

GRUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT



North Africa Regional
Development
and Business Delivery Office

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SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION STATEMENT OF THE SPECIAL SUPERVISORY BODY OF THE PROJECT ON PROMOTION OF GENDER RESPONSIVE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS AND WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SUPPORT OF PATAM

The government has designated the African Development Bank as the preferred supervisory agency to accompany the formulation and implementation of this important operation on women's empowerment, the promotion of agricultural value chains and women's entrepreneurship in support of the Mauritania agricultural transformation support programme (PATAM).

Indeed, the Bank Group has a long history of collaboration with Mauritania in the agricultural sector in general and the irrigated sub-sector in particular, and in building the resilience of vulnerable households. Ongoing operations in the sector include the implementation of PATAM (UA 13 million), the Food and Nutritional Insecurity Resilience Strengthening Program (P2RS) (UA 11.5 million), humanitarian assistance to flood victims in the Guidimakha region (UA 0.5 million), and the African disaster risk finance program (UA 1.5 million). These operations are performing satisfactorily with supervision scores of 3/4 for PATAM and 2,83/4 for P2RS.

The Bank's lending programme provides for the financing (UA 3,6 million) of the Gender Sensitive Value Chain Promotion Project in support of PATAM which will be submitted to the Board for NTF financing end of September 2021. The project under this proposal to GAFSP will strengthen and consolidate this operation and is in line with and complementary to PATAM.

In addition the GAFSP proposal will benefit from the spillovers from other AfDB intervention in Mauritania approved in 2021. Such operations include: i) the BCI line of Credit (€10 million) in support of small and medium enterprises and women entrepreneurs which will support private sector growth in the agricultural sector among others and; ii) the Support project for employability and socio-economic integration of

vulnerable youth (UA 3 million) which aims at developing the necessary skills for agri-entrepreneurs in the area targeted by the GASFP proposal.

The Bank Group's experience in the preparation and implementation of operations in the rural sector in general and as supervisor of GAFSP projects will be used, in conjunction with all stakeholders and partners, to finalize the formulation and preparation of this important operation for the country and ensure good quality at entry.

In a favorable perspective of the acceptance of the proposal to GAFSP, the appraisal of the project within our institution is planned from January 2022 with a view to its approval by the Board of Directors of the Bank in June 2022. The second half of the year will be devoted to satisfying the conditions, bringing the project into force, carrying out detailed studies and launching the first calls for tenders so that the project activities can begin rapidly at the beginning of 2023 under the best possible conditions and with rapid results.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent CASTEL

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