



Guidance for the Use of Regional Development Objective Agreements to Public International Organizations

A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 308

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This reference provides the mandatory policy and procedures regarding the use of the Regional Development Objective Agreement (RDOAG).

Availability

An RDOAG may be used when:

- Funds to be obligated in the RDOAG have not already been obligated in any other manner;
- The entity to which funds will be obligated in a RDOAG is a regional Public International Organization (PIO) formally designated as a PIO under [ADS 308](#) and enumerated in the [ADS 308maa, List of Public International Organizations](#) maintained by DCS. A “regional PIO” is an entity composed principally of countries within a designated geographic region whose primary goals and objectives are focused on benefiting the member states in said geographic region, or any other PIO that GC designates as a regional PIO;
- The entity to which funds will be obligated in a RDOAG is not an entity to which any other ADS chapter applies (e.g., is not governed by [ADS 220](#), [ADS 302](#), [ADS 303](#), [ADS 305](#), [ADS 350](#), or [ADS 351](#));
- The RDOAG should contain one or more Development Objectives (DOs), along with priority Intermediate Results (IRs) and sub-IRs. The IRs and sub-IRs should describe the results necessary to achieve the intended outcomes at the DO and IR levels, respectively. The DOs, IRs, and sub-IRs should be linked to an Operating Unit’s approved strategy, such as a Regional Development Cooperation Strategy. See [ADS 201](#) which describes the process for developing DOs under a Country Development Cooperation Strategy;
- The RDOAG, prior to its clearance by GC/RLO, must include an explanation within the project design documents detailing why the RDOAG is the most appropriate modality for the type of activity envisioned;
- The RDOAG Template ([ADS 308mah](#)) is used; and
- All guidance in [ADS 308](#) for the use of PIO agreements is followed except as herein modified.

Other Considerations and Requirements for RDOAGs

1. Sub-obligations
 - Same entity

Sub-obligations to the RDOAG recipient must be accomplished by Implementation Letter (IL) and signed by the authorized AO. Such ILs must incorporate by reference the Standard Provisions from the RDOAG, as well as any other applicable PIO standard provisions from [ADS 308](#) cost-type agreements (see [ADS 308mab](#)) not already included in the RDOAG.¹ As with bilateral DOAGs, non-sub-obligating ILs may also be issued to the RDOAG recipient to furnish the RDOAG recipient with any additional information relating to the RDOAG or to notify the RDOAG recipient that USAID intends to sub-obligate funds under the RDOAG to a recipient other than the RDOAG recipient.

- Entities other than the RDOAG recipient

Sub-obligations to entities other than the RDOAG signatory/recipient are permissible, but must not be by IL. Instead, USAID must use separate agreements sub-obligating RDOAG-obligated funds appropriate for the entity/agreement type. Such separate agreements could include assistance awards or contracts or, if funds obligated in a RDOAG are sub-obligated to a bilateral/partner government, a Bilateral Project Agreement (BPA) (see [ADS 220](#)). If a BPA is used, all ILs issued under that BPA may only be non-obligating or incremental funding actions. However, USAID may submit a non-sub-obligating IL to notify the RDOAG recipient of its intent to sub-obligate funds to entities other than the RDOAG signatory/recipient.

Sub-obligations by USAID to cover USAID management, operational, administrative, and related program support within the scope, directly related to, and for the achievement of the RDOAG Development Objective(s) are permissible.

2. Other specific issues

a. Government-to-Government Assistance

Any funds obligated into an RDOAG and programmed through bilateral Government-to-Government Assistance (G2G) mechanism, as described in [ADS 220](#), are governed by applicable [ADS 220](#) and legal requirements (including any pre-financing assessments).

b. Determination of Project or Activity Payments and Amount of USAID Contribution

¹ Regardless of whether the RDOAG recipient or another entity receives the sub-obligation, once the sub-obligation agreement type has been chosen, the appropriate standard provisions and requirements should be included and adhered to. For example, if a fixed amount award is found to be the most appropriate mechanism to sub-obligate funds under the RDOAG, all the requirements and standard provisions for the fixed amount award would apply and adhered to by all parties under the sub-obligation.

FAA Section 110 contributions are required if funds obligated in an RDOAG are sub-obligated to a member state or partner government. See [ADS 350](#) and use Option 2 in **Section 3.2** of the RDOAG template or incorporate appropriate language in the sub-obligating instrument.

c. Length of Agreement

In order to ensure that DOs, IRs, and sub-IRs remain relevant and consistent with the Operating Unit's approved strategy, an RDOAG should generally not extend beyond five years. RDOAGs may be extended with approval of the RLO to have an overall life of agreement exceeding five years so long as consistent with the Operating Unit's strategy or necessary to provide a transition period to a new strategy.

d. Authorized Agreement Officers

Only Regional Bureau Assistant Administrators, Regional Mission Directors and **other principal officers** who have been specifically delegated 103.5.1(c)(1)(a) authority for RDOAGs are authorized to serve as AOs for RDOAGs. Any AO may execute sub-obligating documents under an RDOAG as authorized in 308.2 according to agreement type. For other, non-308 sub-obligating instruments, the authorized AO will be the AO/CO who has delegated authority pursuant to the relevant ADS chapter requirements.

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