

INVESTMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA >

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Albania affirm their common desire to encourage economic activities in the Republic of Albania which promote the development of the economic resources and productive capacities of the Republic of Albania. Recognizing that this developmental objective can be promoted through investment insurance (including reinsurance), loans and guaranties which are backed in whole or in part by the credit or public monies of the United States of America and administered by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation ("OPIC"), an agency of the United States of America, (or pursuant to arrangements between OPIC and private companies), the parties signatory hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1

As used in this Agreement, the term "Coverage" shall refer to any investment insurance, reinsurance or guaranty which is issued in accordance with this Agreement by OPIC, by any successor agency of the United States of America or by any other entity or group of entities, pursuant to arrangements with OPIC or any successor agency. In this Agreement, the term "Issuer" shall refer to OPIC and any

such successor agency, entity or group of entities to the extent of their interest as insurer, reinsurer, or guarantor in any Coverage, whether as a party or successor to a contract providing Coverage or as an agent for the administration of Coverage.

ARTICLE 2

(a) If the Issuer makes payment to any party under Coverage, the Government of the Republic of Albania shall, subject to the provisions of Article 3 hereof, recognize the transfer to the Issuer of any currency, credits, assets, or investment on account of which payment under such Coverage is made as well as the succession of the Issuer to any right, title, claim, privilege, or cause of action existing, or which may arise, in connection therewith.

(b) The Issuer shall assert no greater rights than those of the transferring party under Coverage with respect to any interests transferred or succeeded to under this Article. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the right of the Government of the United States of America to assert a claim under international law in its sovereign capacity, as distinct from any rights it may have as Issuer.

(c) The Issuer shall not be subject to regulation under the laws of the Republic of Albania applicable to insurance or financial organizations.

(d) Interest and fees on loans made or guaranteed by the Issuer shall be exempt from tax in the Republic of Albania. The Issuer shall not be subject to tax in the Republic of Albania as a result of any transfer or succession which occurs pursuant to Article 2(a) hereof. Tax treatment of other transactions conducted by the Issuer in the Republic of Albania shall be determined by applicable law or specific agreement between the Issuer and appropriate fiscal authorities of the Government of the Republic of Albania.

ARTICLE 3

To the extent that the laws of the Republic of Albania partially or wholly invalidate or prohibit the acquisition from a party under Coverage of any interest in any property within the territory of the Republic of Albania by the Issuer, the Government of the Republic of Albania shall permit such party and the Issuer to make appropriate arrangements pursuant to which such interests are transferred to an entity permitted to own such interests under the laws of the Republic of Albania.

ARTICLE 4

(a) Amounts in the lawful currency of the Republic of Albania, including credits thereof, acquired by the Issuer by virtue of such Coverage shall be accorded treatment by the Government of the Republic of Albania no less favorable as to use and conversion than the treatment to which such funds would be entitled in the hands of the party under Coverage.

(b) Such amounts and credits may be transferred by the Issuer to any person or entity and upon such transfer shall be freely available for use by such person or entity in the territory of the Republic of Albania.

(c) The provisions of this Article 4 shall also apply to any amounts and credits in the lawful currency of the Republic of Albania which may be accepted by the Issuer in settlement of obligations with respect to loans made by the Issuer for projects in the Republic of Albania.

ARTICLE 5

(a) Any dispute between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Albania regarding the interpretation of this Agreement or which, in the opinion of one of the Governments, involves a question of public international law arising out of any

project or activity for which Coverage has been issued shall be resolved, insofar as possible, through negotiations between the two Governments. If, at the end of six months following the request for negotiations, the two Governments have not resolved the dispute by agreement, the dispute, including the question of whether such dispute presents a question of public international law, shall be submitted, at the initiative of either Government, to an arbitral tribunal for resolution in accordance with Article 5(b).

(b) The arbitral tribunal for resolution of disputes pursuant to Article 5(a) shall be established and function as follows:

(i) Each Government shall appoint one arbitrator; these two arbitrators shall designate a president by common agreement who shall be a citizen of a third state and whose appointment shall be subject to acceptance by the two Governments. The arbitrators shall be appointed within three months and the president within six months of the date of receipt of either Government's request for arbitration. If the appointments are not made within the foregoing time limits, either Government may, in the absence of any other agreement, request the Secretary-General of the International Centre

for the Settlement of Investment Disputes to make the necessary appointment or appointments, and both Governments agree to accept such appointment or appointments.

(ii) The arbitral tribunal shall base its decision on the applicable principles and rules of public international law. The arbitral tribunal shall decide by majority vote. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(iii) During the proceedings, each of the Governments shall pay the expense of its arbitrator and of its representation in the proceedings before the arbitral tribunal, whereas the expenses of the president and other costs of arbitration shall be paid in equal parts by the two Governments. In its award, the arbitral tribunal may, in its discretion, reallocate expenses and costs between the two Governments.

(iv) In all other matters, the arbitral tribunal shall regulate its own procedures.

ARTICLE 6

This Agreement shall continue in force until six months from the date of receipt of a note by which one Government informs the other of an intent no longer to be

a party to the Agreement. In such event, the provisions of the Agreement with respect to Coverage issued while the Agreement was in force shall remain in force for the duration of such Coverage, but in no case longer than twenty years after the termination of the Agreement.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date on which the Government of the Republic of Albania communicates to the Government of the United States that its constitutional or other legal requirements with regard to this Agreement have been fulfilled.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at Washington on the 19th day of November, 1991, in duplicate.

For the Government of
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

For the Government of
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA




