
LOAN CONTRACT No.2003 /OC-BA

between the

GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS

and the

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Modernization of the Barbados Statistical Service

December 11, 2008

LOAN CONTRACT

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

Parties, Purpose, Constituent Elements and Executing Agency

1. PARTIES AND PURPOSE OF THE CONTRACT

CONTRACT entered into on December 11, 2008 between the GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS (hereinafter referred to as the "Borrower") and the INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (hereinafter referred to as the "Bank") to cooperate in the execution of the Modernization of the Barbados Statistical Service (hereinafter referred to as the "Project"). The major aspects of the Project are described in detail in the Annex.

2. CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS OF THE CONTRACT AND REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL CONDITIONS

(a) This Contract consists of these Special Conditions, the General Conditions, and the Annex, which are attached hereto. If any provision of the Special Conditions or the Annex should present any inconsistency or contradiction with the General Conditions, the provisions of the Special Conditions or the respective Annex shall prevail. In case of inconsistencies or contradictions between the Special Conditions or the Annex, specific rules shall prevail over general rules.

(b) Rules for the application of amortization, interest, credit fee, inspection and supervision and disbursement clauses, as well as other conditions related to Project execution, are established in detail in the General Conditions. The General Conditions also include general definitions.

3. EXECUTING AGENCY

The parties agree that the execution of the Project and the utilization of the resources of the financing from the Bank shall be carried out by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Empowerment, Innovation, Trade, Industry and Commerce (METIC) through the Barbados Statistical Service ("BSS"), which for the purposes of this Contract shall be referred to as the "Executing Agency", whose legal and financial capacity to function as such is certified by the Borrower. The Borrower and the Executing Agency undertake to guarantee the fulfillment of all the obligations set forth in this Contract.

CHAPTER I

Costs, Financing and Additional Resources

SECTION 1.01. Cost of the Project. The total cost of the Project is estimated to be the equivalent of six million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the United States of America (US\$6,250,000). Unless otherwise stated in this Contract, the term "dollars" hereinafter signifies the currency of legal tender in the United States of America.

SECTION 1.02. Amount of the Financing. (a) In accordance with this Contract, the Bank agrees to grant to the Borrower, and the Borrower accepts, a "Financing," chargeable to the resources of the Single Currency Facility of the ordinary capital resources of the Bank, of up to the amount of five million dollars (US\$5,000,000). The amounts disbursed from the Financing shall constitute the "Loan."

(b) The Loan shall be a Single Currency Facility Loan with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate, and may be converted to a Single Currency Facility Loan with an Adjustable Interest Rate only if such selection is made by the Borrower pursuant to Section 2.03 of these Special Conditions and Article 4.01(g) of the General Conditions.

SECTION 1.03. Currency Availability. Notwithstanding Sections 1.02 and 3.01(a) of these Special Conditions, if the Bank is unable to obtain access to the agreed upon Single Currency, the Bank may disburse in any other Single Currency of its choice, until such time as it is able to regain access to the agreed upon Single Currency. Amortization payments shall be made in the Single Currency disbursed, and interest and other financial charges shall be those, which correspond to such Single Currency.

SECTION 1.04. Additional Resources. The amount of the additional resources which, pursuant to Article 6.04 of the General Conditions, the Borrower shall undertake to contribute in a timely manner for the complete and uninterrupted execution of the Project, is estimated to be the equivalent of one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (US\$1,250,000), although this estimate shall not imply any limitation or reduction of the obligation of the Borrower under said Article. To compute the equivalency in dollars, the rules set forth in Article 3.06(b) of the General Conditions shall be followed.

CHAPTER II

Amortization, Interest, General Inspection and Supervision and Credit Fee

SECTION 2.01. Amortization. The Loan shall be completely repaid by the Borrower by means of semiannual, consecutive, and, insofar as possible, equal installments. The first installment shall be paid four (4) years and six (6) months from the date of Contract signature, taking into account the provisions of Article 3.01 of the General Conditions, and the last installment shall be paid no later than twenty (20) years from the date of Contract signature.

SECTION 2.02. Interest. (a) The Borrower shall pay interest on the daily outstanding balances of the Loan, at a rate determined pursuant to the provisions of Article 3.04 of the General Conditions for a Single Currency Facility Loan with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate. The Bank shall notify the Borrower of the rate of interest applicable during each Quarter or Semester, as the case may be, as soon as practicable after the determination thereof. If the Borrower elects to change the interest rate alternative of a Single Currency Facility Loan pursuant to Section 2.03 of these Special Conditions and Article 4.01(g) of the General Conditions, the Borrower shall pay interest at a rate determined pursuant to the provisions of Article 3.04 of the General Conditions for a Single Currency Facility Loan with an Adjustable Interest Rate.

(b) Interest shall be payable semiannually, beginning six (6) months from the date of this Contract, taking into account the provisions of Article 3.01 of the General Conditions.

SECTION 2.03. Confirmation of or option to change the interest rate alternative of the Financing. Pursuant to Article 4.01(g) of the General Conditions, the Borrower shall confirm to the Bank in writing, as a condition precedent to the first disbursement of the Financing, either its decision to maintain the interest rate alternative of the Financing as determined in Sections 1.02(b) and 2.02(a) of these Special Conditions, or its decision to elect to change the interest rate alternative of the Financing to an Adjustable Interest Rate. Once this selection is made by the Borrower pursuant to Article 4.01(g) of the General Conditions, at no other time during the life of the Loan may the interest rate alternative of the Financing be modified or converted.

SECTION 2.04. Resources for General Inspection and Supervision. During the disbursement period, resources of the Financing shall not be allocated to cover the Bank's expenses for general inspection and supervision, unless otherwise established by the Bank during said period as a result of its semiannual review of financial charges, and the Borrower is notified by the Bank in this regard. Under no circumstance shall there be a charge for this purpose in any semester, which is greater than the amount, which results from applying 1% to the amount of the Financing, divided by the number of semesters included in the original disbursement period.

SECTION 2.05. Credit Fee. The Borrower shall pay a credit fee of 0.25% per annum pursuant to the provisions set forth in Article 3.02 of the General Conditions. This percentage may be modified by the Bank on a semiannual basis, provided that, under no circumstance, may it exceed the percentage contemplated in the above-cited Article.

CHAPTER III

Disbursements

SECTION 3.01. Currencies of Disbursement and Use of Funds. (a) The amount of the Financing shall be disbursed in dollars from the Single Currency Facility of the ordinary capital resources of the Bank, to pay for goods and services acquired through international competitive bidding and for such other purposes as are indicated in this Contract.

(b) The resources of the Financing shall only be used for payments of goods and services originating in the member countries of the Bank.

SECTION 3.02. Special Conditions Prior to First Disbursement. In addition to the conditions precedent stipulated in Article 4.01 of the General Conditions, the first disbursement of the Financing shall be subject to the fulfillment, to the satisfaction of the Bank, of the following requirements:

- (a) The Statistical Steering Committee (“SSC”) has been established;
- (b) The Project Coordinating Unit (“PCU”) has been established and its personnel appointed, including the Project Coordinator (“PC”), the senior accountant, a project officer, and one clerk/typist, pursuant to the terms of references previously agreed upon between the Executing Agency and the Bank;
- (c) The schedule for the contracting of the procurement specialist has been presented to the Bank and the Bank has approved it;
- (d) The Annual Operating Plan (“AOP”) for the first year of Project execution has been presented to the Bank, and the Bank has approved it; and
- (e) The Project Operating Manual (“POM”) has entered into effect.

SECTION 3.03. Special Disbursement. Notwithstanding, Section 3.02 of these Special Conditions, after this Contract has entered into effect, and the Borrower has complied with the general conditions prior to the first disbursement set forth in Article 4.01 of the General Conditions, the Bank may disburse to the Borrower, up to the amount of two hundred thousand dollars (US\$200,000) chargeable to the Financing for the hiring of the PCU’s personnel, the training advisor and to acquire the necessary office supplies and equipment.

SECTION 3.04. Reimbursement of Expenditures Chargeable to the Financing. With the consent of the Bank, up to the equivalent of five hundred thousand dollars (US\$500,000) of the resources of the Financing may be used to reimburse expenditures incurred in the Project for the adoption of the Smart Stream System and other expenses related to Project’s implementation. Said expenditures shall have been incurred before July 28, 2008 but after December 1, 2006, provided that requirements substantially similar to those set forth in this Contract have been fulfilled. It is understood that, with the consent of the Bank, the resources of the Financing may also be used to reimburse expenditures incurred or to finance those that may be incurred in the Project on or after July 28, 2008 and up to the date of this Contract, provided that the requirements set forth above have been substantially fulfilled.

SECTION 3.05. Disbursement Period. The period for final disbursement of the resources of the Financing shall expire four (4) years from the effective date of this Contract.

SECTION 3.06 Revolving Fund. (a) For the purposes of the provisions set forth in Article 4.07(b) of the General Conditions, the amount of the Revolving Fund shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the amount of the Financing.

(b) The reports on the execution of the Project, which the Borrower, through the Executing Agency, shall submit to the Bank, in accordance with Article 7.03(a)(i) of the General Conditions, shall include the financial-accounting information about management of the Revolving Fund resources, upon request by the Bank.

CHAPTER IV

Execution of the Project

SECTION 4.01. Procurement of Goods. Goods shall be procured in accordance with the provisions set forth in Document GN-2349-7 (“Policies for the procurement of works and goods financed by the IDB”), dated July, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the “Procurement Policies”) and the following provisions:

- (a) International Competitive Bidding: Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this Section, goods shall be procured pursuant to the provisions set forth in Section II of the Procurement Policies.
- (b) Other Procurement Procedures: The following procurement methods may be used for the procurement of goods as long as the Bank determines that these methods meet the requirements established in the provisions set forth in Section III of the Procurement Policies:
 - (i) National Competitive Bidding: For goods, which estimated cost per contract is less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (US\$150,000) and equal or more than fifty thousand dollars (US\$50,000), pursuant to the provisions set forth in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the Procurement Policies.
 - (ii) Shopping: For goods, which estimated cost per contract is less than fifty thousand dollars (US\$50,000), pursuant to the provisions set forth in paragraph 3.5 of the Procurement Policies.
- (c) Additional Procurement Requirements. The Borrower, through the Executing Agency, shall carry out the procurement of goods in accordance with the budgets and other documents required for said acquisition.
- (d) Review by the Bank of Procurement Decisions:
 - (i) Procurement Planning: Prior to the issuance of any invitations to prequalification or to bid for contracts, the Borrower, through the Executing Agency, shall present for the review and approval of the Bank, the proposed Procurement Plan for the Project, pursuant to the provisions set forth in paragraph 1 of Appendix 1 of the Procurement Policies. This plan shall be updated every twelve (12) months during Project execution, and submitted to the Bank for its review and

approval. The procurement of goods shall be carried out in accordance with the Procurement Plan approved by the Bank, and with the provisions of said paragraph 1.

- (ii) Prior Review: Unless the Bank agrees otherwise in writing, all contracts of goods shall be subject to a prior review by the Bank, pursuant to the procedures set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Appendix 1 of the Procurement Policies.

SECTION 4.02. Maintenance of Goods. The Borrower and the Executing Agency undertake to: (a) ensure that the equipment included in the Project shall be adequately maintained according to generally accepted technical standards; and (b) present to the Bank a report on the status of said equipment during the execution of the Project. If from the inspections conducted by the Bank or from the reports it receives, it is determined that maintenance does not meet the levels agreed upon, the Borrower and the Executing Agency shall undertake the necessary measures to correct these shortcomings.

SECTION 4.03. Reimbursement of Expenses as of Date of Loan Approval. The Bank may recognize as part of the local contribution expenditures incurred or which may be incurred in the Project on or after July 28, 2008 and up to the date of this Contract, provided that requirements substantially similar to those set forth in this Contract have been fulfilled.

SECTION 4.04. Selection and contracting of consulting services. (a) The selection and contracting of consulting services will be carried out by the Executing Agency in accordance with the provisions set forth in Document GN-2350-7 (“Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants Financed by the Inter-American Development Bank”) dated July, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the “Consulting Policies”). The Executing Agency confirms its familiarity with the provisions of Document GN-2350-7. The Executing Agency, based upon the Procurement Plan referred to in subsection (b)(i) of this Section 4.04, will be able to use the procedure set forth in Section II and in paragraphs 3.16 to 3.20 of Document GN-2350-7 for the contracting of consulting services based on the Quality and Cost-Based Selection method. For purposes of paragraph 2.7 of Document GN-2350-7, the short list of consultants whose contracts are estimated to be below two hundred thousand dollars (US\$200,000) could be composed in its entirety by local consultants: (i) if a sufficient number of firms or consultants are available to make up a short list. Nevertheless, if foreign firms or consultants express interest in participating in the bidding process, the Executing Agency shall consider them; and (ii) when competition, including foreign consultants is prima facie not justified or foreign consultants have not expressed interest. Furthermore, the Executing Agency will be able to use the procedure set forth in paragraphs 3.1 through 3.4 of Section III of Document GN-2350-7 for the contracting of consulting services based on the Quality-Based Selection method.

- (b) Review by the Bank of the procedures used for the selection of consulting services:

- (i) Procurement Plan: Before requesting any proposal from consultants, the Borrower, through the Executing Agency, will present for the review and approval by the Bank, the Procurement Plan, which will include, the cost of each contract, and the criteria to carry out the selection and the applicable

procedures, pursuant to the provisions set forth in paragraph 1 of Annex 1 of the Consulting Policies. The Procurement Plan will be updated every twelve (12) months during the execution of the Project, and each revised version will be submitted for the review and approval by the Bank . The selection and hiring of consulting services will be carried out pursuant to the Procurement Plan approved by the Bank.

- (ii) Prior review: Unless the Bank agrees otherwise in writing, all contracts for the contracting of consulting services shall be subject to a prior review by the Bank, pursuant to the procedures set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Appendix 1 of the Consulting Policies.

SECTION 4.05. Project Operating Manual. The parties agree that the execution of the Project shall be governed by the terms and conditions set forth in this Contract and in the Project Operating Manual agreed upon between the Executing Agency and the Bank, on the understanding that changes could be introduced into the Project Operating Manual with the prior written approval of the Bank. If any provision of the Project Operating Manual should present any inconsistency or contradiction with the terms and conditions set forth in this Contract, the provisions of this Contract shall prevail.

SECTION 4.06. Evaluation. The Borrower, through the Executing Agency, undertakes to hire the necessary consulting services to carry out the following evaluations: (a) a mid term evaluation at the end of the eighteen (18) months from the date of this Contract or after fifty per cent (50%) of Loan resources have been committed, whichever comes first. The consultant to be hired in accordance with the terms of references prepared by the PCU with the Bank's non-objection, will assess, among others, the following matters: (i) the level of progress towards meeting the Project's objectives as stated in the "Logical Framework" of the Project; (ii) the level of acceptance and implementation of products and systems already developed by the Project; and (iii) the degree of effectiveness of the internal and Bank's monitoring and supervision system. This evaluation will serve as an input to adjust ongoing execution procedures; and (b) a final evaluation, when ninety per cent (90%) of the Loan resources have been committed. The consultant to be hired in accordance with the terms of references prepared by the PCU with the Bank's non-objection, will assess the following: (i) the degree of attainment of Project objectives in relation to plans, and reasons for variances; (ii) the organization established for Project execution; (iii) implementation and acceptance of systems developed through the Project; (iv) sustainability of the activities financed under the Project; and (v) lessons learned that could be applied to future public sector reform projects. The result of this final evaluation will be used as an input in the preparation of the Project Completion Report ("PCR").

CHAPTER V

Records, Inspections, and Reports

SECTION 5.01. Records, Inspections, and Reports. The Borrower agrees to directly or through the Executing Agency maintain records, permit inspections, and submit reports and financial statements in accordance with the provisions established in Chapter VII of the General Conditions.

SECTION 5.02. Audits. (a) With respect to the provisions of Article 7.03 of the General Conditions, the Borrower, through the Executing Agency, undertakes to submit to the Bank on an annual basis, the financial statements of the Project duly certified by a firm of independent public accountants acceptable to the Bank, and selected and hired pursuant to the policies and procedures of the Bank.

(b) The costs associated with the hiring of the firm referred to in subsection (a) above, will be financed with resources of the Financing.

CHAPTER VI

Miscellaneous Provisions

SECTION 6.01. Entry into Effect. The parties agree that this Contract shall enter into effect on the date of its signature.

SECTION 6.02. Termination. Payment in full of the Loan and of all interest and fees shall terminate this Contract and all obligations arising thereunder.

SECTION 6.03. Validity. The rights and obligations established in this Contract are valid and enforceable in accordance with its terms, regardless of the laws of any given country.

SECTION 6.04. Communications. Any notice, request, or communication from one party to another by virtue of this Contract shall be made in writing and shall be considered to have been made when the relevant document is delivered to the addressee at the respective address given below, unless the parties agree otherwise in writing:

For the Borrower:

Mailing address:

Minister of Finance and Investment, Labour, Civil Service and Energy
Government Headquarters
Bay Street
St. Michael, Barbados

Facsimile: (246) 436-9280

For matters related to execution of the Project:

Mailing address:

The Director
Barbados Statistical Service
3rd Floor, National Insurance Building
Fairchild Street, Bridgetown, Barbados

Facsimile: (246) 435-2198

For the Bank:

Mailing address:

Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20577
U.S.A.

Facsimile: (202) 623-3096

CHAPTER VII

Arbitration

SECTION 7.01. **Commitment to Arbitrate.** For the solution of any controversy which may arise out of this Contract and which is not resolved by agreement between the parties, they unconditionally and irrevocably submit themselves to the procedure and ruling of the Arbitration Tribunal referred to in Chapter IX of the General Conditions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Borrower and the Bank, each acting through its authorized representative, have signed this Contract, in two (2) equally authentic copies in Bridgetown, Barbados, on the date above written.

GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK

/s/ Dr. The Hon. David C. Estwick, M.P.

/s/ Anneke Jessen

Dr. The Hon. David C. Estwick, M.P.
Minister of Economic Affairs and
Empowerment, Innovation, Trade,
Industry and Commerce

Anneke Jessen
Representative in Barbados

PART TWO

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHAPTER I

Application of the General Conditions

ARTICLE 1.01. Application of the General Conditions. These General Conditions apply to the Loan Contracts entered into by the Inter-American Development Bank with its Borrowers, and accordingly the provisions hereof form an integral part of this Contract.

CHAPTER II

Definitions

ARTICLE 2.01. Definitions. For the purposes of the obligations contracted between the parties, the following definitions are adopted:

- (a) "Bank" means the Inter-American Development Bank.
- (b) "Board" means the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank.
- (c) "Borrower" means the party to which the Financing is made available.
- (d) "Contract" means the entirety of the Special Conditions, the General Conditions and the Annexes.
- (e) "Contracting Agency" means the entity with the legal capacity to sign the Contract for the Procurement of Works and Goods and the Selection and Contracting of Consultants with the Contractor, Supplier, and Consulting Firm or Individual Consultant, as the case may be.
- (f) "Convertible Currency" or "Currency of a country other than that of the Borrower" means any currency which is legal tender in a country other than that of the Borrower, the Special Drawing Rights of the International Monetary Fund, and any other unit which represents the debt service obligation of a borrowing by the Bank.
- (g) "Cost of Single Currency Qualified Borrowings with an Adjustable Interest Rate" means the cost to the Bank of the Single Currency Qualified Borrowings with an Adjustable Interest Rate in the Single Currency of the Financing, expressed as a percentage per annum, as determined by the Bank.

- (h) "Cost of Single Currency Qualified Borrowings with a LIBOR Interest Rate" means the cost to the Bank of the Single Currency Qualified Borrowings with a LIBOR Interest Rate in the Single Currency of the Financing, expressed as a percentage per annum, as determined by the Bank.
- (i) "Executing Agency/Agencies" means the entity/entities responsible for executing all or part of the Project.
- (j) "Financing" means the funds which the Bank has agreed to make available to the Borrower to assist in carrying out the Project.
- (k) "Fraud and corruption" means the act(s) defined in Article 5.02(c) of these General Conditions.
- (l) "General Conditions" means the entirety of articles which comprise Part Two of this Contract and reflect the basic policies of the Bank uniformly applicable to its Loan Contracts.
- (m) "Guarantor" means the party which guarantees the fulfillment of the obligations contracted by the Borrower and which assumes other obligations for which it is liable in accordance with the Guarantee Contract.
- (n) "Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter" means the 15th day of the months of January, April, July and October of each calendar year. The LIBOR-Based Interest Rate determined by the Bank on an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter shall apply retroactively to the first fifteen (15) days of the respective Quarter, and shall continue to apply through and including the last day of the Quarter.
- (o) "LIBOR Interest Rate" means any of the following definitions, in accordance with the currency of the Loan:¹
 - (i) In the case of Single Currency Facility Loans in Dollars:
 - (A) The LIBOR Interest Rate on an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be "USD-LIBOR-BBA," which is the rate for deposits in Dollars for a period of three (3) months that appears on the Telerate Page 3750 as of 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two (2) London Banking Days preceding that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter. If such rate does not appear on the

¹ Any capitalized terms used in paragraph (o) of Article 2.01 and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them in the 2000 ISDA Definitions as published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc., as amended and supplemented from time to time, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Telerate Page 3750, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be determined as if the parties had specified “USD-LIBOR-Reference Banks” as the applicable LIBOR Interest Rate.

- (B) “USD-LIBOR-Reference Banks” means that the rate for an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be determined on the basis of the rates at which deposits in Dollars are offered by the Reference Banks at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two (2) London Banking Days preceding that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter to prime banks in the London interbank market for a period of three (3) months commencing on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter and in a Representative Amount. The Calculation Agent or Agents utilized by the Bank will request the principal London office of each of the Reference Banks to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two (2) quotations are provided, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations. If fewer than two (2) quotations are provided as requested, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted by major banks in New York City, selected by the Calculation Agent or Agents utilized by the Bank, at approximately 11:00 a.m., New York City time, on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter for loans in Dollars to leading European banks for a period of three (3) months commencing on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter and in a Representative Amount. If more than one Calculation Agent provides an interest rate to the Bank as a result of the procedure described above, the Bank will determine, in its own discretion, the applicable LIBOR Interest Rate for each Quarter for the Interest Rate Determination Date, based on the interest rates received from the Calculation Agents. For purposes of the foregoing provision, if the Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter is not a Banking Day in New York City, the rates quoted on the first day immediately thereafter which is a Banking Day in New York City shall be utilized.

- (ii) In the case of Single Currency Facility Loans in Euros:

- (A) The LIBOR Interest Rate on an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be “EUR-EURIBOR-Telerate,” which is the rate for deposits in euros for a

period of three (3) months that appears on the Telerate Page 248 as of 11:00 a.m., Brussels time, on the day that is two (2) TARGET Settlement Days preceding that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter. If such rate does not appear on the Telerate Page 248, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be determined as if the parties had specified “EUR-EURIBOR-Reference Banks” as the applicable LIBOR Interest Rate.

- (B) “EUR-EURIBOR-Reference Banks” means that the rate for an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be determined on the basis of the rates at which deposits in euros are offered by the Reference Banks at approximately 11:00 a.m., Brussels time, on the day that is two (2) TARGET Settlement Days preceding that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter to prime banks in the Euro-zone interbank market for a period of three (3) months commencing on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter and in a Representative Amount assuming an Actual/360 day count basis. The Calculation Agent or Agents utilized by the Bank, will request the principal Euro-zone office of each of the Reference Banks to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two (2) quotations are provided, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations. If fewer than two (2) quotations are provided as requested, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted by major banks in the Euro-zone, selected by the Calculation Agent or Agents utilized by the Bank, at approximately 11:00 a.m., Brussels time, on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter for loans in euros to leading European banks for a period of three (3) months commencing on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter and in a Representative Amount. If more than one Calculation Agent provides an interest rate to the Bank as a result of the procedure described above, the Bank will determine, in its own discretion, the applicable LIBOR Interest Rate for each Quarter for the Interest Rate Determination Date, based on the interest rates received from the Calculation Agents. For purposes of the foregoing provision, if the Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter is not a Banking Day in Brussels and in the Euro-zone, the rates quoted on the first day immediately thereafter which is a Banking Day in Brussels and in the Euro-zone shall be utilized.

(iii) In the case of Single Currency Facility Loans in Yen:

- (A) The LIBOR Interest Rate on an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be “JPY-LIBOR-BBA,” which is the rate for deposits in Yen for a period of three (3) months that appears on the Telerate Page 3750 as of 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two (2) London Banking Days preceding that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter. If such rate does not appear on the Telerate Page 3750, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be determined as if the parties had specified “JPY-LIBOR-Reference Banks” as the applicable LIBOR Interest Rate.
- (B) “JPY-LIBOR-Reference Banks” means that the rate for an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be determined on the basis of the rates at which deposits in Yen are offered by the Reference Banks at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two (2) London Banking Days preceding that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter to prime banks in the London interbank market for a period of three (3) months commencing on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter and in a Representative Amount. The Calculation Agent or Agents utilized by the Bank will request the principal London office of each of the Reference Banks to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two (2) quotations are provided, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations. If fewer than two (2) quotations are provided as requested, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted by major banks in Tokyo, selected by the Calculation Agent or Agents utilized by the Bank, at approximately 11:00 a.m., Tokyo time, on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter for loans in Yen to leading European banks for a period of three (3) months commencing on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter and in a Representative Amount. If more than one Calculation Agent provides an interest rate to the Bank as a result of the procedure described above, the Bank will determine, in its own discretion, the applicable LIBOR Interest Rate for each Quarter for

the Interest Rate Determination Date, based on the interest rates received from the Calculation Agents. For purposes of the foregoing provision, if the Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter is not a Banking Day in Tokyo, the rates quoted on the first day immediately thereafter which is a Banking Day in Tokyo shall be utilized.

(iv) In the case of Single Currency Facility Loans in Swiss Francs:

- (A) The LIBOR Interest Rate on an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be “CHF-LIBOR-BBA,” which is the rate for deposits in Swiss Francs for a period of three (3) months that appears on the Telerate Page 3750 as of 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two (2) London Banking Days preceding that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter. If such rate does not appear on the Telerate Page 3750, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be determined as if the parties had specified “CHF-LIBOR-Reference Banks” as the applicable LIBOR Interest Rate.
- (B) “CHF-LIBOR-Reference Banks” means that the rate for an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be determined on the basis of the rates at which deposits in Swiss Francs are offered by the Reference Banks at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two (2) London Banking Days preceding that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter to prime banks in the London interbank market for a period of three (3) months commencing on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter and in a Representative Amount. The Calculation Agent or Agents utilized by the Bank will request the principal London office of each of the Reference Banks to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two (2) quotations are provided, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations. If fewer than two (2) quotations are provided as requested, the rate for that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted by major banks in Zurich, selected by the Calculation Agent or Agents utilized by the Bank, at approximately 11:00 a.m., Zurich time, on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter for loans in Swiss Francs to leading European banks for a period of three (3) months commencing on that Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate

for each Quarter and in a Representative Amount. If more than one Calculation Agent provides an interest rate to the Bank as a result of the procedure described above, the Bank will determine, in its own discretion, the applicable LIBOR Interest Rate for each Quarter for the Interest Rate Determination Date, based on the interest rates received from the Calculation Agents. For purposes of the foregoing provision, if the Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter is not a Banking Day in Zurich, the rates quoted on the first day immediately thereafter which is a Banking Day in Zurich shall be utilized.

- (p) "Loan" means the funds disbursed from the Financing.
- (q) "Project" means the Program or Project for which the Financing has been extended.
- (r) "Quarter" means each of the following three-month (3-month) periods of the calendar year: the period beginning on January 1 and ending on March 31; the period beginning on April 1 and ending on June 30; the period beginning on July 1 and ending on September 30; and the period beginning on October 1 and ending on December 31.
- (s) "Revolving Fund" means a fund that the Bank may establish as provided in Article 4.07 of these General Conditions, for the purpose of advancing resources to defray Project expenses chargeable to the Financing.
- (t) "Semester" means the first or second six months of a calendar year.
- (u) "Single Currency" means any convertible currency which the Bank has selected for lending under the Single Currency Facility.
- (v) "Single Currency Facility" means the facility the Bank has established to lend in certain convertible currencies which the Bank selects from time to time.
- (w) "Single Currency Facility Loan with an Adjustable Interest Rate" means any Loan or portion of a Loan made by the Bank to be disbursed, accounted for, and repaid in a Single Currency under the Single Currency Facility and which, in accordance with the Special Conditions of this Loan Contract, will bear an Adjustable Interest Rate as determined pursuant to Article 3.04(a) of these General Conditions.
- (x) "Single Currency Facility Loan with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate" means any Loan or portion of a Loan made by the Bank to be disbursed, accounted for, and repaid in a Single Currency under the Single Currency Facility and which, in accordance with the Special Conditions of this Loan Contract, will bear a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate as determined pursuant to Article 3.04(b) of these General Conditions.

- (y) "Single Currency Qualified Borrowings" for Loans denominated in any Single Currency means either: (i) from the date that the first Loan in such Single Currency is approved by the Bank's Board, resources of such Single Currency's transitional stabilization mechanism and borrowings of the Bank in such Single Currency that are assigned to fund loans in such Single Currency under the Single Currency Facility; or (ii) beginning on the first day of the seventh Semester following the above-mentioned date, borrowings of the Bank that are assigned to fund loans in such Single Currency under the Single Currency Facility.
- (z) "Special Conditions" means the entirety of the provisions which comprise Part One of this Contract and contain the particular terms of the operation.

CHAPTER III

Amortization, Interest and Credit Fee

ARTICLE 3.01. Dates of Payment of Amortization and Interest. The Borrower shall amortize the Loan in semiannual installments on the same dates as those determined in accordance with Section 2.02 of the Special Conditions for payment of interest. If the date of signature of the Loan Contract falls between June 15th and 30th or between December 15th and 31st, the dates for the payment of interest and for the payment of the first and subsequent amortization installments shall be June 15th and December 15th, as the case may be.

ARTICLE 3.02. Credit Fee. (a) The Borrower shall pay on the undisbursed balance of the Financing which is not in the currency of the Borrower's country a credit fee, which shall begin to accrue sixty (60) days after the date of the Contract. The amount of said fee shall be as indicated in the Special Conditions and under no circumstance may exceed 0.75% per annum.

(b) For Single Currency Facility Loans in dollars of the United States of America, this fee shall be paid in dollars of the United States of America. For Single Currency Facility Loans in currencies other than U.S. dollar Single Currency Facility Loans, this fee shall be paid in the currency of the particular Loan. This fee shall be paid on the same dates as those specified for the payment of interest pursuant to the provisions of the Special Conditions.

(c) This fee shall cease to accrue in full or in part, as the case may be, to the extent that: (i) the respective disbursements have been made; or (ii) the Financing has been cancelled totally or partially pursuant to Articles 3.15, 3.16 and 4.02 of these General Conditions and the relevant provisions of the Special Conditions.

ARTICLE 3.03. Computation of Interest and Credit Fee. The interest and credit fee shall be calculated according to the exact number of days in the respective Semester.

ARTICLE 3.04. Interest. Interest shall be charged on the daily outstanding balances of the Loan at an annual rate that shall be determined by the Bank periodically in accordance with its lending rate policy, and may be one of the following as set forth in the Special Conditions, or in the letter from

the Borrower to which reference is made in Article 4.01(g) of these General Conditions, if the Borrower elects to change the interest rate alternative of a Single Currency Facility Loan pursuant to Section 2.03 of the Special Conditions:

- (a) In the case of Single Currency Facility Loans with an Adjustable Interest Rate, interest shall accrue on the daily outstanding balances of the Loan and shall be at a rate per annum for each Semester as determined by the Cost of Single Currency Qualified Borrowings with an Adjustable Interest Rate in the Single Currency of the Financing, plus the prevailing ordinary capital lending spread expressed as a percentage per annum; or
- (b) In the case of Single Currency Facility Loans with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate, interest shall accrue on the daily outstanding balances of the Loan and shall be at a rate per annum for each Quarter as determined by the Bank on an Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter, calculated as follows: (i) the respective LIBOR Interest Rate as defined in Article 2.01(o) of these General Conditions; (ii) plus or minus a cost margin computed quarterly as the weighted average of all the cost margins to the Bank related to the borrowings assigned to the pool of Bank borrowings which funds the Single Currency Facility Loans with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate; (iii) plus the net of any costs and/or gains, computed quarterly, associated with any derivatives transactions which may be entered into by the Bank to mitigate the impact of extreme fluctuations in the LIBOR Interest Rate of the borrowings obtained by the Bank to finance the Single Currency Facility Loans with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate; (iv) plus the ordinary capital lending spread prevailing on the Interest Rate Determination Date of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate for each Quarter, expressed as a percentage per annum.
- (c) For the purposes of Article 3.04(b) above:
 - (i) The Borrower and Guarantor of any Single Currency Facility Loan with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate expressly acknowledge and agree that: (A) the LIBOR Interest Rate referred to in Article 3.04(b)(i) above, and the cost margin of the Bank borrowings referred to in Article 3.04(b)(ii) above, may be subject to significant fluctuations during the life of the Loan and, therefore, the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate alternative for Single Currency Facility loans may involve significant financial risks to the Borrower and the Guarantor; (B) the Bank may, at its sole discretion, enter into any derivatives transactions to mitigate the impact of extreme fluctuations in the LIBOR Interest Rate of the borrowings obtained by the Bank to finance the Single Currency Facility Loans with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate, as referred to in Article 3.04(b)(iii) above; and (C) any risk of fluctuations in the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate alternative for Single Currency Facility loans is assumed entirely by the Borrower and the Guarantor, if applicable.
 - (ii) Whenever, in light of changes in market practice affecting the determination

of the LIBOR-Based Interest Rate alternative for Single Currency Facility loans, the Bank determines that it is in the interest of its borrowers as a whole and of the Bank to apply a basis for determining the interest rate applicable to the Loan other than as provided in Article 3.04(b)(i) above, the Bank may modify the basis for determining the interest rate applicable to the Loan upon not less than three (3) months' notice to the Borrower and the Guarantor of the new basis. The new basis shall become effective on the expiration of the notice period unless the Borrower or the Guarantor notifies the Bank during said period of its objection thereto, in which case said modification shall not apply to the Loan.

ARTICLE 3.05. Disbursements and Payments of Amortization and Interest in National Currencies. (a) Amounts which are disbursed in the currency of the Borrower's country shall be applied against the Financing and owed in accordance with the equivalency in dollars of the United States of America as determined in accordance with the rate of exchange in effect on the date of the respective disbursement.

(b) Payments of amortization and interest shall be made in the currency disbursed, in an equivalent amount of dollars of the United States of America, as determined in accordance with the rate of exchange in effect on the payment date.

(c) For the purpose of determining the equivalencies stipulated in paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the relevant rate of exchange, in accordance with Article 3.06, shall be used.

ARTICLE 3.06. Rate of Exchange. (a) The rate of exchange to be used to determine the equivalency of the currency of the Borrower's country, in relation to dollars of the United States of America, shall be as follows:

- (i) The rate of exchange pursuant to the understanding in force between the Bank and the respective member country for the purposes of maintaining the value of the currency in conformity with the provisions of Article V, Section 3 of the Agreement Establishing the Bank.
- (ii) Should there be no agreement in force between the Bank and the respective member country with regard to the rate of exchange to be applied for the purpose of maintaining the value of its currency held by the Bank, the latter shall have the right to require that the rate of exchange to be applied for the purposes of payment of amortization and interest shall be that which on the due date is utilized by the Central Bank of the member country or by the corresponding monetary authority to sell dollars of the United States of America to residents of such country, other than government agencies, for the following transactions: (a) payment of principal and interest due; (b) remittance of dividends or other income from capital investments in the respective country; and (c) remittance of investment capital. In the event that there is no uniform rate of exchange for these three types of operations, the

highest rate shall be applied, i.e., the rate representing the highest number of units of the currency of such country per dollar of the United States of America.

- (iii) If, on the date on which the payment is due, the foregoing rule cannot be applied because the operations referred to do not exist, payment shall be made on the basis of the most recent rate of exchange used for such operations within the thirty (30) days preceding the respective due date.
- (iv) If, notwithstanding the application of the foregoing rules, the effective rate of exchange for the purpose of determining payment cannot be ascertained, or if discrepancies arise in the determination thereof, the determination of the Bank shall prevail, taking into consideration the realities of the foreign exchange market of the member country concerned.
- (v) If, due to non-compliance with the foregoing rules, the Bank considers that any payment made in the respective currency has been insufficient, it shall so notify the Borrower immediately in order that the latter shall pay the difference within a period not greater than thirty (30) business days from receipt of the notification. If, on the other hand, the sum received by the Bank is higher than that due, it shall return the excess amount within the same time period.

(b) For the purpose of determining the equivalency in dollars of the United States of America of an expenditure incurred in the currency of the Borrower's country, the rate of exchange which is applicable on the date of payment of such expenditure shall be utilized, pursuant to paragraph (a) above. To that end, the date of payment of such expenditure shall mean the date on which the Borrower, the Executing Agency or any natural or juridical person in whom the power to incur expenditures has been vested makes the respective payments to the order of the contractor or supplier.

ARTICLE 3.07. Disbursements and Payments of Amortization and Interest in Single Currencies. For Single Currency Facility Loans, disbursements and payments of amortization and interest shall be in the Single Currency of the particular Loan.

ARTICLE 3.08. Valuation of Convertible Currencies. Whenever it shall be necessary pursuant to this Contract to determine the value of a currency of a country other than that of the Borrower in terms of another currency, such value shall be as reasonably determined by the Bank.

ARTICLE 3.09. Participations. (a) The Bank may cede to other public or private institutions, in the form of participations, the rights corresponding to the Borrower's pecuniary obligations under this Contract. The Bank shall promptly notify the Borrower of each assignment.

(b) Participations may be granted in respect of either of the following: (i) amounts of the Loan disbursed prior to execution of the participation agreement; or (ii) amounts of the Financing which are still undisbursed at the time of the participation agreement's execution.

(c) With the prior consent of the Borrower, the Bank may cede all or part of the undisbursed amount of the Financing to other public or private institutions. To that end, the portion subject to participation shall be denominated in terms of a fixed number of units of one or more convertible currencies. Likewise, with the Borrower's prior consent, the Bank may set, for the portion subject to participation, an interest rate other than that established in the present Contract. Interest payments and amortization installments shall be made in the specified currency in which the participation was granted and on the dates specified in Article 3.01 of these General Conditions. After the final disbursement has been made, the Bank shall give the Borrower and the Participant a schedule of amortization.

ARTICLE 3.10. Application of Payments. All payments shall be applied first to returns of unjustified advances of funds, then to fees and interest due on the payment date, and if a balance exists, to the amortization of installments of principal due.

ARTICLE 3.11. Advance Payments. Upon advance notice in writing to the Bank of at least forty-five (45) days, the Borrower may pay, on one of the interest payment dates indicated in the Special Conditions, any part of the Loan prior to its maturity, provided that on the payment date no sum is owing in respect of fees or interest. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, each partial advance payment shall be applied to unpaid installments of principal in the inverse order of their maturity.

ARTICLE 3.12. Receipts. At the request of the Bank, the Borrower shall sign and deliver to the Bank, upon the completion of disbursements, a receipt or receipts for the amounts disbursed.

ARTICLE 3.13. Transactions Falling Due on Public Holidays. Any payment or other transaction which, pursuant to this Contract, should be effected on Saturday, Sunday or a day which is a banking holiday according to the law of the place where it is required to be made, shall be considered validly effected if carried out on the first business day immediately thereafter, and in such case no penalty whatsoever shall apply.

ARTICLE 3.14. Place of Payments. All payments shall be made at the principal office of the Bank in Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America, unless the Bank designates another place or places for this purpose by written notification to the Borrower.

ARTICLE 3.15. Renunciation of Part of the Financing. The Borrower, with the concurrence of the Guarantor, if any, may renounce, by written notice to the Bank, its right to utilize any part of the Financing which has not been disbursed before the receipt of the notice, provided that the amounts foreseen in Article 5.03 of these General Conditions are not involved.

ARTICLE 3.16. Automatic Cancellation of Part of the Financing. Unless the Bank and the Borrower and the Guarantor, if any, expressly agree in writing to extend the term for making disbursements, that portion of the Financing not committed or disbursed, as the case may be, within the corresponding term, shall automatically be canceled.

CHAPTER IV

Conditions Relating to Disbursements

ARTICLE 4.01. Conditions Precedent to First Disbursement. The first disbursement of the Financing shall be subject to fulfillment of the following requirements to the satisfaction of the Bank:

- (a) The Bank shall have received one or more well-founded legal opinions which establish, with citations of the pertinent constitutional, legal, and regulatory provisions, that the obligations undertaken by the Borrower in this Contract, and those of the Guarantor, if any, in the Guarantee Contract, are valid and enforceable. Such opinions shall also refer to any other legal question that the Bank may reasonably deem relevant.
- (b) The Borrower, directly or through the Executing Agency, if any, shall have designated one or more officials to represent it in all acts relating to the implementation of this Contract and shall have furnished the Bank with authentic copies of the signatures of said representatives. Should two or more officials be designated, the designation shall indicate whether such officials may act separately or must act jointly.
- (c) The Borrower, either directly or through the Executing Agency, if any, shall have demonstrated to the Bank that sufficient resources have been allocated to cover, at least during the first calendar year, the execution of the Project in accordance with the investment schedule referred to in the following paragraph. If this Financing constitutes a continuation of the same lending operation, the earlier stage or stages of which the Bank is Financing, the obligation set forth in this paragraph shall not be applicable.
- (d) The Borrower, either directly or through the Executing Agency, if any, shall have presented to the Bank an initial report prepared in the form indicated by the Bank, which shall serve as the basis for the preparation and evaluation of the progress reports referred to in Article 7.03(a)(i) of these General Conditions. In addition to such other information as the Bank may reasonably request pursuant to the provisions of this Contract, the initial report shall set forth: (i) a plan for implementation of the Project including, except with respect to a program for the granting of credits, the plans and specifications deemed necessary by the Bank; (ii) a calendar or schedule of work or granting of credits, as the case may be; and (iii) a table of the source and use of funds setting forth a detailed schedule of investments in accordance with the categories of investment established in this Contract and an indication of the annual contributions needed from the various sources of funds from which the Project will be financed. If this Contract permits the recognition of expenditures made prior to its signature or to the date of the Resolution authorizing the Financing, the initial report shall include a statement of the investments and, in accordance with the objectives of the Financing, a

description of works carried out under the Project or a statement as to credits granted, as the case may be, up to a date immediately preceding the report.

- (e) The Borrower or Executing Agency shall have presented to the Bank the plan, catalog or code of accounts referred to in Article 7.01 of these General Conditions.
- (f) The official auditing agency referred to in the Special Conditions shall have agreed to perform the auditing function foreseen in Article 7.03(b) of these General Conditions and in the Special Conditions, or the Borrower or the Executing Agency shall have agreed with the Bank with respect to a firm of independent public accountants to perform the above functions.
- (g) The Bank shall have received a letter duly signed by the Borrower, with the express written conformity of the Guarantor, if applicable, confirming either its decision to maintain the interest rate alternative originally selected for the Financing as determined in Sections 1.02(b) and 2.02(a) of the Special Conditions, or its decision to elect to change the interest rate alternative of the Financing as determined in Section 2.03 of the Special Conditions of this Loan Contract. In case the Borrower, with the express written conformity of the Guarantor, if applicable, decides to elect to change the interest rate alternative of the Financing, the Borrower shall give written notice to the Bank of such election at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to presentation to the Bank of the request for the first disbursement of the Financing. For purposes of this notification, the Borrower shall use the form letter required by the Bank. Under no circumstances may such option be elected at any point in time which is later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the presentation of the request for the first disbursement of the Financing.

ARTICLE 4.02. Period for Fulfilling the Conditions Precedent to First Disbursement. If within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effective date of this Contract, or within such longer period as the parties may agree in writing, the conditions precedent to the first disbursement established in Article 4.01 of these General Conditions and in the Special Conditions have not been fulfilled, the Bank may terminate this Contract by giving notice to the Borrower.

ARTICLE 4.03. Requisites for All Disbursements. For the Bank to make any disbursement, it shall be necessary that: (a) the Borrower, or the Executing Agency, if any, shall have submitted in writing a disbursement request and, in support thereof, shall have supplied to the Bank such pertinent documents and other background materials as the Bank may have required; provided, however, that for Loans in which the Borrower has opted to receive financing in a combination of Single Currencies, or in one or more Single Currencies, the request must indicate the specific amounts of the particular Single Currency(ies) requested for disbursement; (b) requests must be presented no later than thirty (30) calendar days in advance of the date of expiry of the term for disbursement or of any extension thereof which the Borrower and the Bank may have agreed to; (c) none of the circumstances described in Article 5.01 of these General Conditions shall have occurred; and (d) the Guarantor, if any, shall not be in non-compliance for more than one hundred twenty (120) days with any obligation to make payments to the Bank on any Loan or Guarantee.

ARTICLE 4.04. Disbursements for Technical Cooperation. If the Special Conditions contemplate the Financing of expenses for technical cooperation, the disbursements therefore may be made once the conditions established in Article 4.01(a) and (b) and in Article 4.03 of these General Conditions have been fulfilled.

ARTICLE 4.05. Charges for the Inspection and Supervision Fee. If the Bank determines that an amount shall be charged to cover its expenses for general inspection and supervision in accordance with the Special Conditions, the Bank will notify the Borrower and the latter will indicate whether it will pay the corresponding amount directly to the Bank or whether such amount should be withdrawn and retained by the Bank from the resources of the Financing. Both the payment by the Borrower and the retention by the Bank of any fee allocated to general inspection and supervision will be carried out in the currency of the Loan.

ARTICLE 4.06. Disbursement Procedures. The Bank may make disbursements against the Financing: (a) by transferring to the order of the Borrower the sums to which it is entitled under this Contract; (b) by making payments on behalf of and in agreement with the Borrower to other banking institutions; (c) by establishing or replenishing the Revolving Fund referred to in Article 4.07 below; and (d) by utilizing such other method as the parties may agree upon in writing. Any banking expenses that may be charged by a third party in connection with disbursements shall be borne by the Borrower. Unless the parties agree otherwise, disbursements shall be made only in amounts of not less than the equivalent of one hundred thousand dollars of the United States of America (US\$100,000) each.

ARTICLE 4.07. Revolving Fund. (a) Upon fulfillment of the requirements set forth in Articles 4.01 and 4.03 of these General Conditions and the pertinent requirements established in the Special Conditions, the Bank may advance resources of the Financing for the purpose of establishing, increasing or replenishing a Revolving Fund to defray costs pertaining to the execution of the Project which, pursuant to provisions of this Contract, are eligible for financing with such resources.

(b) Except by express agreement between the parties, the amount of the Revolving Fund shall not exceed five percent of the amount of the Financing. Upon justified request, the Bank may increase or replenish the Revolving Fund as the resources are used, provided that the requirements of Article 4.03 of these General Conditions and those which may be established in the Special Conditions have been fulfilled. The Bank may also reduce or cancel the Revolving Fund should it determine that the resources provided through the Revolving Fund exceed the needs of the Project. The establishment and the replenishment of the Revolving Fund shall be regarded as disbursements for the purposes of this Contract.

(c) The plan, catalog or code of accounts that the Borrower or Executing Agency must present to the Bank in accordance with Article 4.01(e) of these General Conditions shall indicate the accounting method used by the Borrower to verify the transactions and statements of account of the Revolving Fund.

(d) Not later than thirty (30) days prior to the date agreed upon for the final disbursement of the Financing, the Borrower shall present a final justification of the use of the Revolving Fund and return any unused portion thereof.

(e) For Loans in which the Borrower has opted to receive financing in a combination of Single Currencies, or in one or more Single Currencies, the Borrower may, subject to availability in the undisbursed balance of the Loan, choose to receive disbursements for the Revolving Fund in any of the Single Currencies of the Loan, or in any combination thereof.

ARTICLE 4.08. Availability of Local Currency. The Bank shall be obliged to make disbursements to the Borrower in local currency only to the extent that the respective depository of the Bank has placed such currency at its effective disposition.

CHAPTER V

Suspension of Disbursements and Accelerated Maturity

ARTICLE 5.01. Suspension of Disbursements. The Bank, by written notice to the Borrower, may suspend disbursements if any of the following circumstances occurs and so long as it continues:

- (a) Delay in the payment of any sums owed by the Borrower to the Bank for principal, fees, interest, return of advances of funds or for any other reason, under this Contract or any other Loan Contract entered into between the Bank and the Borrower.
- (b) Nonfulfillment by the Borrower of any other obligation set forth in the Contract or in any other Contract entered into with the Bank for the Financing of the Project.
- (c) Withdrawal or suspension from membership in the Bank of the country in which the Project is to be executed.
- (d) The Project or the purposes of the Financing may be affected by: (i) any restriction, modification or alteration of the legal capacity, functions or assets of the Borrower or the Executing Agency; or (ii) any modification or change made without the written concurrence of the Bank of the basic conditions fulfilled before the approval of the Resolution authorizing the Financing or the signature of the Contract. In such cases, the Bank will have the right to require the Borrower and the Executing Agency to provide reasoned and detailed information. Only after hearing the Borrower or the Executing Agency and weighing the information or clarification received, or if the Borrower and the Executing Agency fail to respond, may the Bank suspend disbursements if it considers that the modifications made affect the Project substantially and unfavorably or make its execution impossible.

- (e) The non-compliance on the part of the Guarantor, if any, of any obligation set forth in the Guarantee Contract.
- (f) When the Borrower is not a member country, any extraordinary circumstance which, in the opinion of the Bank, makes it unlikely that the Borrower will be able to comply with the obligations established in this Contract or to fulfill the purposes for which it was entered into.
- (g) If it is determined at any stage that evidence is sufficient to support a finding that an employee, agent, or representative of the Borrower, Executing Agency or Contracting Agency, has engaged in an act of fraud and corruption during the bidding process, negotiation of a contract, or the execution of the contract.

ARTICLE 5.02. Termination, Accelerated Maturity, or Partial Cancellation of Undisbursed Balances and other Measures.

(a) The Bank may terminate this Contract with respect to the part of the Financing not yet disbursed or may declare the entire loan or a portion thereof immediately due and payable, together with interest and commissions accrued up to the date of payment if: (i) any of the circumstances set forth in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) of the preceding article continues for more than sixty (60) days; or (ii) the information referred to in paragraph (d) of the preceding Article, or the clarifications or additional information presented by the Borrower or the Executing Agency or the Contracting Agency, if any, are not satisfactory to the Bank.

(b) The Bank may cancel the part of the Financing pertaining to the procurement of certain goods, works or related services, or consulting services, or may declare the portion of the loan pertaining to such items immediately due and payable, if it determines at any time that: (i) the procurement was carried out without following the procedures set forth in this Contract; or (ii) representatives of the Borrower, Executing Agency or Contracting Agency have committed any act of fraud or corruption, either in the process of selecting the contractor or supplier or consultant, or in the negotiation or execution of the respective contract, and the Borrower has not taken timely and remedial measures, observing the due process guarantees of the Borrowing country's legislation, and acceptable to the Bank.

(c) For the purposes of the above paragraph, acts of fraud and corruption shall be understood to include, but not be limited to, acts of: (i) a corrupt practice is the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence the actions of another party; (ii) a fraudulent practice is any act or omission, including a misrepresentation, which misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party in order to obtain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation; (iii) a coercive practice is impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or property of the party to influence the actions of a party; and (iv) a collusive practice is an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including to influence improperly the actions of another party.

(d) If, in accordance with the administrative procedures of the Bank, it is demonstrated that any firm, entity or individual bidding for or participating in a Bank-financed project including, *inter alia*, Borrower, bidders, suppliers, contractors, sub-contractors, concessionaires, applicants,

consultants, Executing Agency or Contracting Agency (including their respective officers, employees and agents) has engaged in an act of fraud or corruption, the Bank may:

- (i) decide not to finance any proposal to award a contract or a contract awarded for works, goods, related services and consultant services financed by the Bank;
- (ii) suspend disbursement of the operation as described in Article 5.01 (g) above of these General Conditions, if it is determined at any stage that evidence is sufficient to support a finding that an employee, agent or representative of the Borrower, Executing Agency or Contracting Agency has engaged in an act of fraud or corruption;
- (iii) cancel, and/or accelerate repayment of, the portion of a loan or grant earmarked for a contract as described in Article 5.02 (b) above of these General Conditions, when there is evidence that the representative of the Borrower has not taken the adequate remedial measures within a time period which the Bank considers reasonable, and in accordance with the due process guarantees of the Borrowing country's legislation;
- (iv) issue a reprimand in the form of a formal letter of censure of the firm, entity or individual's behavior;
- (v) issue a declaration that an individual, entity or firm is ineligible, either permanently or for a stated period of time, to be awarded or participate in contracts under Bank-financed projects except under such conditions as the Bank deems to be appropriate;
- (vi) refer the matter to appropriate law enforcement authorities; and/or
- (vii) impose other sanctions that it deems to be appropriate under the circumstances, including the imposition of fines representing reimbursement of the Bank for costs associated with investigations and proceedings. Such other sanctions may be imposed in addition to or in lieu of other sanctions.

(e) The imposition of any action to be taken by the Bank pursuant to the provisions referred to above may be public or private.

ARTICLE 5.03. Obligations not Affected. Notwithstanding the provisions of the foregoing Articles 5.01 and 5.02, none of the measures set forth in this Chapter shall affect the disbursement by the Bank of: (a) any amounts subject to the guarantee of an irrevocable letter of credit; and (b) any amounts which the Bank by specific written agreement with the Borrower or the Executing Agency, or the Contracting Agency, if any, has agreed to provide from the resources of the Financing to make payments to a contractor or supplier of goods and related services or consultant services. The exceptions set forth in subparagraph (b) shall not apply if the Bank determines that acts of fraud and corruption occurred with respect to the procurement of, or the negotiation or execution of the contract for, the works, goods and related services or consultant services.

ARTICLE 5.04. Non-waiver of Rights. Any delay by the Bank in the exercise of its rights pursuant to this Contract, or failure to exercise them, shall not be construed as a waiver by the Bank of any such rights nor as acquiescence in events or circumstances which, had they occurred, would have empowered it to exercise them.

ARTICLE 5.05. Provisions not Affected. The application of any of the measures provided for by this Chapter shall not affect the obligations of the Borrower established in this Contract, which shall remain in full force and effect, except that in case the entire Loan has been declared due and payable, only the pecuniary obligations of the Borrower shall continue in force.

CHAPTER VI

Execution of the Project

ARTICLE 6.01. General Provisions for Execution of the Project. (a) The Borrower undertakes that the Project shall be executed with due diligence in conformity with sound financial and technical practices, and in accordance with the plans, specifications, investment schedule, budgets, regulations, and other documents approved by the Bank. The Borrower further undertakes that its obligations shall be fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Bank.

(b) Any important modification in the plans, specifications, investment schedule, budgets, regulations or other documents which the Bank has approved, as well as any substantial change in the contract or contracts for goods or services which may be funded with the resources devoted to the execution of the Project, or in the categories of investment, shall require the written consent of the Bank.

ARTICLE 6.02. Prices and Public Tender. Contracts for execution of works, procurement of goods, and rendering of services for the Project shall be undertaken at a reasonable cost which shall generally be the lowest market price, taking into account quality, efficiency, and any other pertinent factors.

ARTICLE 6.03. Use of Goods. Except with the express authorization of the Bank, the goods acquired with the resources of the Financing shall be used exclusively for the purposes of the Project. Once the Project has been completed, the construction machinery and equipment utilized in the execution of the Project may be used for other purposes.

ARTICLE 6.04. Additional Resources. (a) The Borrower shall contribute in a timely manner all the resources in addition to those of the Loan which may be necessary for the complete and uninterrupted execution of the Project, the estimated amount of which is specified in the Special Conditions. If during the process of disbursement of the Financing an increase in the estimated cost of the Project arises, the Bank may require the modification of the investment schedule referred to in Article 4.01(d) of these General Conditions in order that the Borrower shall meet such increase.

(b) Beginning with the calendar year following the initiation of the Project and during the period of its execution, the Borrower shall demonstrate to the Bank in the first sixty (60) days of each

calendar year that it will have available when needed the resources necessary to make the local contribution to the Project during that year.

CHAPTER VII

Records, Inspections and Reports

ARTICLE 7.01. Internal Control and Records. The Borrower or the Executing Agency, or the Contracting Agency, as the case may be, shall maintain an appropriate system of internal accounting and administrative controls. The accounting system shall be organized so as to provide the necessary documentation to permit the verification of transactions and facilitate the timely preparation of financial statements and reports. The records of the Project shall be maintained for a minimum of three (3) years after the date of final disbursement of the Loan, in such a way that: (a) make it possible to identify the sums received from the various sources; (b) show, in accordance with the catalogue of accounts approved by the Bank, the investments in the Project, both with the resources of the Loan and with the other funds to be provided for its complete execution; (c) include sufficient detail to show the works performed, goods acquired and the services contracted, as well as the utilization of such works, goods and services; and (d) such documents include documentation relating to the bidding process and the execution of the contracts financed by the Bank including, but not limited to, bid requests, bid packages, summaries, bid evaluations, contracts, correspondence, work product and drafts, and invoices, including documents relating to the payment of commissions, and payments to agents, consultants and contractors; and (e) show the cost of the investments in each category and the progress of the works. With respect to credit programs, the records shall also detail the credits granted, the recoveries obtained, and the utilization of the funds recovered.

ARTICLE 7.02. Inspections. (a) The Bank may establish such inspection procedures as it deems necessary to assure the satisfactory development of the Project.

(b) The Borrower, the Executing Agency and the Contracting Agency, if any, shall permit the Bank to inspect at any time the Project, the equipment and materials involved therein, and to examine such records and documents as the Bank may deem pertinent. The personnel which the Bank shall send or designate as investigators, agents, auditors or experts for this purpose shall receive the complete cooperation of the respective authorities. All the costs relating to transportation, salaries, and other expenses of such personnel shall be borne by the Bank.

(c) The Borrower, the Executing Agency or the Contracting Agency, as the case may be, shall, upon request of an authorized representative of the Bank, provide to the Bank any documents, including procurement-related documents, that the Bank might reasonably request. In addition, the Borrower, the Executing Agency and the Contracting Agency shall make their personnel available, upon reasonable notice, to respond to questions from Bank personnel, which arise during the review or audit of such documents. The Borrower, the Executing Agency or the Contracting Agency, as the case may be, shall produce the documents in a timely manner or shall submit an affidavit to the Bank setting forth the reasons why the requested material is unavailable or is being withheld.

(d) If the Borrower, the Executing Agency or Contracting Agency, as the case may be, refuses to comply with the Bank's request, or otherwise obstructs the Bank's review of the matter, the Bank in its sole discretion, may take appropriate action against the Borrower, Executing Agency or Contracting Agency, as the case may be.

ARTICLE 7.03. Reports and Financial Statements. (a) The Borrower or the Executing Agency, as appropriate, shall present to the Bank the following reports, within the periods specified with respect to each:

- (i) Reports on the execution of the Project, within sixty (60) days following the end of each calendar Semester, or within such other period as the parties may agree, prepared in accordance with the relevant rules agreed to with the Bank.
- (ii) Such other reports as the Bank may reasonably request regarding the investment of the sums lent, the use of goods acquired with such sums, and the progress of the Project.
- (iii) Three copies of the financial statements for the entire Project as of the close of each fiscal year of the Executing Agency, and supplementary financial information relating to such statements. Such financial statements shall be submitted within one hundred twenty (120) days following the close of each fiscal year of the Executing Agency, beginning with the fiscal year in which the Project was initiated and during the period stipulated in the Special Conditions.
- (iv) When the Special Conditions so require, three copies of the financial statements of the Borrower as of the close of each fiscal year, and supplementary financial information relating to such statements. The financial statements shall be submitted during the period stipulated in the Special Conditions, beginning with the fiscal year in which the Project was initiated and within one hundred twenty (120) days following the close of each fiscal year of the Borrower. This obligation shall not apply if the Borrower is the Republic or the Central Bank.
- (v) When the Special Conditions so require, three copies of the financial statements of the Executing Agency as of the close of each fiscal year, and supplementary financial information relating to such statements. The statements shall be submitted during the period stipulated in the Special Conditions, beginning with the fiscal year in which the Project was initiated and within one hundred twenty (120) days following the close of each fiscal year of the Executing Agency.

(b) The statements and documents described in subparagraphs (a)(iii), (iv) and (v) shall be submitted with the opinion of the auditing entity specified in the Special Conditions of this Contract and in accordance with requirements satisfactory to the Bank. The Borrower or the Executing

Agency, as the case may be, shall authorize the auditing entity to provide the Bank with any additional information it may reasonably request with respect to the financial statements and audit reports issued.

(c) In cases in which the audit is to be performed by an official auditing agency and such agency is unable to perform the audit in accordance with requirements satisfactory to the Bank or within the periods mentioned above, the Borrower or the Executing Agency shall contract the services of a firm of independent public accountants acceptable to the Bank. The services of a firm of independent public accountants may also be utilized if the contracting parties so agree.

CHAPTER VIII

Provision on Encumbrances and Exemptions

ARTICLE 8.01. Commitment on Encumbrances. If the Borrower should agree to create any specific encumbrance on all or part of its assets or revenues to secure an external debt, it shall at the same time create an encumbrance guaranteeing to the Bank, equally and proportionally, the fulfillment of the pecuniary obligations arising from this Contract. However, the foregoing shall not apply: (a) to encumbrances on goods used as security for payment of the unpaid balance of the purchase price; and (b) to encumbrances created in banking operations to secure payment of debts with maturities of not more than one year. In the event that the Borrower is a member country, the term "assets or revenues" shall mean all types of assets or revenues which belong to the Borrower or any of its dependent agencies which are not autonomous entities with their own separate capital.

ARTICLE 8.02. Tax Exemption. The Borrower undertakes to ensure that both the principal and the interest and other charges of the Loan shall be paid without any deduction or restriction whatsoever, exempt from any tax, fee, duty or charge established or that may be established by the laws of its country, and to pay any tax, fee, or duty applicable to the signing, negotiation, and execution of this Contract.

CHAPTER IX

Arbitration Procedure

ARTICLE 9.01. Composition of the Tribunal. (a) The Arbitration Tribunal shall be composed of three members to be appointed in the following manner: one by the Bank, another by the Borrower, and a third, hereinafter called the "Referee", by direct agreement between the parties or through their respective arbitrators. If the parties or the arbitrators fail to agree on who the Referee shall be, or if one of the parties should not designate an arbitrator, the Referee shall be appointed, at the request of either party, by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States. If either of the parties fails to appoint an arbitrator, one shall be appointed by the Referee. If either of the appointed arbitrators or the Referee is unwilling or unable to act or to continue to act, his successor shall be appointed in the same manner as for the original appointment. The successor shall have the same functions and faculties as his predecessor.

(b) If the controversy affects not only the Borrower but also the Guarantor, if any, both shall be considered a single party and consequently shall act jointly in the designation of the arbitrator and for the other purposes of the arbitration proceedings.

ARTICLE 9.02. Initiation of the Procedure. In order to submit the controversy to arbitration, the claimant shall address to the other party a written communication setting forth the nature of the claim, the satisfaction or compensation which it seeks, and the name of the arbitrator it appoints. The party receiving such communication shall, within forty-five (45) days, notify the adverse party of the name of the person it appoints as arbitrator. If, within thirty (30) days after delivery of such notification to the claimant, the parties have not agreed as to the person who is to act as Referee, either party may request the Secretary General of the Organization of American States to make the appointment.

ARTICLE 9.03. Convening of the Tribunal. The Arbitration Tribunal shall be convened in Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America, on the date designated by the Referee, and, once convened, shall meet on the dates which the Tribunal itself shall establish.

ARTICLE 9.04. Procedure. (a) The Tribunal shall be competent to hear only the matters in controversy. It shall adopt its own procedures and may on its own initiative designate whatever experts it considers necessary. In any case, it shall give the parties the opportunity to make oral presentations.

(b) The Tribunal shall proceed *ex aequo et bono*, basing itself on the terms of this Contract, and shall issue an award even if either party should fail to appear or present its case.

(c) The award shall be in writing and shall be adopted with the concurrent vote of at least two members of the Tribunal. It shall be handed down within approximately sixty (60) days from the date on which the Referee is appointed, unless the Tribunal determines that, due to special and unforeseen circumstances, such period should be extended. The award shall be notified to the parties by means of a communication signed by at least two members of the Tribunal, and shall be complied with within thirty (30) days from the date of notification. The award shall be final and will not be subject to any appeal.

ARTICLE 9.05. Costs. The fees of each arbitrator shall be paid by the party which appointed him and the fees of the Referee shall be paid by both parties in equal proportion. Prior to the convening of the Tribunal, the parties shall agree on the remuneration of the other persons who, by mutual agreement, they deem should take part in the arbitration proceedings. If such agreement is not reached in a timely manner, the Tribunal itself shall determine the compensation which may be reasonable for such persons under the circumstances. Each party shall defray its own expenses in the arbitration proceedings, but the expenses of the Tribunal shall be borne equally by the parties. Any doubt regarding the division of costs or the manner in which they are to be paid shall be determined, without appeal, by the Tribunal.

ARTICLE 9.06. Notification. All notifications relative to the arbitration or to the award shall be made in the manner provided in this Contract. The parties waive any other form of notification.

THE ANNEX

THE PROJECT

Modernization of the Barbados Statistical Service

I. Objective

- 1.01** The general objective of the Project is to strengthen the ability of the Barbados Statistical Service (“BSS”) to provide relevant, timely and quality economic and social statistics, and to establish its leadership in this area within the public sector.
- 1.02** The specific objectives of the Project are to: (i) propose a strengthened legal framework which will enable the BSS to perform its duties more effectively; (ii) establish a statistics network including governmental agencies which produce relevant public data; (iii) improve managerial, statistical and administrative procedures of the BSS in close cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Empowerment, Innovation, Trade, Industry and Commerce (“METIC”); (iv) develop priority statistical products; (v) improve the human capacity of the BSS; and (vi) enhance the technical infrastructure of the BSS and its capacity for disseminating its products and for facilitating public access to statistical information.

II. Description

- 2.01** The Project will finance the implementation of the following components:

Component 1: Legal framework

- 2.02** The Project will support the BSS in producing a proposal for a new legal framework. A new Statistics Act or, alternatively, executive regulations for the law would enhance the ability of the BSS to provide timely and useful information. The new law or new regulations should, among other topics: (i) strengthen the technical and administrative autonomy of the BSS; (ii) broaden the institutional setting to include not only the BSS but also all other statistics producing units within other agencies and ministries while asserting BSS central role as the leader of a wider statistical system; (iii) enhance internal and external accountability of the BSS and of the statistical units in other governmental agencies; (iv) update penalties to better allow for compliance by those agencies responsible for collecting information and those agents or agencies that are expected to provide information; (v) clarify the scope of data protection; and (vi) designate the BSS responsible for making information more accessible to users.
- 2.03** The Project will provide technical assistance through consultancy services for: (i) reviewing and complementing the legal analysis completed during Project design; (ii) defining options

for legal reform; and (iii) engaging with relevant stakeholders in order to build consensus on needed legal enhancements.

Component 2: Statistics network

- 2.04** The Project will provide assistance to create a network of agencies involved in statistics production, in order to improve the effective cooperation of the various governmental agencies that produce raw and elaborated data relevant to the responsibilities of the BSS. Coordination among producers of statistics should lead to a national statistics Project, with priorities set for various products, with standardized concepts and definitions being used across the public sector and full utilization of the national expertise in sampling questionnaires. This would imply support for all ministries involved in the form of training for staff and new information technology, complemented with clear and formal communication channels between the ministries and the BSS.
- 2.05** This component will support the BSS through consultancy services for: (i) creating a Statistical Steering Committee (“SSC”), led by the BSS, including representation of all fourteen ministries and the Central Bank, which will assure an effective inter-agency coordination in order to provide timely and accurate data to the BSS as well as to enhance the provision of services from the BSS to other agencies (the SSC will also have participation of representatives of civil society); (ii) setting up of the administrative and operational procedures of the SSC; and (iii) standardizing and harmonization of the procedures, definitions, and working methodologies involving all ministries and agencies participating in the SSC. It is expected that a Statistical Council will be institutionalized by law once a new Statistics Act is enacted or a law regulation adopted. The Statistical Council would eventually substitute the SSC.

Component 3: Institutional reengineering

- 2.06** This component will provide assistance to the BSS for deepening the institutional assessment made during Project preparation of the current managerial, administrative, and technical structure, policies and procedures of the BSS in order to confirm and/or identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies. Based on this diagnostic the Project will provide options for streamlining and improving BSS managerial and administrative performance. After a reform course is established, the Project will support its actual implementation with the goal of enhancing internal and external effectiveness, efficiency and accountability, while emphasizing BSS technical autonomy.
- 2.07** The assessment, options for reform, and actual institutional reengineering will be supported through consultancy services, and will tackle: (i) the governance and managerial structure; and (ii) administrative procedures, including at a minimum human resources, administration and records management, financial administration and procurement.

Component 4: Enhancement of statistical products offered by the BSS

- 2.08** This component will support the improvement of technical capacity at BSS to collect, process and disseminate data. The focus of this component will be to enhance the data collection instruments that BSS already has in place and to develop new ones to enable the institution to respond to increasing demand from public and private clients. The improvements to existing instruments will center on data quality issues such as non-response rates, timeliness of results data access dissemination policies. The design of new instruments will focus on responding to the needs of data users. Although the BSS is the focal point of the Project, other relevant agencies will also benefit from technical assistance provided by this component, to strengthen their capacity to collect, process and share statistical information (i.e. ministries of health, education, etc.). Special attention will be paid to ensure that BSS applies state of the art methodologies, conforms to international standards, and works within the CARICOM statistical framework.
- 2.09** This component will assist the BSS through consultancy services to improve key social and economic data. With regards to social information, the activities will center in the following areas: (i) revision of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, including a design for transforming it into a modular household survey which would provide periodic data on a range of household social and economic conditions; (ii) collection of data to produce indicators on education and health to monitor the Millennium Development Goals (“MDGs”); (iii) production of environmentally relevant data at the household level; (iv) compilation of demographic indicators, including population projections and territorially disaggregated estimates; and (v) preparations for the 2010 population census. In the area of economic statistics the support will focus on: (a) implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts and quarterly national accounts estimates; (b) improvement of the Establishment Survey; (c) data compilation process for the Index of Retail Prices; (d) compilation of the Producer Price Index; and (e) Household Budget Survey – possibly to be included as a module in a periodic household survey.

Component 5: Human capacity

- 2.10** The Project will support the preparation of a strategy and implementation of a human resources management transformation, and corresponding regulatory reforms if needed. The Project will also provide training to BSS and other agency staff in order to support the institutional reengineering and the enhancement of statistical products.
- 2.11** This component will support consultancy services for: (i) designing and implementing a human resources management system in the BSS, including updating of policies, procedures and an electronic human resources information system; (ii) on-the-job technical development for a number of employees especially in the areas of collection, processing and dissemination of statistical products and new software in the BSS and in other relevant agencies; and (iii) specialized training comprising academic scholarships to provide Masters degrees or a similar academic training to a number of statisticians.

Component 6: Technical infrastructure and public outreach

- 2.12** The Project will support the upgrading of BSS's information technology and will facilitate the access of the public to its various statistical products. Relevant agencies will also have access to technology improvement regarding statistical collection, processing and sharing.
- 2.13** This component comprises two sub-components: (i) hardware and software upgrading, including an intranet as well as networking with public agencies that provide information to the BSS; and (ii) a webpage where BSS products are available to the general public. Education activities for the public to understand and have access to statistics will also be part of this sub-component.

III. Total Cost of the Project and Financing Plan

- 3.01** The estimated cost of the Project is the equivalent of six million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (US\$6,250,000), in accordance with the following investment categories and sources of financing:

Cost and Financing
(in US\$)

	Bank	Borrower	Total	%
SUPERVISION AND ADMINISTRATION	300,000	200,000	500,000	8.0
Project Coordinating Unit	300,000	200,000	500,000	8.0
DIRECT COSTS COMPONENTS	4,300,000	850,000	5,150,000	82.4
1. Legal framework	50,000	10,000	60,000	1.0
2. Statistics Network	50,000	150,000	200,000	3.2
3. Institutional Reengineering	900,000	150,000	1,050,000	16.8
4. Enhancement of Statistical Products	1,200,000	240,000	1,440,000	23.0
5. Human Capacity	1,100,000	50,000	1,150,000	18.4
6. Technical Infrastructure and Public Outreach	1,000,000	250,000	1,250,000	20.0
CONCURRENT COSTS	70,000	20,000	90,000	1.6
Evaluation		20,000	20,000	0.3
External Auditing	70,000	0	70,000	1.3
CONTINGENCIES	330,000	180,000	510,000	8.2
TOTAL	5,000,000	1,250,000	6,250,000	100.0
PERCENT	80	20	100	

IV. Execution

- 4.01** The structure for execution of the Project comprises: (i) a Project Coordinator ("PC"), reporting to the Director of BSS; (ii) a Senior Accountant Officer ("SAO") reporting to the PC; (iii) a project officer; (iv) one clerk/typist; and (v) a procurement specialist. It is expected that the SAO will evolve over time into an officer of the regular BSS structure.
- 4.02** The Project Coordinator position will be appointed by the BSS Director with the approval of the Ministry of the Civil Service. At the present time the position has already been assigned

on a full time basis to the current BSS Deputy Director. Additionally, a senior accountant from the Government of Barbados (“GOB”) Civil Service will be appointed to BSS. Because there are no procurement specialists in the Barbados Civil Service, it is necessary to contract one through the Project. Due to the likelihood of a limited number of procurement processes in the Project, the period of contracting for this specialist will be done on the basis of procurement tasks to be performed, taking into account the timing of the activities in the Project Procurement Plan as well as the fact that this specialist is to provide training on procurement to BSS staff, and to support technical staff with contract administration activities. The Project contains resources for the contracting of the procurement specialist as needed. He/she should be contracted to carry out the procurement packages of the Project and will be needed for a total (probably non-consecutive) estimated period of one year. The procurement specialist will report to the Project Coordinator. Finally, a Statistical Steering Committee led by the BSS Director will form part of the structure.

- 4.03** Statistical Steering Committee (“SSC”): Comprising representatives of the Central Bank, the fourteen ministries, and civil society (i.e.: business community, professional associations, civil groups, etc.), led by the BSS Director and with the Project Coordinator acting as the Secretary, the SSC will have the following strategic and overall monitoring functions: (i) review of legal and institutional recommendations contained in studies developed in the Project for approval by the Minister; (ii) review of changes in Project objectives, strategies or components, for approval by the Minister prior to their submission to and approval by the Bank; (iii) global monitoring through the review and approval of the Project’s annual report; and (iv) approval of the Annual Operating Plan (“AOP”). Exceptional variances from plans or objectives in annual reports, or in AOPs will be communicated to the Minister of METIC. The SSC will also resolve any coordination or work problems that could not be resolved at the Project Coordinating Unit level.
- 4.04** SSC public sector members will be appointed by the Cabinet under recommendation of the Permanent Secretary of Economic Affairs in consultation with the ministries involved and the Central Bank, preferably being the managers of statistics, planning, research or similar units in the various agencies. Civil society representatives will also be invited to join the SSC by the Permanent Secretary of Economic Affairs. SSC members will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of technical assistance activities financed by the Project within their agencies. The SSC members can delegate these activities to their agencies’ personnel as needed. SSC members will ensure a working relationship of their staff with the PC.
- 4.05** Project Coordinating Unit (“PCU”): Under the responsibility of the Project Coordinator, the PCU will carry out the following functions: (i) prepare the Project Procurement Plan (“PP”) and the AOP, monitor their execution and analyze variances of actual results to plans; (ii) prepare the Project’s budget and ensure its timely funding from the Bank and the Borrower; (iii) procurement functions, including the preparation of bidding packages or documentation for procurement, the receipt of offers for goods and services, and participation in the selection of procurement proposals; (iv) carry out the timely payments on behalf of the Project; (v) carry out the accounting for the Project; (vi) prepare technical and financial reports required in the Project; (vii) monitor compliance with contractual clauses;

(viii) implement operational and financial internal controls for the Project, including the setting up and maintenance of accounting and information systems for the Project; (ix) periodically review the Project Operating Manual to maintain it up to date; and (x) serve as a liaison for the Project with the Bank and other agencies.

- 4.06** Loan resources will be deposited in the Central Bank in an account specifically opened for the Project. Budgetary obligations for goods and services procured and payments for Project expenses will be processed fed on line through the Smart Stream System (“SSS”). Actual payments will be made from the Consolidated Fund also managed and controlled by the Office of the Accountant General (“OAG”). Periodically, the PCU will process the request for replenishment of funds to the Bank via the METIC and the OAG, and the Consolidated Fund will be reimbursed for the expenditures made on behalf of the Project out of the Project’s account at the Central Bank. Under this process, the OAG is actually performing the treasury and budget control functions for the Project. The accountant in the PCU will do budgeting for the Project. The annual budget will be reviewed first by the BSS Director and then reviewed by and processed through, the regular channels at the METIC.
- 4.07** The following instruments will guide and facilitate the Project’s execution: The Annual Operating Plan, the Procurement Plan, and the Project Operating Manual (POM). The AOP will contain targets for planned activities, together with their budget, their source of financing and the assignment of responsibility for their execution. BSS with the support of the PCU will present to the Bank a preliminary AOP by mid January each year, and a final AOP once the budget has been approved, but not later than the end of April of each year.
- 4.08** An integral part of the executing instruments will be a Procurement Plan establishing: (i) the chronogram for the procurement of goods and services; and (ii) the proposed method for the procurement of those goods and services. The PCU will update the Procurement Plan on an annual basis or as needed always covering the next 18 month period of Project implementation. Any revisions proposed to the Procurement Plan will be forwarded by the BSS to the Bank for its approval.
- 4.09** Detailed Project execution procedures are reflected in the Project Operating Manual to be used by all Project participants. Evaluation of compliance with the Project Operating Manual will be part of the work of the external auditor and the need for its updating will be evaluated during the annual Project monitoring sessions.
- 4.10** The PCU, through the procurement specialist, will carry out the Project’s procurement bidding processes and supervision pursuant to the Bank’s policies and procedures. Resources of the Project will be used for the hiring of consulting services needed for Project implementation. In order to strengthen the evaluation process the Executing Agency may seek the assistance and support of CARTAC for the identification of consultants to support specific needs during Project execution. Goods and related services will be acquired from private suppliers. Studies, technical assistance services and training will be contracted from recognized high quality international or national statistical agencies, independent consulting firms and/or educational establishments like universities.

- 4.11** Procurement packages. In order to facilitate efficient execution of the Project and to ensure consistency of the interventions, the components will be grouped into a limited number of procurement packages which will be finalized in the Procurement Plan that will be submitted to the Bank for its approval.
- 4.12** The system for monitoring and evaluation will include: (i) the examination of the technical and financial reports; (ii) annual Project review meetings; and (iii) independent midterm and final evaluations.
- 4.13** The BSS, with the support of the PCU, will submit to the Bank: (i) semiannual progress reports -the progress report due at the end of April will evaluate the results of operations in comparison with the plans reflected on the AOP for the year ending; and (ii) annually, at the end of April, the AOP for the following fiscal year. The Bank will examine these documents and will give its non-objection to them.
- 4.14** Annual Project review meetings will be held before mid-May to correspond with the period of final budget approval and also with the presentation of the AOP for the coming year. These meetings will emphasize: (i) the review of operations in comparison to the plans in the ending year AOP, the determination of problems and possible solutions and, in light of the review, the assessment of the soundness of the plans contained in the coming year AOP; (ii) the review of the annual progress toward the objectives and indicators contained in the “Logical Framework” of the Project. The PCU will be responsible for gathering information to measure the progress of said indicators; and (iii) to review the applicability of the Project Operating Manual and identification of any need for updating it.