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Toga Gayewea McIntosh
Executive Director

March 2010
The World Bank Africa Group I Constituency Newsletter is published quarterly by the Office of the Executive Director for Africa Group I.

Executive Director
Toga Gayewea McIntosh

Alternate Executive Director
Hassan Ahmed Taha

The Office of the Executive Director for Africa Group I Constituency acts as the resident representative for its member countries. The office protects the individual and collective interests of its member countries in World Bank Group affairs. The Office has a chair on the Board of the World Bank Group (IBRD/IDA, IFC and MIGA). It is one of the twenty-four chairs on the Board.

Executive Directors are responsible for the conduct of the general operations of the Bank and exercise all the powers delegated to them by the Board of Governors under the Articles of Agreement. Executive Directors consider and approve or reject IBRD loan and guarantee proposals, IFC investments, as well as IDA credits, grant and guarantee proposals made by the President. They also decide on polices that guide the Bank’s general operations. They are responsible for presenting to the Board of Governors at the Annual Meetings, an audit of accounts, an administrative budget, and an annual report on the Bank’s operations and policies as well as other matters. In shaping Bank policy, the Board of Executive Directors takes into account the evolving perspectives of member countries on the role of the Bank Group as well as the Bank’s operational experience and policy. The Executive Directors have Board sub-committees that monitor Bank Group operations. The sub-committees are serviced by independent evaluation and audit entities.

For Electronic or Bank Copies—see contact below:
Telephone: (202) 458-2105
Facsimile: (202) 522-1549
Email: Ckavuma@worldbank.org
Website: http://www.worldbank.org/eds14

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The World Bank Group (WBG) has embarked on a significant reform process. The reform is intended, among other things, to enhance the voice and participation of all developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The primary focus is strengthening collaboration and other substantive partnership interactions between the countries and the Bank in the development process. This initiative comes against the background of the increasing calls from developed and developing countries, civil society organizations and other advocacy groups for the WBG to become more relevant, effective and legitimate with a particular affinity for the development challenges of developing countries in general and Africa in particular.

Currently, the reform process is consultative, inclusive, and transparent; benefiting from wide-ranging expertise within and outside of the WBG. The dialogue is insightful and enriched with a cooperative spirit enhancing the image of the WBG as an institution capable and willing to confront the daunting challenges of change to reflect the realities of the Twenty First Century. While the envisaged reform is a work in progress, it is generally anticipated that if and when process is completed, the WBG would be virtually a more responsive, innovative and accountable institution. With respect to the African Constituency concerns, we all need to work as a team to ensuring that the WBG reform agenda embraces two critical elements. First, it should lead to the establishment of robust mechanisms, sensitive and responsive to Africa’s concerns and legitimate aspirations. Second, whatever the outcome, the WBG’s overarching mission – “to combat poverty and make it history” through a far more effective, equitable and transparent manner, should be adequately addressed.

Africa has a role to play in these regards. Countries must continue to improve on the level and substance of their engagements with the WBG individually and collectively as was forcefully expressed on our last edition. Equally so, as fledged out in our current feature story, our governments need to be vigilant and actively involved in shaping the trend and results of the reform process, particularly with respect to the enhancement of voice and participation. In this connection, our message is clear, and can be summed up in three inter-related policy imperatives. One, the onus of poverty alleviation and development must and should be Africa’s primary responsibility. The process, therefore, must be African-owned, African-driven and manifested by exemplary political commitment and a credible, feasible and flexible socio-economic results-oriented agenda. Two, in its engagement with the WBG, Africa, in concert, should be well positioned and more assertive in influen-
ing the direction and anticipated outcomes of the WBG development agenda with particular interest in formulating Africa’s poverty reduction policies and programs. Three, all efforts must be made to strengthen in-country capacities for our region to meaningfully contribute to and substantially benefit from a successfully reformed WBG.

Africa - Still the Dark Continent in 2010?

Satellite photo of the world at night
I. INTRODUCTION

The World Bank Group’s (WBG) relevance, significance and comparative advantage in the context of development is generally acknowledged. However, over the last decade increasing calls from many developed and developing countries for a comprehensive reform of the WBG has gained considerable momentum. The rationale for this momentum is the expressed imperative for the WBG to build upon its exemplary attributes with a focus on improving development effectiveness oriented towards achieving substantive sustainable results. This means stepping up and engaging in programs aimed at promoting enhanced governance, accountability, client-oriented ownership and increased cost efficiency. In providing the required framework and guiding principle, a call has been made for “creating a new WBG that is strategically focused where it can add value, has 21st century governance, remains financially strong and is more responsive, innovative and accountable”. It is within this context that the WBG has embarked on a reform agenda and process.

A critical aspect of this reform agenda is the enhancement of the “voice and participation” of developing and transition countries (DTC). “Voice and participation” refers to the extent DTC members of the WBG have equitable, transparent and proportional involvement in the decision-making process in terms of representation and inputs relative to other members. Generally, “voice and participation” has several dimensions among which are: (i) voting power and shareholding; (ii) effective representation at the Board; and (iii) responsiveness to the developing and transition countries views on development.

Our feature story highlights the salient issues being discussed that constitute the major elements for initiating and undertaking the “voice and participation” reform agenda. It also reviews the current status of decisions taken and the pertinent outstanding issues in the on-going discussions. Implications of the voice and participation reforms for Africa are worth noting, and are highlighted in the concluding section.

II. MAJOR ELEMENTS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE VOICE AND PARTICIPATION REFORM

ELEMENTS
The Voice and Participation Reform is being developed through a considerably transparent, consultative and inclusive process. At this stage, it is largely a work in progress with the intent to reach final agreement during the Spring Meetings in April, 2010.
The reform is a two-phased initiative. Phase I includes: (a) increasing DTC voting power in the IBRD from 42.6 percent to 44.1 percent by increasing Basic Votes to 5.55 percent of total votes, and allocating IBRD shares to sixteen DTCs whose voting power would be reduced by the proposed increase in Basic Votes; (b) promoting an increase in IDA Part II voting power through members’ subscription and voluntary financial support from donors for the poorest members; (c) adding an elected Executive Director for Sub-Saharan Africa on the WBG Boards; and (d) deepening responsiveness to DTC views on development. Related aspects of this phase are the strengthening of Board effectiveness and internal governance, including a merit-based and transparent selection process of the Bank’s President.

Phase II of the reform includes the development of an IBRD Shareholding Framework with a view to realigning the Bank’s shareholding among its members. The review is expected to identify mechanisms for realignment, the likely magnitude of any realignment and a process for regular review of IBRD shareholding in the future. It also includes IFC final decision on the dimension of voice as voting power in its particular context. This is necessary because, unlike the other institutions of the WBG, this dimension of the reform may have a different impact on IFC, its members, finances, functions and operations.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES
Anticipated outcomes of the Voice reform process, if and when completed may be summarized as follows:

- Enhanced Developing and Transition Countries’ (DTCs) voice on the World Bank Group Boards with an additional third chair for Africa.

- Increased voting power for DTC moving to parity with Developed Countries (DCs).

- An effective IBRD Shareholding Framework which takes into account variables such as economic weight, and recognition of member contributions to IDA and the WBG mandate.

- An agreed upon timing and requirement for IBRD and IFC Shareholding Review processes that would allow for more dynamism.

III. CURRENT STATUS OF THE REFORM

PHASE I: ON COURSE AND NEAR COMPLETION

The reform process is evolving, and as such, the status may change from time to time. Currently, however, the implementation of the first phase has commenced. DTC voting power is being increased from 42.6 percent to 44.1 percent. This is being done by the increase of Basic Votes to 5.5 percent of total votes and the allocation of IBRD shares to sixteen DTCs. These sixteen DTCs voting power would be reduced by the increase in Basic Votes. The amendment
of the IBRD Articles of Agreement necessary for the increase of Basic Votes has been approved by the Board of Governors and is pending acceptance by all members. Thus far, two-thirds of the total members, representing over 66 percent of total voting power, have accepted the amendment. It requires 85 percent of total voting power for the amendment to become effective. It is expected that the increased acceptance would be forthcoming.

In the context of IDA, its Part II members' voting power has increased from 40.1 percent in April 2008 to 45.59 percent as of March 2010. This has been achieved through members' subscriptions and the activation of the IDA Voice Trust Fund. There are however some eligible members in this category (IDA Part II) that have not taken their available and outstanding subscriptions. They are now being encouraged to do so. When the available subscriptions are taken, this could raise Part II shareholding in IDA to 48.3 percent.

The reconfiguration process of the three chairs allocated to Sub-Saharan Africa is progressing. Consultations are on-going and it is expected that during the Spring Meetings in April 2010, a formal status report would be discussed at the forthcoming African Caucus Bureau meeting and the reconfiguration process concluded. Other aspects of implementation involve budgetary allocation, the development of the reconfigured constituencies' governance arrangements, preparation of office space and staffing.

**PHASE II**

In the second phase, discussions are continuing on the development of an IBRD Shareholding Framework. Various implementing models and options were tabled and discussed extensively by both Management and the Board. The overall objective of the exercise is to move overtime towards equitable voting power between developed countries and DTCs. To achieve this objective a Framework is being discussed along with various mechanisms. One of such mechanisms is the use of a realignment process of IBRD shareholding through a selective capital increase by allocating additional shares to members based on selected criteria including economic weight, financial contributions and development contributions. Thus far, there has been no definitive decision on this aspect of phase II hoping, of course, that a decision will be reached at the Spring Meetings.

In the IFC context, a basic principle being considered is the alignment with IBRD shareholding applied broadly and flexibly regarding the increase of IFC Basic Votes to the same level as in IBRD post phase I and the acquisition of additional shares for subscription.

**IV. IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA [GROUP I CONSTITUENCY]**

In the current situation, it should be acknowledged that the reform, in itself, will not automatically translate into the anticipated positive results for national and regional development through the WBG involvement in Africa. What
is of critical essence now is how best African
countries, in general, and Africa Group I con-
stituency, in particular, can galvanize them-

selves to maximize the benefits from the re-
forms. This necessitates an enhanced engage-
ment of these countries with the World Bank
Group. In this context the following may be
considered: (a) developing a general policy
framework with explicit guiding principles
and actions reflecting the political economy
realities of the development challenges facing
the constituency and a specification of the
mode of engagement with the WBG; (b) re-
visiting the proposed Strategic Framework
Document developed in Zambia in September
2009 by a number of African countries on En-
hancing Africa Engagement with the WBG to
ensure that it is appropriately aligned with the
general policy framework; and (c) reiterating
the enhanced orientation of the ED's office to-
wards being increasingly proactive in identifying
and assessing the resources of the WBG, their
accessibility, relevance and other factors respon-
sive to the needs and concerns of the constitu-
ency as well as seeking its interests generally
through increased consultations and dialogue.

ED's Group Visits – Union of Comoros, Kenya
and Seychelles

A delegation of 5 Executive Directors and 3 Al-
ternates together with a representative from the
Corporate Secretariat arrived in the Union of Co-
moros Saturday 27th February 2010 as part of an
official visit to three Southern and Eastern Afri-
can countries, including Comoros, Kenya and
Seychelles. The main purpose of the visit was to
provide an opportunity to the delegation to share
information and assess first-hand the develop-
ment challenges and opportunities for the World
Bank Group in that region.

Union of Comoros (February 27—March 2,
2010)

The Executive Director, Mr. Toga Gayewea
McIntosh, joined his colleagues to visit the
Union of Comoros as the first stop of the
three-country visit. The objectives of the trip
were twofold, namely to: (i) engage Como-
ros’ top leaders in discussions about the
country’s priorities and development agenda,
(ii) develop a better understanding of the
country’s unique challenges as a small, fragile
island economy with high capacity con-
straints and the role of the World Bank
Group in supporting the country’s development goals. The visits were organized with a view to allow the Executive Directors to meet with a wide range of stakeholders, including Union and island government officials, project managers, members of the civil society, and representative of the private sector community. During this visit, the delegation met with His Excellency, the President Sambi, Vice-President in charge of Ministry of Finance, Governor of Moheli, Governor of Grande Comore, development partners, members of the civil society organizations and private sector. They also visited the school projects in Koni Ngani, and Lac Sale, Ylang Ylang distillery and rural roads financed by the Bank.

**Kenya (March 2—6, 2010)**

In Kenya, the principal objectives of the trip were to; (i) gain a better understanding of the country context, and (ii) assess the role of the World Bank Group in supporting the country’s development goals. The meetings were organized with a broad range of stakeholders to allow the Executive Directors to gather perspectives from a diversity of sources ranging from Government officials, project managers, representatives of the private sector, IFC clients, members of the diplomatic corps and the country office staff. The Honourable, Uhuru Kenyatta, EMP, MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance welcomed Mr. McIntosh and his delegation to the Republic of Kenya and expressed gratitude for his support in defending the interests of Kenya at the World Bank Group Board. ED and his delegation also paid a courtesy call on His Excellency, the Prime Minister, Raila Amollo Odinga, and thanked ED for his hard work in pushing the African development agenda forward. In a special roundtable meeting, the delegation also met with other key cabinet ministers to discuss Kenya’s development challenges and other sector issues. ED also took the opportunity to discuss matters relating to the Constituency, in particular the issue of the third African Chair at the World Bank Board. During the visit, the delegation also met with Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathi, who accompanied them to the Aberdare Forest and farms so that the delegation has a better appreciation of the impact of deforestation and climate change on Kenya’s natural resources. Other projects visited were; Primary School in Kibera Slum, Ndakaini Reservoir, Oserain Flowers Farm and the Olkaria II Geothermal Power Plant. The delegation also had fruitful discussions with the representatives of the Civil Society Organizations and the private sector. ED thanked the Kenyan authorities for their warm reception extended to him and his delegation and assured them of his continued support at the Board.

**Seychelles (March 7-10, 2010)**

The principal objectives of visiting the Republic of Seychelles were to (i) familiarize the EDs with the current issues, challenges and opportunities facing Seychelles, and (ii) learn about the recent re-engagement with the Bank, and prospective future role for the Bank in the Seychelles. The official visit started on Sunday 7th March.
He also expressed his appreciation and thanked the authorities for their warm hospitality extended to him and the delegation during the course of the visit. During the mission, the EDs were assisted by the Africa Country Team and Advisor, Peter Larose.

The Designated Minister and Minister of Finance, Danny Faure, and Governor of the Central Bank of Seychelles, Pierre Laporte welcomed and thanked the ED and his delegation for their special efforts to come the Seychelles as part of their Southern and Eastern African region. Minister Faure expressed his appreciation to the ED for his hard work and devotion at the Board of the World Bank Group. Discussions with the Minister of Finance, Governor of Central Bank, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Finance focused on the macroeconomic reform program and the National Debt Restructuring Plan for the country. The ED and his delegation paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency President James Michel, and Secretary of State, Jean Paul Adam. President Michel thanked the ED for his contribution, advice and valuable support for the Seychelles to be re-engaged with the World Bank Group, and noted that he has done a remarkable job for the country. Additional meetings were held with the Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Economic Reform, representatives of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, Seychelles Tourist Board, and Seychelles Tuna Cannery respectively. In recognizing the social and economic importance of small and medium-size businesses and the unique challenges that they face in the context of small state, the authorities would like to see the participation of IFC in its economic development agenda. ED commended the authorities for the economic turnaround following the macroeconomic reform and encouraged them to pursue with vigor the second generation reform program.

Executive Director’s Constituency Visits

Introduction
The Executive Director visited Malawi March 11-13 and Mozambique March 14-18 with two objectives in mind: to consult the authorities on a number of issues related to his work in the boards of the World Bank Group while at the same time familiarizing himself with the countries; and to (ii) visit some Bank-financed projects. Such visits also allow the ED to consult with Bank country staff and other key stakeholders.
Malawi (March 11-13, 2010)

In Malawi, the ED held consultations with the President of the Republic of Malawi, Ministers for Finance, Economic Planning, Health, Education, Agriculture and Energy. He also met members of the donor community and civil society.

In the peri-urban areas of Lilongwe, the capital city, the ED visited the Mtsiriza Water Systems and sanitation Project and a Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF) project helping rural communities with access to credit. The ED visited Dezda district where he saw an irrigation project and visited Dedza Boys secondary School.
Mozambique (March 14-18, 2010)

In Maputo, the ED held discussions with the Minister of Economic Planning, Deputy Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Bank of Mozambique. He then visited a Bank-funded library project in the city and the Municipality of Maputo. Unlike previous visits, the government also arranged for the ED to visit the port city of Beira where he saw the Beira Corridor Project and a Container Terminal Project.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Approval Date</th>
<th>Source of Funding</th>
<th>Amount (US$ million or equivalent)</th>
<th>Project Development Objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANGOLA</td>
<td>Local Development Project</td>
<td>March 18, 2010</td>
<td>IDA Credit</td>
<td>US$81.7m</td>
<td>To (a) address both territorial asymmetries and social disparities in accessing basic public goods, (b) to promote a diversified local economy aimed at improving social welfare, and (c) to strengthen local governments capacity to provide quality services to the poorest households.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETHIOPIA</td>
<td>Public Sector Capacity Building Program Support Project</td>
<td>March 23, 2010</td>
<td>IDA Credit</td>
<td>US$ 50m</td>
<td>To support the improvement of the efficiency and responsiveness of public service delivery at federal, regional and local levels, empowering citizens to participate more effectively in their own development agenda and promoting good governance and accountability.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETHIOPIA</td>
<td>Water Supply and Sanitation Project</td>
<td>March 30, 2010</td>
<td>IDA Credit</td>
<td>US$80m</td>
<td>To increase access to sustainable water supply and sanitation services, for rural and urban users, through improved capacity of stakeholders in the sector. This is an additional funding to cover the financial gap for 50 towns to meet the original project objective for an on-going project.</td>
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<td>Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>KENYA</td>
<td>Enhancing Agricultural Productivity Project (EAPP)</td>
<td>March 16, 2010</td>
<td>IDA Grant</td>
<td>US$280 m</td>
<td>To provide agricultural inputs to 150,000 poor and vulnerable farmers across the country by scaling up the government’s National Accelerated Agricultural Inputs Access Program (NAAIAP). The provision of agricultural credit through commercial banks and other financial institutions will be scaled up under the “Kilimo Biashara” program—a credit guarantee system for farmers and agro dealers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LESOTHO</td>
<td>Second Poverty Reduction Support Credit and Grant</td>
<td>March 30, 2010</td>
<td>IDAGrant</td>
<td>US$25.0 m</td>
<td>To implement key policy actions outlined in its Interim National Development Framework and in the Performance Assessment Framework agreed by the Government and the five external partners that have agreed to provide general budget support (GBS) to GOL.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOZAMBIQUE</td>
<td>Energy Development and Access Project</td>
<td>February 4, 2010</td>
<td>IDA Credit</td>
<td>US$80 m</td>
<td>To support the Government of Mozambique’s policy goals of economic development and poverty alleviation by increasing the number and quality of graduates at the undergraduate and graduate levels; to also strengthen the national research capacities to produce research outputs of relevance to the country’s strategic economic sectors.</td>
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<td>MOZAMBIQUE</td>
<td>National Decentralized Planning and Finance Project</td>
<td>March 30, 2010</td>
<td>IDA Credit</td>
<td>US$19.6 m</td>
<td>To support the Government of Mozambique’s policy goals of economic development and poverty alleviation by increasing the number and quality of graduates at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and improving the country’s national research capacity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOZAMBIQUE</td>
<td>Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST) Project</td>
<td>February 25, 2010</td>
<td>IDA Credit</td>
<td>US$40 m</td>
<td>To support the Government of Mozambique’s policy goals of economic development and poverty alleviation by increasing the number and quality of graduates at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and improving the country’s national research capacity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIGERIA</td>
<td>Proposed investment in Curro NEW</td>
<td>March 29, 2010</td>
<td>IFC</td>
<td>US$9.7 m</td>
<td>To create a network of 15 schools in South Africa, which will give it the scale to compete effectively in South Africa’s growing private education sector. The Project represents the first phase of Curro’s longer term plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIERRA LEONE</td>
<td>Biodiversity Conservation Project</td>
<td>January 21, 2010</td>
<td>GEF Trust Fund Grants</td>
<td>US$5m</td>
<td>To assist the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) in improving the management of selected priority biodiversity conservation practices. The objective will be achieved through the implementation of three components – 1: Strengthening of the National Framework for Biodiversity Conservation; 2: Conservation Site Planning and Management; and 3: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TANZANIA</td>
<td>Proposed Investment in Curro NEW</td>
<td>March 9, 2010</td>
<td>IDA Credit</td>
<td>US$12.1 m</td>
<td>To contribute to the growth and development of the Nigerian non-oil economy and support increased private sector participation in the Nigerian hospitality industry.</td>
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<td>TANZANIA</td>
<td>Housing Finance Project</td>
<td>January 20, 2010</td>
<td>IFC</td>
<td>US$13.3</td>
<td>To develop the housing mortgage finance market through the provision of medium and long-term liquidity to mortgage lenders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TANZANIA</td>
<td>Proposed Investment in Saza Makongo-losi Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZAMBIA</td>
<td>First Poverty Reduction Support Credit</td>
<td>March 30, 2010</td>
<td>IDA Grant</td>
<td>US$29 m</td>
<td>To (a) Preserve macroeconomic stability and to improve public sector performance, and b) support broad-based growth by improving the efficiency in the energy sector and reducing the cost of doing business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICA REGION</td>
<td>Proposed Investment in Macquarie Africa Infrastructure Investment fund</td>
<td>February 25, 2010</td>
<td>IFC</td>
<td>US$100m</td>
<td>To generate stable and long-term returns by taking significant minority and, where feasible, majority equity stakes through investments in a mix of new (greenfield and/or brownfield) projects and operating assets and companies in infrastructure and infrastructure-related sectors in Africa with a focus on SSA, and with exposure to any one country not to exceed 30%.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICA REGION</td>
<td>Proposed Investment in Heidelbergce-ment Africa</td>
<td>March 25, 2010</td>
<td>IFC</td>
<td>US$70 m</td>
<td>To increase the supply of locally produced cement in support of infrastructure development and the housing sector in the region; to increase competition and lower the pressure on foreign currency reserves in Togo, and to enhance operational efficiencies and cost competitiveness in Ghana, Liberia, and Togo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEST AFRICA REGION</td>
<td>Proposed Investments in Volta Re- sources, Inc.</td>
<td>March 1, 2010</td>
<td>IDA</td>
<td>US$13.2m</td>
<td>TO support the emerging mining industry in Burkina Faso, an IDA country whose significant mineral potential has remained relatively untapped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST AFRICA REGION</td>
<td>Proposed Investment in Ethos Capital VI, L.P.</td>
<td>March 4, 2010</td>
<td>IFC</td>
<td>US$30m</td>
<td>To indirectly provide equity capital, industry expertise, and management advice in a region where both are scarce and where private sector companies are expected to play a strong role in driving economic growth turnaround. In addition, IFC will support the ongoing expansion of an existing client beyond South Africa into Sub-Saharan Africa.</td>
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<td>World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings</td>
<td>April 24-25, 2010</td>
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<td>Africa Group I Constituency Meeting</td>
<td>May 26, 2010</td>
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<td>AfDB Annual Meetings</td>
<td>May 27–28, 2010</td>
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A person who is not disciplined cannot be cautioned.

- Haya Proverb (Tanzania)