



Republic of Congo – Support project to the Prime Minister Office for the coordination of the implementation of the Letter of Intent

Adopted at EB 17 on 13 November 2020

EB.2020.22

Considering:

- Decision EB.2019.16 on the Letter of Intent with the Republic of Congo and the country allocation to the country;
- Decision EB.2019.22 on the need for the establishment of the coordination mechanisms;
- The subsequent exchanges between H.E.M. Prime Minister, the Authorities in charge of the key line ministries and the Ambassadors and Heads of Delegation representing the CAFI Board in the Republic of Congo, on the need for the implementation of the governance structures for the implementation and follow-up of the Letter of Intent, in particular the coordination under the Prime Minister Office;
- Decree n°2020-347 signed on 4 September 2020 by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo for the creation, organization, composition and management of the implementation of the Letter of Intent (hereafter “Decree on the governance structures”);
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/79 by which the General Assembly decided to re-dynamise the role of the Resident Coordinator system by creating a dedicated, independent, impartial, empowered and sustainable development-focused coordination function for the United Nations development system.

The CAFI Executive Board:

1. Commends the Government of the Republic of Congo, and H.E.M the Prime Minister in particular, for the leadership and the partnership spirit demonstrated on the preparation of the Decree for the establishment of the governance structures and its adoption on 4 September 2020;

2. Indicates its willingness to provide co-financing, in addition of the domestic resources, to support the functioning of the Coordination Unit, in order to strengthen the Prime Minister Office's steering role in the implementation and monitoring of the Letter of Intent as well as its capacity to ensure high-level ownership of the latter by the key Authorities in charge of land use sectors and the development agenda of the country;
3. Requests the CAFI Secretariat to develop and implement, in collaboration with the Prime Minister Office, a dedicated project that will:
 - i. support the functioning of the governance mechanisms and coordination structures under the authority of the Prime Minister as described in the Decree, especially the Coordination Unit to be hosted in the Prime Minister Office;
 - ii. integrate and cover the costs of the international expertise;
 - iii. be implemented under the oversight of the CAFI Secretariat, while locally managed by the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office to i) facilitate the high-policy dialogue between the Republic of Congo and the Government partners to achieve the objectives of the Letter of Intent and ii) provide support in ensuring sound ownership of the process by the Authorities in charge of the line ministries and by the national stakeholders (civil society, private sector and partners) ;
 - iv. cover an initial two-years duration and include an independent mid-term review to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the operational arrangements and provide guidance on the potential reconduction and modalities of this support;
4. Thanks the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Congo for his interest in supporting the policy dialogue between the Government of the Republic of Congo and CAFI and in reaching the ambitious commitments set on the Letter of Intent and requests the CAFI Secretariat to pursue the dialogue launched with the Resident Coordinator for the establishment of the partnership and clear definition of roles and responsibilities:
5. Takes note of the draft Project Document and budget submitted by the CAFI Secretariat and encourages the latter to pursue the discussions with the Government and the Resident Coordinator towards the submission of a completed project document to the Board by November 30, 2020 latest for final review and approval by end 2020;
6. Kindly requests the Prime Minister office in coordination with the CAFI Secretariat to submit a tentative Timeline for the organization of the meetings with the Inter-ministerial Committee as well as the Steering Committee meetings to foster the policy dialogue and programming exercise.