

**AfDB's investment in the Blaise Diagne
International Airport, Senegal
U.S. Position
December 17, 2010**

The United States recognizes important positive developmental impacts generated by this project. However, the United States is concerned that the Summary Environmental Impact Assessment was not circulated 120 days in advance of the Board consideration and, therefore, abstains.

As noted during the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) discussion, the United States has concerns about developments in procurement reform, and given the magnitude of this project, would underscore the importance of transparent procurement. AfDB staff should closely monitor any and all procurements associated with this project.

Lastly, the project includes a request for a waiver given that the AfDB's enclave policy will be breached. Given the AfDB's limited experience with enclaves and their mixed track record, the AfDB should exercise caution in not exceeding this threshold.

In the past year, the ADB has provided considerable funding to Senegal's infrastructure spending (port, energy, toll road and now airport), and the Bank may wish to pause to observe implementation before pressing more new megaprojects in Senegal.