:

   “Section 4.06. Plans; Documents; Records

   … (c) The Recipient shall retain all records (contracts, orders, invoices, bills, receipts and other documents) evidencing expenditures under the Financing until two years after the Closing Date. The Recipient shall enable the Association’s representatives to examine such records.”

7. Section 4.07 (renumbered as such pursuant to paragraph 3 above) is modified to read as follows:

   “Section 4.07. Program Monitoring and Evaluation

   … (c) The Recipient shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, and furnish to the Association not later than six months after the Closing Date, a report of such scope and in such detail as the Association shall reasonably request, on the execution of the Program, the performance by the Recipient and the Association of their respective obligations under the Legal Agreements and the accomplishment of the purposes of the Financing.”
8. The following terms and definitions set forth in the Appendix are modified or deleted as follows, and the following new terms and definitions are added in alphabetical order to the Appendix as follows, with the terms being renumbered accordingly:

(a) The definition of the term “Eligible Expenditure” is modified to read as follows:

“‘Eligible Expenditure’ means any use to which the Financing is put in support of the Program, other than to finance expenditures excluded pursuant to the Financing Agreement.”

(b) The term “Financial Statements” and its definition as set forth in the Appendix are deleted in their entirety.

(c) The term “Project” is modified to read “Program” and its definition is modified to read as follows:

“‘Program’ means the program referred to in the Financing Agreement in support of which the Financing is made.” All references to “Project” throughout these General Conditions are deemed to be references to “Program”.

(a) The term “Program Preparation Advance” (renamed as such pursuant to subparagraph 8 (c) above) is modified to read “Preparation Advance” and its definition is modified to read as follows:

“‘Preparation Advance’ means the advance referred to in the Financing Agreement and repayable in accordance with Section 2.05.”