



AFRICA GROUP I CONSTITUENCY

A Newsletter from the Office of the Executive Director

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March 2010

Toga Gayewea McIntosh
Executive Director

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

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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 policies 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.

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Message from the Executive Director



Mr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh
Executive Director

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 account-

able 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 influenc-

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

FEATURE STORY

Enhancing Voice and Participation in the World Bank Reforms: Implications for Africa

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 proc-

ess, 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 constituency, in particular, can galvanize themselves to maximize the benefits from the reforms. This necessitates an enhanced engagement 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 Enhancing 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 towards being increasingly proactive in identifying and assessing the resources of the WBG, their accessibility, relevance and other factors responsive to the needs and concerns of the constituency as well as seeking its interests generally through increased consultations and dialogue.



Executive Directors Visits to Eastern and Southern Africa

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

A delegation of 5 Executive Directors and 3 Alternates together with a representative from the Corporate Secretariat arrived in the Union of Comoros Saturday 27th February 2010 as part of an official visit to three Southern and Eastern African 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 development 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 Comoros' 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 constraints 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 Sambu, 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 Maathai, 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 Flower 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.

Executive Director's Visits Cont...

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, 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.

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.



Mr. McIntosh on arrival at Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove Hotel in Seychelles welcoming delegation of his Constituency

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.



Seychelles: Executive Directors at Marie-Antoinette Restaurant attending a lunch hosted by the Designated Minister and Minister of Finance, Honorable



Malawi: Inspecting sanitation project

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.



Malawi: World Bank supported Irrigation Project— ED listening to the chairman

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.



Malawi: Welcoming reception—Sanitation Project

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.



Mozambique—Beira Corridor Project—Presentation



Mozambique—listening to a presentation on Pro-Maputo Project



Approved Board Projects: January—March 2010

Country	Project Title	Approval Date	Source of Funding	Amount (US\$ million or equivalent)	Project Development Objective
ANGOLA	Local Development Project	March 18, 2010	IDA Credit	US\$81.7m	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.
ETHIOPIA	Public Sector Capacity Building Program Support Project	March 23, 2010	IDA Credit	US\$ 50m	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
ETHIOPIA	Water Supply and Sanitation Project	March 30, 2010	IDA Credit	US\$80m	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.

Approved Board Projects Cont...

Country	Project Title	Approval Date	Source of Funding	Amount (US\$ million or equivalent)	Project Development Objective
KENYA	Enhancing Agricultural Productivity Project (EAPP)	March 16, 2010	IDA Grant	US\$280m	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.
LESOTHO	Second Poverty Reduction Support Credit and Grant	March 30, 2010	IDA Grant	US\$25.0 m	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
MOZAMBIQUE	Energy Development and Access Project	February 4, 2010	IDA Credit	US\$80m	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.
MOZAMBIQUE	Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST) Project	February 25, 2010	IDA Credit	US\$40 m	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.
MOZAMBIQUE	National Decentralized Planning and Finance Project	March 30, 2010	IDA Credit	US\$19.6m	To strengthen the national system of planning and budgeting, with a specific focus on district level plan elaboration and implementation. Also to strengthen fiduciary systems at the local level and includes support to the Tribunal Administrativo (TA) and Inspeccio de Financas (IGF)

Approved Board Projects Cont...

Country	Project Title	Approval Date	Source of Funding	Amount (US\$ million or equivalent)	Project Development Objective
NIGERIA	Proposed investment in CAPIC Protea Nigeria	March 29, 2010	IDA	US\$12.1m	To contribute to the growth and development of the Nigerian non-oil economy and support increased private sector participation in the Nigerian hospitality industry.
SIERRA LEONE	Biodiversity Conservation Project	January 21, 2010	GEF Trust Fund Grants	US\$5m	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.
SOUTH AFRICA	Proposed Investment in Curro NEW	March 26, 2010	IFC	US\$9.7 m	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
TANZANIA	Housing Finance Project	March 9, 2010	IDA Credit	US\$40m	To develop the housing mortgage finance market through the provision of medium and long-term liquidity to mortgage lenders.
TANZANIA	Proposed Investment in Saza Makongolosi Gold	January 20, 2010	IFC	US\$13.3	To support on-going exploration work, pre-feasibility study and initial Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) of the SMP Gold.

Approved Board Projects Cont...

Country	Project Title	Approval Date	Source of Funding	Amount (US\$ million or equivalent)	Project Development Objective
ZAMBIA	Proposed Investment in Zambia National Commercial Bank Plc.	March 10, 2010	IFC	US\$25m	To establish long-term partnerships with systemic financial institutions in sub-Saharan Africa to finance growth and promote sustainable behavior in business practices across multiple projects.
ZAMBIA	First Poverty Reduction Support Credit	March 30, 2010	IDA Grant	US\$29 m	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.
AFRICA REGION	Proposed Investment in Macquarie Africa Infrastructure Investment fund	February 25, 2010	IFC	US\$100m	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 brown-field) 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%.

Approved Board Projects Cont...

Country	Project Title	Approval Date	Source of Funding	Amount (US\$ million or equivalent)	Project Development Objective
AFRICA REGION	Proposed Investment in Heidelbergcement Africa	March 25, 2010	IFC	US\$70 m	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.
WEST AFRICA REGION	Proposed Investments in Volta Resources, Inc.	March 1, 2010	IDA	US\$13.2m	TO support the emerging mining industry in Burkina Faso, an IDA country whose significant mineral potential has remained relatively untapped.
WEST AFRICA REGION	Proposed Investment in Ethos Capital VI, L.P.	March 4, 2010	IFC	US\$30m	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.

Upcoming Meetings

MEETING	DATE	VENUE
World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings	April 24-25, 2010	Washington, DC
Africa Group I Constituency Meeting	May 26, 2010	Cote d'Ivoire
AfDB Annual Meetings	May 27 –28, 2010	Cote d'Ivoire

A person who is not disciplined cannot be cautioned.

- Haya Proverb (Tanzania)

