

United Nations  Nations Unies

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25 February 2020

Dear Ms. Makhetha, Mr. Coulibaly and Mr. Mama,

Thank you for your submission of the project proposal “*Programme d’appui à la prévention des conflits et de l’extrémisme violent dans les zones frontalières du Bénin, du Burkina et du Togo*” to the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). I am pleased to inform you that the Peacebuilding Support Office, following the review by the Peacebuilding Project Review Group and the recommendation of the Project Appraisal Committee, has approved the project under the PBF’s Immediate Response Facility for a total of \$3,275,000 implemented by IOM and UNDP for 18 months.

The project aims at strengthening the resilience of the populations living in the border regions between Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo, who are currently threatened by inter-community conflicts and the spread of violent extremism stemming from the conflicts in the Sahel. The project will target in particular vulnerable women and youth by strengthening their participation in decision-making and local dialogue mechanisms within their communities, as well as their economic empowerment.

The Project Appraisal Committee acknowledged the complex approach of the project and requested that IOM Togo as lead agency and country provide PBSO with a joint annual workplan within one month of project approval reflecting harmonized activities across the three borders, as well as a bi-monthly brief update on project implementation covering project expenditure and an assessment of joint activities.

Ms. Metsi Makhetha
United Nations Resident Coordinator in Burkina Faso
Ouagadougou

Mr. Siaka Coulibaly
United Nations Resident Coordinator in Benin
Cotonou

Mr. Damien Mama
United Nations Resident Coordinator in Togo
Lomé

As per the PBF Guidelines, PBF project funds will be disbursed by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in three instalments. The first and second tranche representing 35% of the project budget and the third 30%. The second and third tranche will be transferred following a demonstrated project financial implementation rate of at least 75% of the first tranche and the submission of any PBF reports required during that period. The payment of the second and third tranche is also contingent on availability of funds in the PBF. Prior to the disbursement of funds, we also expect agencies implementing PBF projects to undertake all steps to financially close all PBF projects that have ended in a timely manner.

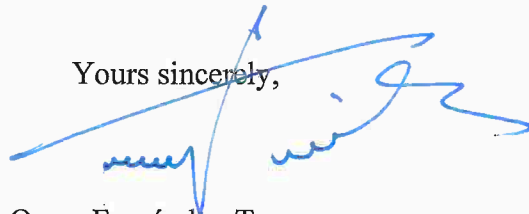
We count on the teams to ensure the timely implementation and conclusion of the projects and encourage them to apply any lessons learnt from previous implementation experiences and best practices from existing PBF supported projects. We count on your leadership to ensure that the two recipient UN agencies implement the project cohesively, ensuring synergies with any existing interventions and adapting the project activities to emerging reforms and political dynamics. We hope that the project will be catalytic in terms of enabling additional peacebuilding initiatives as well as encourage other donor contributions in this crucial area.

As you are aware, monitoring and reporting on peacebuilding impact is a core responsibility of the Fund's mandate. This includes: a) ensuring timely submission of the PBF project progress report due annually on 15 June and 15 November and a PBF end-of-project report; b) ensuring robust monitoring of project progress, risks and results and advising PBSO if project amendments are required or if obstacles arise that may impact project outcomes; and c) managing a high-quality independent evaluation, engaging PBSO in the evaluation process.

Please note that all entities receiving an allocation from the PBF are obligated to ensure the visibility of the Fund. This should include both the identification of success stories within routine reporting as well as through the recipient UN organization's strategic communications products.

I look forward to working with you and your teams on this important sustaining peace endeavour in Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo. I trust you will keep us apprised of the political situation and any issues which may have an impact on the implementation of this project.

Yours sincerely,



Oscar Fernández-Taranco
Assistant Secretary-General
for Peacebuilding Support

cc: H.E. Mr. Yemdaogo Eric Tiare
Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude Félix do Rego
Permanent Representative of Benin
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Kokou Kpayedo
Permanent Representative of Togo
to the United Nations