



**The World Bank**

Maghreb Department  
Middle-East and North Africa

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April 14, 2015

Mr. Mohamed Boussaid  
Minister for Economy and Finance  
Rabat, Royaume du Maroc  
(Transmission by fax: 212-537 76.40.81)

Mr. Mohammed Louafa  
Minister delegate to the Head of Government  
In charge of General Affairs and Governance  
Rabat, Royaume du Maroc  
(Transmission by fax: 212-537 77.47.76)

***Subject: Endorsement of the Project "Improving Connectivity in the Maghreb" (P155446)  
presented to the MENA Transition Fund***

Dear Sirs,

The World Bank is pleased to express its endorsement of the above mentioned proposal, presented by the Government of Morocco to the Middle East and North Africa Transition Fund Steering Committee. The World Bank is ready to support the implementation of this strategic project as Implementation Support Agency.

The proposal has been prepared jointly with the OECD, and together with the World Bank the OECD will act as Implementation Support Agency. This proposal constitutes a regional project to be implemented in Morocco and Tunisia. A parallel proposal to the MENA Transition Fund Steering Committee will be submitted by Tunisia.

We welcome the transformational nature of this project proposal, which intends to support the reduction of trade transaction costs and the streamlining of the chains of international trade between the Maghreb countries and with their major trading partners.

In our view, this project is fully aligned with the Transition Fund's objective of advancing country-led institutional reforms and strengthening public institutions in Morocco and Tunisia. It aims at modernizing customs procedures, enhancing cooperation between national agencies, as well as improving the investment climate, sector competitiveness and tax transparency.

The project has been prepared in accordance with the World Bank's normal policies and procedures. It builds on several years of policy dialogue and analytic work on trade, competitiveness and tax transparency, which has been supported by Transition Fund member countries, notably through the MENA multi-donor Trust Fund.

Sincerely yours,

Joëlle Dehase Businger  
Acting Country Director  
Maghreb Department  
Middle East and North Africa Region



**GROUPE DE LA BANQUE MONDIALE**

Attachments:

- Transition Fund proposal (in English)
- Project brief (in English)
- Project brief (in Arabic)
- Endorsement letter by the OECD
- Supporting document by the OECD

Copy: Mr. Nasir Mahmood Khosa, Executive Director, World Bank  
*(Transmission by fax: 202 477 9052)*

Copies to:

**Mr. Aziz Ajbilou**  
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Cleared with and cc: Najy Benhassine, Practice Manager (GTCDR);  
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Cc: Lamrani (EDS06), Bridi; Businger; Arvis ; Raballand; Salhab; Seiderer; Malouche; Chauffour; Kulkaksiz; Devarajan; Rossignol; Rastogi; McLinden; Bessette; Kunaka; Liverani; Le Ber; Saez; Busch; Benkirane; Cuttaree; Al-Harazi; El-Azzazi; Djurhuus; Dumitrescu; Fanta; De Meneval; Abdaym, Bouchikhi; So Ting Fong; Alaoui, WBdocs.