

United Nations  Nations Unies

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14 December 2016

Demet Babacar + Yacoub

Dear Mr. Cisse and Mr. El Hillo,

I am pleased to inform you that the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) has conditionally approved funding from the Peacebuilding Fund's Immediate Response Facility (IRF) for the project entitled "Cross-Border Cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia for Sustainable Peace and Social Cohesion" in the amount of \$3'000'000, to be implemented by UNDP and IOM in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. The final project proposal was submitted on 6 December 2016 and assessed by PBSO in consultation with the inter-departmental UN Peacebuilding Contact Group, and a small reference group composed of staff members from UNDP, DPA, EOSG and PBSO at UN Headquarters in New York.

By contributing funds to this first of its kind cross-border initiative, addressing the rising cross border tensions between Liberian and Ivorian border communities, PBSO took note of the opportunity for the UN to respond to the call of the joint high level meeting in Guiglo "Deuxieme reunion du Conseil Conjoint des Chefs coutumiers et des Anciens (CCCA)" calling for continuous engagement to consolidate peace and social cohesion between the border.

This initiative is further innovative as it is the first cross border initiative not only comprising of the two country teams, but also aligning parallel UNMIL and UNOCI supported protects working towards the same outcomes. This multi-mission, multi-country peacebuilding initiative is a great example for the cohesion

Mr. Babacar Cissé
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/UN Resident Coordinator
Cote d'Ivoire

Mr. Yacoub El Hillo
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/UN Resident Coordinator
Liberia

cc: Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, USG, DPA
Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, MPTFO

and joint vision necessary to address the complex cross-border dynamics in the region. Even though the alignment of the different actors has taken some time, our experience allows us to rest assured that this invested time is contributing to the foundation for close cooperation and joint action in the future.

In keeping with a recently established policy, I authorize conditionally the disbursement of the project budget through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in two separate tranches, with 70% of funds, or \$2'100'00, transferred in the first tranche and the remaining 30%, or \$900'000, to be released upon acceptance of the project report and at least 80% expenditure of the initial allocation. The conditions to be addressed before the release of the first tranche (70%) of the total amount are A) that outstanding issues regarding financial and operational closure of old PBF projects by all RUNOS are resolved; B) that the budget table is adjusted to reflect the detailed amounts to be transferred per RUNOs (Liberia) per output and to include the mandatory final evaluation; and C) that the tranches of 70%/30% are reflected in the project budget Table 3.

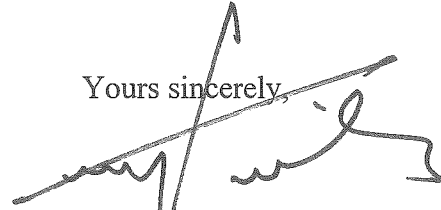
By building on PBSOs experience with cross-border projects, the appraisal committee has further noted that the results framework should be adjusted to have disaggregated data in baselines and targets, to ensure a balance of indicators (perception- and facts based), and adding an indicator on the populations clarity of border crossing procedures; we suggest to jointly re-assess and endorse the outlined Governance structure of the project during the first joint meeting and lastly to ensure the Project will receive only one award ID per country for both RUNOS. The results of the above can be included as an annex within 60 days of project approval.

Finally, as you are aware, monitoring and reporting on peacebuilding impact is a core responsibility of the Fund's mandate. For projects approved under the IRF, I rely on you and your office to undertake the following responsibilities on my behalf:

- a) Ensuring timely receipt of semi-annual project updates from the Recipient Organizations and forwarding these to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and PBSO, based on the results indicators;
- b) Monitoring project progress and results, and advising PBSO in a timely fashion if and when project amendments are required; and
- c) Ensuring that a quality external final evaluation is conducted so that lessons developed over the course of implementation may be systematically gathered.

PBSO is pleased to provide funding for this important and innovative initiative. Its success will require continued close monitoring and guidance by your office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oscar Fernandez-Taranco', written over the 'Yours sincerely,' text.

Oscar Fernandez-Taranco
Assistant Secretary-General for
Peacebuilding Support