

**FOR
AGENDA**

SM/03/69
Supplement 1

February 20, 2003

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: **A Review of the Fund's External Communications Strategy—Draft
Public Information Notice**

Attached for consideration by Executive Directors is the draft public information notice for the review of the Fund's external communications strategy (SM/03/69, 2/13/03), which is tentatively scheduled for discussion on **Wednesday, March 5, 2003**.

The staff proposes the publication of the paper after the Executive Board completes its discussion together with the PIN summarizing the Executive Board's discussion.

Questions may be referred to Mr. Hacche (ext. 37409) and Mr. Russell (ext. 37065) in EXR.

Att: (1)

Other Distribution:
Department Heads



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Public Information Notice

EXTERNAL
RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT

Public Information Notice (PIN) No. 03/??
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March [], 2003

International Monetary Fund
700 19th Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20431 USA

IMF Reviews Its External Communications Strategy

On March 5, 2003, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reviewed the IMF's external communications strategy.¹

Background

The discussion was the Board's third within five years on the IMF's external communications strategy. The first discussion, in July 1998, called for preserving and enhancing the IMF's credibility, including by providing more information to the public, extending the reach of IMF communications, and engaging critics more effectively. A second discussion, in February 2000, considered proposals to strengthen IMF external communications, including recommendations from outside consultants for the IMF to develop a strategy comprising a clearer message; sharper focus and improved coordination of the IMF's public output; and more proactive external communications.

The communications strategy has also been shaped by: (1) Board decisions to extend transparency policy by publishing staff country reports and many other Board documents, and Public Information Notices (PINs) after Board discussions; (2) the policy of encouraging and facilitating wide public consultation as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) process; and (3) by increased emphasis in the IMF's revised conditionality guidelines on national ownership of IMF-supported programs.

¹ The strategy encompasses all the IMF's external communications except those with officials of member countries and international organizations.

Public Information Notices (PINs) are issued, (i) at the request of a member country, following the conclusion of the Article IV consultation for countries seeking to make known the views of the IMF to the public (this action is intended to strengthen IMF surveillance over the economic policies of member countries by increasing the transparency of the IMF's assessment of these policies); and (ii) following policy discussions in the Executive Board at the decision of the Board.