

Changes to the World Bank Policy on Access to Information - Effective July 1, 2013

The Board of Executive Directors approved changes to the World Bank's Policy on Access to Information (AI) on April 3, 2013. These changes will take effect on July 1, 2013.

The changes to the AI policy pertain to the declassification of verbatim transcripts and statements of Executive Directors and staff prepared in the context of Board and Board Committee meetings.

Specifically, the changes address the following:

- (a) **Verbatim transcripts and statements of individual Executive Directors and staff prepared *before* July 1, 2013:**
 - (i) for such records that arise from Board and Board Committee meetings held as **Regular Sessions**, the records are eligible for declassification and public access 10 years after the date of the record, provided that the information contained within is not covered by one of the AI policy exceptions that is not eligible for declassification. These records may be subject to the Bank's prerogative to restrict access; and
 - (ii) for such records that arise from Board and Board Committee meetings held as **Executive Sessions and Restricted Executive Sessions**, the records are eligible for declassification and public access 20 years after the date on the record, provided that the information contained within is not covered by one of the AI policy exceptions that is not eligible for declassification. These records may be subject to the Bank's prerogative to restrict access.
- (b) **Verbatim transcripts and statements of individual Executive Directors and staff prepared *on or after* July 1, 2013:**
 - (i) for such records that arise from Board and Board Committee meetings held as **Regular Sessions**, the records are eligible for declassification and public access 10 years after the date of the record, provided that the information contained within is not covered by one of the AI policy exceptions that is not eligible for declassification. The Bank may exercise the prerogative to restrict access to these records for a period up to a *maximum of 20 years* after the date of the record; and
 - (ii) for such records that arise from Board and Board Committee meetings held as **Executive Sessions and Restricted Executive Sessions**, the records are eligible for declassification and public access 20 years after the date of the record, provided that the information contained within is not covered by one of the AI policy exceptions that is not eligible for declassification. These records are *not subject to the Bank's prerogative to restrict access*.

In addition, the changes also clarify that records of a Board or Board Committee meeting initially held as a Regular Session but subsequently converted into an Executive Session or a Restricted Executive Session are considered (as applicable) to be Board records of a meeting of an Executive Session or a Restricted Executive Session, as converted, in their entirety. The revised policy is available [here](#).

The changes to the AI policy are clearly aligned with the World Bank Group's commitment to greater transparency, accountability and access to information. The Bank has long been recognized for its leadership in openness and transparency. A more progressive Access to Information Policy furthers the Bank's commitment to development and the achievement of the World Bank Group's mission to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity.

For more information on the World Bank, please visit www.worldbank.org