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Statement by the Managing Director on
Issuance of Papers for Executive Board Agenda
Executive Board Meeting 94/12
February 15, 1994

At the recent luncheon meeting with Executive Directors, I spoke of the need for the Fund to be in a position at all times to react quickly to meet the needs of members. In that context, I emphasized that the existing guidelines on circulation periods for papers issued for Executive Board agenda should be reviewed.

While these guidelines, which were established in 1982 and refined last year, have served the institution well as a framework for the orderly conduct of our work, I believe that a shortening of the circulation periods, particularly with respect to country-related documents, is needed and feasible in view of the continuing rapid advances in communications technology. Therefore, while encouraging the staff to continue to work toward the objective of circulating papers for the Board's agenda well in advance of the dates implied under the guidelines for circulation periods, I believe that the following revisions in the guidelines are called for, on the understanding that waivers of the circulation periods will be exceptional.

For all major policy papers, the normal circulation period will be not less than three weeks.

For other policy items, including operational papers, and all staff reports for Article IV consultations and requests for, or substantive reviews of, use of Fund resources, the normal circulation period will be not less than two weeks.

For other--mainly routine--papers, the circulation period will also be two weeks but may, as at present, be somewhat shorter without necessarily requiring a waiver.

It is important to avoid that the shorter periods are perceived as new "baselines" from which further shortening could be sought. I am therefore instructing the staff, in planning its work, to treat the revised periods as outside limits.

