



Inter office Memorandum

To: Babacar Cisse  
Deputy Regional Director  
Regional Bureau for Africa

Date: 18 March 2010

From: Anthony Ngororano  
CST/RBA

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Extension: 5951

Subject: **DEX Request- Support to the 2009-2011 Electoral Cycles of the PALOP/TL countries**

Please find attached for your consideration a request from the Guinea Bissau Country Office (CO) to authorize the Direct Execution (DEX) modality for the above-mentioned project from February 2010 to February 2013.

**Background**

The Lusophone countries in Africa and East Timor referred to herein as PALOP/TL though geographically disparate, share a strong identity based on history, culture and also on a common institutional heritage. As a consequence and notwithstanding the fact that independence of most of the PALOP/TL countries dates back up to 30 years or more, strong institutional similarities remain including the structure and organizational culture of the central administration, the legal system, the civil service, and public financial management.

This project aims to contribute to strengthening the democratic processes in the PALOP/TL countries, through targeted support to be provided to planned electoral processes, elected parliamentarians, parliaments and the media. Guinea-Bissau was selected to be the lead country for the project, which takes as its point of departure the premise that in order to be effective, global policy, regional challenges and country realities must form a virtuous cycle. The specific objective of the project is to contribute to the strengthening of the electoral management capacities of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) in the six countries; it will also catalyze the exchange of good practices, peer networking and knowledge dissemination between lusophone EMBs and disseminate tools and methodologies on electoral management in Portuguese, adapted to the needs and institutional specificities of Lusophone countries.

**Institutional arrangements and Justification for DEX**

The project's outputs and outcomes will target the shared needs and shortcomings of the six beneficiary countries' in the context of their legal and institutional framework and their human and technical capacity needs. The complexity and breadth of the project poses serious challenges to its smooth



implementation and sustainability. Implementation challenges are anticipated in the area of results based management and cost management. In the light of the complexity of the project, the proposed modality will help ensure that quality assurance and technical support related considerations are firmly embedded in the project cycle through the use of existing country oversight structures (i.e. country coordination committees) that would monitor project implementation and respond effectively to emerging issues and potential shortcomings.

Using this modality therefore ensures that quality assurance<sup>1</sup> processes cover all key phases of the implementation of the project in each of the beneficiary countries. By ensuring compliance of the various activities in the project with UNDP rules and procedures, project support<sup>2</sup> in the area of quality assurance associated with this modality should directly contribute to both, the smooth implementation of the planned activities and the seamless coordination between the bodies tasked with implementing the project across the six countries.

The implementation challenges listed above justify DEX as the most appropriate modality to: support the seamless implementation of the project; ensure effective coordination between all parties; facilitate the development of harmonized annual work plans and activities to be implemented; provide guidance on EC-UNDP procedures and guidelines and reporting concerns, which is key considering that the EC is the only donor.

Please find enclosed the PRODOC on Project in Support of the 2010 – 2012 Electoral Cycles in the PALOP countries and Timor Leste, which UNDP in Guinea-Bissau has been designated to implement on behalf of the countries mentioned, and the minutes of the local project appraisal committee (PAC) meeting held on 12 March 2010.

I recommend your approval of the DEX authorization.

Approved by:

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Babacar Cisse  
Deputy Regional Director  
RBA

Date:

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<sup>1</sup> Provided by UNDP Country Office in Guinea Bissau (leading country).

<sup>2</sup> Provided by the Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance and UNDP country offices Operations' units/staff in the six beneficiary countries.