

MASTER FILES
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**Summing Up by the Acting Chairman
Data Dissemination Standards - Progress Report to the Interim Committee
Executive Board Meeting 96/88
September 16, 1996**

Executive Directors were pleased that 34 member countries had now subscribed to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), with a good mix of industrial countries and developing and transition countries. They encouraged other members that were in a position to subscribe to do so at an early date. Directors looked forward to the opening of the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) scheduled for September 19, 1996.

Directors observed that there was likely to be considerable additional demand for technical assistance by members stemming from the data standards initiative. Responding fully to these needs would be a major challenge in light of the technical assistance needs already in the pipeline and the ongoing work on the General Data Dissemination Standards to which Directors attached importance. The additional technical assistance needs would need to be considered in formulating the Fund's budget and in establishing Fund technical assistance priorities. Some speakers thought that, to the extent feasible, member countries participating in the SDDS should be prepared to meet some of the costs of technical assistance themselves; others commented that work on the SDDS should not decrease the availability of technical assistance for countries that were not in a position to participate. Coordination with other multilateral and bilateral organizations was also needed to support technical assistance efforts. The staff was encouraged to pursue opportunities for additional financing, including those outlined in the staff paper. Some Directors also asked the staff to look into the potential for cost recovery from users of the DSBB.

Executive Directors agreed that it would be useful for the DSBB to have a hyperlink facility, enabling users to move directly from a country's metadata on the DSBB to actual country economic and financial data. They agreed with the staff proposal to introduce hyperlinks from the DSBB to country data sites on the Internet for countries that wish to have such links, while taking into account country-specific circumstances in setting a date for the provision of such hyperlinks.

