

## Press Release

**MicroCred congratulates Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank, who has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.**

New York, Paris, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2006.

In Oslo, on October 13th, Professor Muhammad Yunus was rewarded for his achievements in the fight against poverty. His actions are seen as essential to ensuring a lasting peace in some of the world's poorest regions.

MicroCred, an international investment company, which focuses on the creation and development of microcredit banks, is delighted to learn that the achievements of these institutions – such as those within the MicroCred group in Mexico and Madagascar – are finally being recognized.

MicroCred was set up in 2005 on the initiative of Arnaud Ventura, then CEO of PlaNet Finance. It includes among its founding shareholders *the International Finance Corporation* ( World Bank Group), *La Société Générale*, AXA and PlaNet Finance whose Advisory Board is chaired by Pr Yunus.

“MicroCred is aimed at developing the action implemented by Pr Yunus **in an innovative way by including the private sector** and investing jointly with banks and private investment funds to create and develop about fifteen microfinance companies and banks over the next 5 years; specially in Africa and the Middle East but also in Latin America and Asia. **In 2006, MicroCred invested in Mexico and Madagascar where less than 10% of the population have access to financial services and is planning to make new investments in 2007. These will be made in post-conflict countries and Sub Saharan Africa where access to microfinance is a stabilization factor and contributes efficiently to build lasting peace**”, explains Arnaud Ventura , Founding President of the Board of Directors of MicroCred .

### **About MicroCred:**

MicroCred is an investment company which is aimed at creating a group of companies and banks specialized in microfinance. MicroCred develops an innovative model which provides microentrepreneurs who are excluded from the financial sector with a wide access to financial services. MicroCred intends to create or to take stakes in 15 microfinance companies or banks by 2011.

PlaNet Finance, Société Générale, Axa Belgium and the International Finance Corporation are among the shareholders of MicroCred Holding.

### **For further information :**

[www.microcred.org](http://www.microcred.org)

[www.microcred.com.mx](http://www.microcred.com.mx)

### **Press Contact :**

Audrey Le Blanc

[aleblanc@microcred.org](mailto:aleblanc@microcred.org)

001 212 977 3552