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April 10, 2000

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: **Tentative Timelines for Fund and World Bank Support for
Low-Income Member Countries in 2000**

Attached for consideration by the Executive Directors is a note on estimated timing of discussions by the Fund and World Bank Executive Boards on support for low-income member countries, which was prepared jointly by the staffs of the Fund and the Bank in consultation with the member countries concerned. This subject, together with the papers on HIPC Initiative—Draft Progress Report to the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee (EBS/00/60, 3/29/00) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers—Progress Report (SM/00/69, 3/29/00), is tentatively scheduled for discussion on Tuesday, April 11, 2000.

It is proposed to provide the attached table to the International Monetary and Financial Committee and Development Committee, and to post it on the Fund's external website. A similar proposal is being circulated to the World Bank Executive Board.

Mr. Boote (ext. 34508) and Mr. MacArthur (ext. 38775) are available to answer technical or factual questions relating to this paper prior to the Board discussion.

Att: (1)

Other Distribution:
Department Heads

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

**Tentative Timelines for Fund and Bank Support
for Low-Income Member Countries in 2000**

Prepared by the Staffs of the IMF and World Bank

Approved by Jack Boorman and Masood Ahmed

April 10, 2000

1. In response to requests by several Executive Directors in the runup to the Spring Meetings, the attached table provides estimated timing of discussions by the Fund and Bank Executive Boards on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Interim PRSPs, Country Assistance Strategies (CAS) (by the Bank Board), requests for new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) arrangements and reviews under existing PRGF arrangements (by the Fund Board), and HIPC Initiative decision and completion points.¹ The dates shown are estimates made by Fund and Bank staff in consultation with the member countries concerned.

2. These estimates are in some cases highly tentative—some are no more than guesses—and all are subject to change. PRSPs and Interim PRSPs are prepared by the countries, and their timing will necessarily reflect the countries' own circumstances and decisions. The estimates should not be seen to preempt countries' decisions. Furthermore, the timing estimates assume that countries' Fund- and Bank-supported programs remain on track, and that understandings are reached on new programs without major interruptions. Experience indicates, however, that some and perhaps many of these dates will unavoidably slip, and the timing of new programs is particularly subject to delay.

¹ The timing for HIPC Initiative decision and completion points is identical to that in "HIPC Initiative—Background Note on Timetable" (March 29, 2000), except for Mali where the original completion point and enhanced decision point are now projected to take place in July rather than June, because some measures are now expected to take place later than had been projected.

3. Fund and Bank staffs have received a number of requests for timing information from donors, international institutions, and civil society. These groups are seeking guidance in planning for their own efforts to participate in work to develop country PRSPs and coordinating with their support for the countries. While recognizing that the publication of these estimates of timing may lead to unrealized expectations, the staffs recommend that this information be made public to support the PRSP process and as part of the general effort towards greater transparency. Staffs therefore propose to post the attached table on the external web sites of the Fund and Bank, with the caveats from paragraph 2 prominently noted (as shown). While there are risks, the process may also help make observers aware that the timetables are subject to a variety of influences and cannot be predicted reliably.

4. Staffs also intend to forward this table to the Development Committee and International Monetary and Financial Committee.

Note: These estimates are in some cases highly tentative and all are subject to change. PRSPs and Interim PRSPs are prepared by the countries. The estimates shown have been prepared by Bank and Fund staffs in consultation with the country authorities concerned, but ultimately the timing of PRSPs and Interim PRSPs will necessarily reflect the countries' own circumstances and decisions. Furthermore, the timing estimates assume that countries' Fund- and Bank-supported programs remain on track, and that understandings are reached on new programs without major interruptions. Experience indicates, however, that some and perhaps many of these dates will unavoidably slip, and the timing of new programs is particularly subject to delay.

Possible Country Timelines for Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), Interim PRSP, Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF), and HIPC Decision and Completion Point in 2000
(Possible Timing of Board Discussions as Estimated by Bank and Fund Staff in Consultation with the Country Authorities)

Country	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Country	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec
Albania	S	I, R	...	...	Lesotho	...	...	...	I, F
Armenia	...	I, F	...	S, R	Macedonia, FYR	...	S	I, F	...
Azerbaijan	...	I, F	...	R	Madagascar	...	R	...	I, R
Benin	...	I, F, D	S	...	Malawi	...	I, F	...	S, R, D
Bolivia	I, D	R	P, C	S	Mali	...	...	I, R, D, C	S
Bosnia and Herzegovina	...	S	...	...	Mauritania	D	R	...	P, R
Burkina Faso	...	P, S, R, D, C	...	R	Moldova	...	...	I, F	...
Cambodia	S	...	R	I, R	Mongolia	...	R	I, S, F	...
Cameroon	...	S, R	I, D	F	Mozambique	R	I, S, D	...	R
Central African Republic	...	I, R	...	R	Nepal	...	...	I, F	...
Chad	I, S, R	P, D	Nicaragua	...	...	R	I, R, D
Côte d'Ivoire	I, R, D	Niger	...	I, F	...	R
Djibouti	...	R	...	I, R	Pakistan	...	...	I, S, R	...
Ethiopia	I, F	Rwanda	...	...	R	I, R, D
Gambia, The	...	R	...	I, R	Sao Tomé and Príncipe	...	I, F	...	R
Georgia	I, F	...	Senegal	...	I, R, D	R	...
Ghana	S	I, R	...	R	Sierra Leone	...	...	...	I, F
Guinea	...	I, R, D	...	R	Sri Lanka	...	...	I, F	...
Guinea-Bissau	I, F, D	R	Tajikistan	...	...	I, R	R
Guyana	I, R, D	...	Tanzania	...	I, F, D	P, R	...
Haiti	I, F	Uganda	D	P, S, R, C	...	R
Honduras	...	I, R, D	...	R	Vietnam	...	...	I, S, F	...
Kenya	I, F	...	Yemen, Republic of	...	I, R	R	...
Kyrgyz Republic	...	R	I, R	P	Zambia	...	I, R	...	R, D
Lao, PDR	I	F					

I -- interim PRSP	F -- new PRGF 3-year arrangement	D -- HIPC decision point under enhanced Initiative	S -- Country Assistance Strategy
P -- PRSP	R -- review of PRGF arrangement, or new annual arrangement	C -- HIPC completion point, enhanced or original Initiative	

