

Africa Group I Constituency

Newsletter

November - December 2018



New Leadership of the Constituency

On November 1, 2018 Ms. Anne Kabagambe took over as Executive Director of Africa Group 1 Constituency at the World Bank Group (WBG). The new Alternate Executive Director is Dr. Taufila Nyamadzabo.



Ms. Anne Kabagambe, a Ugandan national has spent over 30 years in various leading roles in international development finance. Her background in international relations and public policy, as well as her experience as a member of

the senior management team in several organizations, has prepared her well for the new role of charting strategic direction and engagement for the 22 countries of Africa Group 1 Constituency within the WBG.



The Alternate Executive Director, **Dr. Taufila Nyamadzabo**, a Botswana national, also brings a wealth of experience to the leadership of the Constituency. At the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the

Republic of Botswana, he oversaw the crucial pillars within the Ministry, and helped to steer Botswana's economy in the right direction. Given his previous

role, the Constituency is assured of Dr. Nyamadzabo's strategic relevance to address the needs of the Constituency countries. The pair will present strategies and a framework aimed at enhancing the role and utility of the Office.

Office Priorities

Following consultations with the Governors prior to and during the 2018 WBG/IMF Annual Meetings in Bali, Indonesia, the Executive Director has set priority areas that the Office will focus on over the next two years. These include:

- Mobilizing maximum resources for the constituency countries.
- Facilitating re-engagement of transition countries with the WBG.
- Facilitate sharing of experiences between countries within the constituency.
- Focusing attention and leading on recurring issues.

These priorities reflect both the collective and respective needs of the 22 Constituency Countries to achieve their development objectives. The office will provide effective advocacy and take actions to facilitate increasing the flow of financial and technical resources to all our Constituents. To this effect, we will support and closely monitor the implementation of the historic IDA18 while working to build a case for more resources for IDA19 replenishment to meet the demands of our member countries. The successful

implementation of IDA18 will justify the commitment for more resources for IDA19. We shall continue the Office's policy to protect the voting power of the Constituency. The Office will continue facilitating the re-engagement of transition countries (Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.) with the Bank. In addition, the Office will aim to work closely with Sub-Saharan Africa Executive Directors to be a leading voice on the issues facing the continent.

The Office will promote cross country learning within the Constituency by facilitating the sharing of experiences among member countries. It will help secure opportunities for conversations and sharing of experiences given that many countries within the constituency face similar challenges. It will push to ensure platforms are created during major Bank events to share experiences.

We will also aim to be a leading voice within the Bank on the issues facing the continent by facilitating conversations, dialogue and actions in critical areas such as private sector development, mobilizing domestic resources, human capital development, and use of technology as a driver of the development process. The Office will also advocate for Africans within the WBG by encouraging recruiting, retentions, mentoring and promotions.

In measuring performance over the next two years for the Office, the Executive Director has defined three success factors: (i) the size of resources that can be mobilized for the Constituency Countries; (ii) the level of engagement within the Bank to change perception as well as to drive support for projects, programs and technical assistance for the Constituency Countries; and (iii) the ability to focus the conversations and to place issues of importance to Constituency on the WBG's agenda.

Zambia hosts the IDA18 Mid-Term Review and the Launch of the IDA19 Meetings

The Republic of Zambia hosted the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the 18th replenishment cycle of the

International Development Association (IDA18) from November 12-14, 2018 in Livingstone.



Discussions were organized around the following issues: (i) IDA18 operational delivery; (ii) Review of the Graduation Policy for IDA; (iii) IDA18 themes and policy commitments; (iv) proposed IDA19 strategic directions; and (v) IDA long-term financial sustainability.

Solid progress has been made in the delivery of the IDA18 lending volumes and policy commitments. Greater attention and focus was called towards impact and results on the ground. Out of the total funding envelope of US\$75.0 billion, IDA committed a record high of US\$30.2 billion in the first sixteen months of implementation, compared to US\$21.9 billion in the corresponding period of IDA17.

Five special themes of IDA18 will be retained in IDA19, while integrating emerging challenges, opportunities and interests, such as debt, disruptive technologies, human capital, and disability. A joint paper on Jobs and Economic Transformation, sponsored by 41 SSA countries, called for an elevation of commitments under this special theme and for the establishment of a strategy backed by sound analytics.

At the end of the meeting, the WBG welcomed the guidance received from participants and announced the roadmap for 2019. The next meeting will be held on the margins of the 2019 WBG/IMF Spring Meetings, at which participants will receive an update on operations and proposed policy amendments suggested at the MTR. This meeting would be followed by a June meeting in Tajikistan and two follow-up meetings in October in Washington D.C. and another in December 2019 at a location to be determined.

Board Approvals

The Board of Executive Directors of the WBG approved Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) for five Constituency Countries in 2018, including Ethiopia, Liberia, Seychelles, Somalia, and Tanzania.

The CPF for **Ethiopia** has two focus areas: promoting structural and economic transformation through increased productivity and building resilience and inclusiveness. As part of the CPF implementation, the Board approved a Development Policy Financing (DPF) of US\$1.2 billion for *Ethiopia Growth and Competitiveness Programmatic Development Policy Financing*. This is the largest DPF approved by the World Bank in Sub-Saharan Africa. For **Liberia**, the CPF has three pillars: strengthening institutions and creating an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable growth; building human capital to seize new economic opportunities and narrowing the infrastructure gap to foster equitable development nationwide. The CPF for **Seychelles** emphasized sustainable growth for shared prosperity and fostering inclusion and public-sector performance. The CPF for **Somalia** is geared toward supporting the Government in strengthening institutions to deliver services and restoring economic resilience and opportunities. The CPF for **Tanzania** focuses on enhancing productivity; accelerating equitable and sustainable growth; boosting human capital and social inclusion; and modernizing and improving the efficiency of public institutions.

The Law, Justice and Development Week

The Law, Justice and Development Week was held on November 5-9, 2018. This year, the focus was on “rights and protection”.

The week-long event was attended by Chief Justices and other members of the legal fraternity and discussed issues on human rights protection; empowering the economically disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; the impact of upholding rights and protection on development outcomes in fragile contexts; and how robust legal systems can reduce poverty and boost prosperity.



The Chief Justices from Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe visited the Constituency office and held a meeting with the Executive Director, Ms. Anne Kabagambe. The Executive Director shared her vision and outlined areas of close partnership with the offices of the Chief Justices. She highlighted the importance of close collaboration through the respective Ministries of Finance and Planning. The meeting identified several key areas of collaboration. These include capacity building and strengthening of the judicial systems; harnessing technology; improving the capacity of the judiciary; utilizing the IDA18 Refugee Sub-Window for mobile courts in refugee camps; and access to justice by women.

Ambassadors’ Lunch



On December 7, 2018, the Executive Director, Ms. Anne Kabagambe, hosted an Ambassadors’ Lunch attended by Constituency Ambassadors based in Washington D.C. The objective of the lunch was to introduce the new Africa Group 1 Constituency leadership and staff to the Ambassadors. The meeting succeeded in soliciting views from the Washington-based Ambassadors on future areas of collaboration.