

**IMMEDIATE  
ATTENTION**

EB/CAR/08/3

June 25, 2008

To: Members of the Committee on the Annual Report  
(Mr. Fried, Chairman; Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Mozhin,  
Mr. Brown, Mr. Rice)

From: Patrick Cirillo, Acting Committee Secretary

Subject: **Revised Draft of the 2008 Annual Report**

On behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Fried

Attached for the information of Committee members and other Executive Directors is a revised draft of the *2008 Annual Report*, which consists of (i) revised chapters 1 through 5 of the 2008 Annual Report (redlined version); (ii) the clean version of the revised chapters; and (iii) a list of materials to be included on the CD-ROM.

Revised chapters 1 through 5 take into account the comments and suggestions made by Committee members and other Executive Directors on the draft that was circulated on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 (EB/CAR/08/2).

The Message from the Managing Director that will preface the Report, the transmittal cover letter under which the 2008 Annual Report will be distributed to the Board of Governors, and the CD-ROM contents will be circulated at a later stage.

In the absence of additional comments by **noon on Wednesday, July 2, 2008**, the *revised Draft 2008 Annual Report* will be transmitted to the Executive Board for lapse-of-time approval.

**No hard copy to follow.**

Att: (2)

Other Distribution:  
Members of the Executive Board  
Heads of Departments



**International Monetary Fund**

**Annual Report  
2008**

**June 24, 2008**



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The IMF's financial year is May 1 through April 30.

The unit of account of the IMF is the SDR; conversions of IMF financial data to U.S. dollars are approximate and provided for convenience. On April 30, 2008, the SDR/U.S. dollar exchange rate was US\$1 = SDR [ ], and the U.S. dollar/SDR exchange rate was SDR 1 = US\$[ ]. The year-earlier rates (April 30, 2007) were US\$1 = SDR 0.65609 and SDR 1 = US\$1.52418.

“Billion” means a thousand million; “trillion” means a thousand billion; minor discrepancies between constituent figures and totals are due to rounding.

As used in this *Annual Report*, the term “country” does not in all cases refer to a territorial entity that is a state as understood by international law and practice. As used here, the term also covers some territorial entities that are not states but for which statistical data are maintained on a separate and independent basis.

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## 1 1. Overview: refocusing the IMF

2 ~~The global economy faced a number of challenges during much of FY2008. As problems in~~  
3 ~~the U.S. subprime mortgage market spilled over into other credit markets, growth prospects~~  
4 ~~slowed, the IMF and its 185 member countries faced a difficult economic environment, with~~  
5 ~~turmoil in financial markets, slowing growth in a number of the advanced economies; at the~~  
6 ~~same time, and soaring world prices for food and oil surged, adding to inflationary pressures~~  
7 ~~worldwide and creating severe hardships for many low-income countries.~~<sup>1</sup> These  
8 ~~developments lent even greater urgency to the refocusing of the Fund begun in FY2006~~  
9 ~~under the leadership of the IMF's Executive Board—in accordance with.~~ Guided by the  
10 Fund's core mandate ~~of safeguarding global macroeconomic and financial stability—~~  
11 ~~responded to these developments immediately, strengthening the Fund's analysis of financial~~  
12 ~~sector issues; recommending policies that could help member countries mitigate the impact~~  
13 ~~of turmoil in financial markets on their economies; and offering policy advice to low-income~~  
14 ~~countries on macroeconomic management in the face of rising costs for food and fuel as well~~  
15 ~~as financial assistance to members in this group experiencing balance of payments problems~~  
16 ~~triggered by the higher cost of imports.~~<sup>2</sup>

17 ~~FY2008 was also a year of reform in the IMF, as the Executive Board moved ahead~~  
18 ~~with measures that will enable the IMF to better meet the evolving needs of its member~~  
19 ~~countries, keep pace with changes in the global economy and financial markets, and adjust to~~  
20 ~~a reduced budgetary envelope., accelerating and deepening the reforms begun in FY2006~~  
21 ~~under the medium term strategy (MTS); the refocusing is designed to enable the Fund to~~  
22 ~~better meet the evolving needs of its member countries, keep pace with changes in the global~~  
23 ~~economy and financial markets, and adjust to a reduced budgetary envelope. Considerable~~

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<sup>1</sup>Chapter 2 describes developments in the global economy and financial markets in FY2008.

<sup>2</sup>As set out in the its Articles of Agreement, the Fund is charged with, among other things, safeguarding the stability of the international monetary system and promoting sustainable economic growth. ~~It does this through its surveillance activities—monitoring its member countries' economic policies as well as developments in the international economy and financial and monetary system, and providing policy advice. (Surveillance is described in detail in Box 3.1.) The Fund can also provide its member countries with financial and technical assistance.~~ The Articles of Agreement can be found on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm).

1 progress has already been made on a number of fronts.<sup>3</sup> Emphasizing its analysis of financial  
2 sector issues, member countries with policy advice imports and financial assistance to those  
3 experiencing balance of payments problems

4 At the same time, the Executive Board pushed forward with the reforms launched in  
5 FY2006 under the medium term strategy (MTS), modernizing the Fund's operations and  
6 policies and overhauling its governance structure and income model in response to changes  
7 in the global economy, the evolving needs of its member countries, and budgetary  
8 constraints.<sup>4</sup>

9 TEarly in FY2008, the Board One of the first major actions taken by the Board in  
10 FY2008 was the adoption of a new, comprehensive framework for bilateral surveillance  
11 focused on identifying exchange rate policies that could jeopardize macroeconomic and  
12 financial stability at both the national and the global levels.<sup>5</sup> The Board In response to  
13 developmentsthe turmoil in financial markets, it further strengthened surveillance by  
14 concentrateded on analyzing the spillovers between individual economies and the global  
15 economy, and the linkages between financial markets and the real economy. It also took steps  
16 to improve the Fund's governance structure, agreeing on a significant package of quota and  
17 voice reforms designed to realign the quota shares of member countries with theircountries'  
18 relative economic weight in the global economy and to enhance the voice and participation  
19 and voice of low-income countries in the Fund's decision making. Another landmark  
20 achievement of FY2008 was the Board's agreement on a new income and expenditure  
21 framework that will enable the Fund to put its finances in order.

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<sup>3</sup>For an update on the progress made toward the Fund's key strategic objectives, see CD-Box 1.1 on the CD-ROM.

<sup>4</sup>As set out in its Articles of Agreement, the Fund is charged with, among other things, safeguarding the stability of the international monetary system and promoting sustainable economic growth. It does this through its surveillance activities—monitoring its member countries' economic policies as well as developments in the international economy and financial and monetary system, and providing policy advice. (Surveillance is described in detail in Box 3.1.) The Fund can also provide its member countries with financial and technical assistance. The Articles of Agreement can be found on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm).

<sup>5</sup>Surveillance—monitoring member countries' economic policies as well as developments in the international economy and financial and monetary system, and providing policy advice—is at the core of the Fund's mandate. Surveillance is described in detail in Box 3.1. The Fund can also provide its member countries with financial and technical assistance, as described in Chapter 4.

1 These and other activities of the Board are described in greater detail in this chapter  
2 and the chapters that follow. In FY2008, the Board took steps to further strengthen the Fund's  
3 surveillance work, including by adopting a new, more comprehensive framework for bilateral  
4 surveillance and placing greater emphasis on the linkages between individual national  
5 economies and the global economy, and between financial markets and the real economy.  
6 Understanding these linkages is essential to improving responses by governments and  
7 international organizations to financial crises. The Board also moved forward with  
8 improvements to the Fund's governance structure, agreeing on a significant package of quota  
9 and voice reforms designed to realign quota shares with countries' economic weight in the  
10 global economy and enhance the participation and voice of low income countries. The  
11 package was adopted by the Board of Governors on April 28, 2008. Another landmark  
12 achievement of FY2008 was the Board's agreement on a new income and expenditure  
13 framework that will enable the Fund to put its finances in order. On the expenditure side, the  
14 Board identified savings that will reach approximately \$100 million annually in real terms by  
15 FY2011. On the income side, the Board proposed changing the Fund's income model from  
16 one that relies primarily on lending to one that generates funds from a range of sources.  
17 Under a proposed amendment of the Articles of Agreement approved by the Board of  
18 Governors on May 5, 2008, the investment authority of the Fund will be expanded, allowing  
19 the Fund to generate revenues from an endowment to be created with profits from limited  
20 gold sales. These and other activities of the Board are described in greater detail in this  
21 chapter and the chapters that follow.

## 22 SURVEILLANCE

23 The IMF's surveillance activities are anchored in bilateral surveillance—the oversight of  
24 economic policies in member countries to ensure that members comply with their obligations  
25 under the Articles of Agreement and that their policies contribute to the stability of the  
26 international monetary and financial system. In early FY2008, after a year-long review of the  
27 1977 Decision on Surveillance over Exchange Rate Policies, the Executive Board adopted a  
28 new framework for bilateral surveillance. The 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance  
29 provides more complete guidance both to the Fund in the conduct of surveillance and to  
30 member countries in the conduct of exchange rate policies, but without creating new  
31 obligations for members. An important innovation is the 2007 Decision's introduction of es

1 the concept of external stability as an organizing principle of surveillance. While the 1977  
2 Decision enjoined members to avoid exchange rate manipulation for specific purposes, the  
3 2007 Decision recommends that members avoid exchange rate policies that result in external  
4 instability, regardless of their original purpose. It thus captures exchange rate policies that  
5 have proven over time to be a major source of instability. The Board viewed it encompasses  
6 both the current and the capital accounts of the balance of payments and thus covers, among  
7 other things, the potential risks posed by exchange rate misalignments and volatility in  
8 international financial flows. Executive Directors generally viewed the adoption of the  
9 Decision as an important underpinning starting point infor the Fund's efforts to discharge its  
10 surveillance responsibilities effectively and in an evenhanded manner.<sup>6</sup>

11 ~~One of the key challenges facing the IMF's member countries today is financial~~  
12 ~~globalization. At the same time, financial globalization offers many opportunities to~~  
13 ~~countries in a position to benefit from it. As an international organization with near-universal~~  
14 ~~membership, the Fund provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the issues~~  
15 ~~raised by financial globalization, and there has been growing acknowledgment of the need~~  
16 ~~for the Fund to serve as a center of excellence on financial issues.~~ During FY2008, the Board  
17 devoted considerable attention to the turmoil in international financial markets, as reflected  
18 in its discussions of the *World Economic Outlook* (WEO) and the *Global Financial Stability*  
19 *Report* (GFSR), the IMF's primary vehicles for multilateral surveillance (see Chapter 3). The  
20 impact of the turmoil on global stability and growth was a central topic of the April 2008  
21 WEO, while the April 2008 GFSR analyzed the impact on the international financial system  
22 and assessed the potential for spillovers, examining real and financial transmission channels  
23 and providing advice on short-term measures member countries could take to mitigate the  
24 impact of the turmoil on their economiesit.

25 ~~In April 2008, Executive Directors also reviewed, in April 2008, the IMF~~  
26 ~~staff's discussed an~~ initial assessment of the events in financial markets ~~prepared by IMF~~  
27 ~~staff~~, broadly supporting its preliminary findings and recommendations. The Board's  
28 discussion of the assessment covered risk-management practices related to structured finance

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<sup>6</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Adopts New Decision on Bilateral Surveillance Over Members' Policies," PIN 07/69, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm).

1 products; the valuation of such products and the role and design of credit ratings for them, as  
2 well as accounting and disclosure practices; crisis and emergency liquidity management,  
3 including by central banks; and the regulation and prudential oversight of banks and other  
4 financial entities.<sup>7</sup> While recognizing that events were still evolving at the time of the  
5 discussion, Executive Directors underlined the importance for Fund surveillance of analyzing  
6 the causes of the turmoil and drawing lessons from it ~~for Fund surveillance~~, and encouraged  
7 staff to continue to work closely ~~and proactively~~ with national authorities, international  
8 bodies, and market participants. In addition, a new methodology for distinguishing between  
9 vulnerabilities and crisis risk in emerging market economies was developed during the year,  
10 and the Spring 2008 Vulnerability Exercise focused on the impact of the financial market  
11 turmoil on these economies.

12 Given the increasingly important role played by ~~s~~ Dealing with the implications of the  
13 activities of sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) in the international ~~for~~ monetary and financial  
14 stability system, the Executive Board, also falls within the IMF's mandate for surveillance  
15 and ensuring the efficient functioning of the international monetary system. In its March  
16 2008 discussion of such funds ~~in April 2008~~, ~~the Board~~ considered that the IMF was well  
17 placed to facilitate and coordinate the development of best-voluntary principles and practices  
18 for SWFs, them, in collaboration with other organizations. The IMF is providing the  
19 secretariat for an international working group, composed of representatives of 25 member  
20 countries, that is tasked with developing a common set of voluntary principles for SWFs by  
21 the 2008 Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. This initiative was welcomed by  
22 the International Monetary and Financial Committee, the main advisory body of the IMF's  
23 Board of Governors, in its Communiqué of April 12, 2008.<sup>8</sup>

24 To further strengthen the framework within which the IMF conducts surveillance, the  
25 Executive Board began discussing the design of the Triennial Surveillance Review in April  
26 2008, The Review ~~which~~ is expected to ~~lead to the adoption of~~ include a Statement of

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<sup>7</sup>See “The Recent Financial Turmoil—Initial Assessment, Policy Lessons, and Implications for Fund Surveillance,” the paper discussed by the Board, which can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF’s Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf).

<sup>8</sup>The Communiqué, PR 08/78, can be found in Appendix III on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2008/041208.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2008/041208.htm).

1 Surveillance Priorities ~~by the time of the 2008 Annual Meetings of the Fund and the World~~  
2 ~~Bank.~~

3 The Fund's surveillance activities during FY2008 are described in detail in Chapter 3.

#### 4 PROGRAM SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

5 ~~As the needs of the IMF's members evolve, t~~The Executive Board continually ~~inues to~~  
6 reviews ~~and update~~ the IMF's financing facilities, capacity-building activities, and the other  
7 ~~programs and instruments through which the IMF provides assistance to member countries at~~  
8 ~~the Fund's disposal and adjusts them as the latter's needs change. In FY2008, both emerging~~  
9 ~~market and developing countries continued to grow robustly, despite the slowdown in some~~  
10 ~~advanced economies and the turmoil in financial markets.~~

11 The *emerging market economies'* demand for IMF lending has declined sharply over the past  
12 few years, as they reaped the benefits of their own improved policies, which have resulted in  
13 stronger economic fundamentals, and benign market conditions. These economies, as a  
14 group, continued to grow strongly in FY2008, despite the slowdown in the advanced  
15 countries, and appeared resilient to the turmoil in financial markets. However, vulnerabilities  
16 remain, particularly in emerging market countries heavily dependent on large capital inflows  
17 for financing current account deficits. The emphasis of the IMF Board in these countries has  
18 thus shifted to the analysis of financial sector risks, and macro-financial linkages, provision  
19 of and advice and technical assistance in strengthened debt-management practices, and  
20 development of a liquidity or crisis-prevention instrument—such as a rapid access line or a  
21 financial stability line—for countries integrating into global capital markets in the event they  
22 experience a sudden reversal of capital inflows. ~~—A new methodology for distinguishing~~  
23 ~~between vulnerabilities and crisis risk in emerging market countries has been developed, and~~  
24 ~~the Executive Board is pushing forward in its exploration of the modalities for possible crisis~~  
25 ~~prevention instruments.~~

26 The Executive Board is also taking steps to deepen the IMF's engagement with *low-*  
27 *income countries*, which is evolving as countries' economies grow and mature. There, with  
28 is growing greater emphasis on providing advice on policy responses to capital inflows,  
29 commodity price swings (including for food and oil), financial market development, and debt  
30 sustainability, among other things. One of the most serious challenges facing policymakers in

1 low-income countries in FY2008 was the soaring cost of food and fuel imports, which  
2 threatened poverty reduction efforts and the low-income countries' ability to achieve the  
3 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The IMF moved rapidly to help  
4 vulnerable members assess the implications of rising prices for their fiscal policy, balance of  
5 payments, and income, and convened a task force to coordinate the Fund's response to the  
6 crisis. At a briefing in April 2008, Executive Directors generally approved the task force's  
7 work program, supporting the provision of policy advice to low-income members adversely  
8 affected by higher food and fuel prices, as well as financial assistance, through both existing  
9 and new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility arrangements and the Exogenous Shocks  
10 Facility, to countries suffering balance of payments problems. Executive Directors also  
11 encouraged Fund staff to cooperate with other international organizations working on  
12 measures to alleviate supply constraints.

13 Another measure to assist low-income countries in their efforts to reduce poverty and  
14 reach the MDGs was the Executive Board's approval. In this context, the Fund is focusing on  
15 its core areas of expertise—macroeconomic policies and institutions that support the stability  
16 necessary for sustained growth and poverty reduction (see Chapter 4)—and strengthening its  
17 collaboration with the World Bank in a number of areas through the Joint Management  
18 Action Plan (see Chapter 5).

19 In FY2008, of changes, the Executive Board introduced changes to making the  
20 framework for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative more flexible. To  
21 reduce delays in making debt relief available to HIPCs with protracted arrears, for example,  
22 the Board determined that performance under a Staff-Monitored Program meeting certain  
23 standards could count toward the track record of sound policies countries need to establish to  
24 reach the so-called decision point, when they receive commitments of debt relief from the  
25 international community (and may start receiving interim debt relief) pending further  
26 economic reforms. Liberia was the first country to benefit from these changes to the  
27 framework (see Box 4.1). The Board also considered a new framework for providing more  
28 effective capacity-building and financial assistance to so-called fragile states (states such as  
29 post-conflict countries, whose economic and social performance is impaired by weak  
30 governance, limited administrative capacity, social tensions, and a tendency to political

1 instability), and called on management to prepare operational proposals that reflect the  
2 Board's views and the views of potential recipients and donors for discussion in FY2009.:

3 ~~And as soaring food and oil prices in 2008 complicated policymaking and threatened~~  
4 ~~the low-income countries' poverty reduction efforts and ability to achieve the Millennium~~  
5 ~~Development Goals by 2015, the IMF took immediate steps to help vulnerable members~~  
6 ~~assess the implications of rising prices for their fiscal policy, balance of payments, and~~  
7 ~~income. At a briefing in April 2008, Executive Directors generally approved the work~~  
8 ~~program of a Fund task force convened to coordinate the Fund's response to the crisis. They~~  
9 ~~supported both the provision of policy advice and financial assistance to countries adversely~~  
10 ~~affected by high food and fuel prices and cooperation with other international organizations~~  
11 ~~working on measures to alleviate supply constraints. Directors noted the need to pay attention~~  
12 ~~to preserving debt sustainability in countries that have benefited from debt relief under the~~  
13 ~~HIPC and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiatives.~~

14 The Executive Board is ~~also~~ taking steps to make delivery of the Fund's *capacity-*  
15 *building assistance*—technical assistance (TA) and training—to member countries more  
16 efficient and cost-effective. It is emphasizing more rigorous prioritization and greater  
17 integration of TA and training~~these activities~~ with surveillance and lending, ~~as well as~~  
18 heightened collaboration with other donors, and increased external funding to leverage the  
19 IMF's own resources. It is also considering charging graduated fees according to recipient  
20 countries' per capita income. Many improvements in the Fund's capacity-building activities  
21 have already been implemented in the past few years, including relying more heavily on the  
22 regional technical assistance and training centers, having the Fund's area departments take  
23 the lead in setting TA strategies in coordination with country authorities, introducing  
24 quantitative performance indicators for TA, and mobilizing increased donor funding for  
25 training.

26 The IMF's role in, and support for, emerging market and developing countries  
27 is~~Technical assistance and training provided by the IMF are~~ described in detail in Chapter 4.

## 28 GOVERNANCE, FINANCES, AND ORGANIZATION

29 Following two years of extensive discussions, the Board of Governors approved on April 28,  
30 2008, an important package of reforms of the Fund's governance that will, ~~in particular,~~

1 increase the voice and representation of emerging market and low-income countries.<sup>9</sup> The  
2 package, which delivered more than the Board of Governors committed to in its Resolution  
3 of September 18, 2006, ~~includes sets out a simpler and more transparent~~ quota formula that is  
4 simpler and more transparent than the five-formula system it replaces and; calls for ad hoc  
5 quota increases for 54 members to realign their quota shares with ~~members' their~~ relative  
6 weight and role in the global economy. The package also includes; an amendment providing  
7 for a tripling of basic votes<sup>10</sup> to increase the voice of low-income countries (the first increase  
8 in basic votes since the Fund was established); creating a mechanism to ensure that the ratio  
9 of total basic votes to total voting power remains constant in the event of future quota  
10 increases; and authorizing a second Alternate Executive Director for Executive Directors  
11 elected by a large number of members, which in the current circumstances will benefit the  
12 two African chairs on the IMF's Executive Board. The Board of Governors' Resolution  
13 represents a major step forward in the modernization and restructuring of the Fund to better  
14 reflect the changing realities of the global economy. ~~Some of the changes agreed by the~~  
15 ~~Executive Directors and approved by the Board of Governors in April 2008 were the first~~  
16 ~~such changes in the governance structure of the Fund since it was founded.~~ The proposed  
17 amendment on the increase in basic votes and the second Alternate Executive Director will  
18 enter into force once three-fifths of the Fund's members having 85 percent of the total voting  
19 power have accepted it. The ad hoc quota increases will become effective after the proposed  
20 amendment has entered into force and require each relevant member's consent to, and  
21 payment of, its quota increase.

22 The Board also reached agreement on a new income and expenditure framework ~~for~~  
23 ~~the IMF that is expected;~~ to put ~~its the IMF's~~ finances on a sounder footing. On the  
24 expenditure side, the Board identified approximately \$100 million in savings to be achieved  
25 over the next three fiscal years through reductions in both staff and non-staff costs, and set  
26 out how a leaner, refocused institution will better serve its membership. On the income side,

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<sup>9</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Recommends Reforms to Overhaul Quota and Voice," Press Release 08/64, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm). The Report of the Managing Director to the IMFC on IMF Quota and Voice Reform can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF's Web site: [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4242](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4242).

<sup>10</sup>As set out in the IMF's Articles of Agreement, each member was originally allotted 250 basic votes plus one vote per SDR 100,000 of its quota.

1 the Board of Governors approved on May 5, 2008, a proposed amendment to expand the  
2 investment authority of the Fund, which, to become effective, requires the acceptance of  
3 three-fifths of the Fund's members having 85 percent of the total voting power.<sup>11</sup> As part of  
4 the new income model, the Executive Board also supported a proposal to create an  
5 endowment funded with profits from the sale of a limited part of the Fund's gold. All  
6 Executive Directors have indicated either that they are ready to vote in favor of a decision to  
7 sell a limited portion of the Fund's gold, or that they will seek legislative approval to vote in  
8 favor of such a decision.<sup>12</sup> ~~Moreover, the Executive Board approved resuming annual~~  
9 ~~reimbursements of the General Resources Account in respect of the expenses incurred by the~~  
10 ~~Fund in administering the PRGF-ESF Trust.~~

11 In parallel with the changes agreed in principle to the Fund's income and expenditure  
12 framework, the Board amended the terms of reference for its Budget Committee, to enable  
13 the Committee to consider the income and the expenditure sides of the budget together, in an  
14 integrated framework.

15 The IMF's communications strategy was also reviewed by the Executive Board in  
16 FY2008. The Board welcomed the efforts being made to better integrate the Fund's  
17 operations with its communications in building support for the Board's reform agenda. As  
18 part of this strategy, the Fund is increasingly shifting to Web-based and multimedia  
19 technologies and tailoring its outreach to key audiences of opinion leaders. It is also  
20 broadening its communications-outreach by systematically producing key materials in  
21 languages other than English that are heavily used in the Fund's work, and refocusing its  
22 publishing program.

23 The IMF's institutional transparency continues to be high. In FY2008, the Fund  
24 published its third annual update on the implementation of its transparency policy, indicating

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<sup>11</sup>See "IMF Board of Governors Approves Key Element of IMF's New Income Model," Press Release 08/101, on the CD-ROM or on the Fund's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr08101.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr08101.htm).

<sup>12</sup>~~Approval by the U.S. Congress is needed before the U.S. Executive Director can vote in favor of gold sales.~~ See "IMF Managing Director Strauss-Kahn Applauds Executive Board's Landmark Agreement on Fund's New Income and Expenditure Framework," Press Release 08/74, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0874.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0874.htm). The Report of the Managing Director to the IMFC on a New Income and Expenditure Framework for the IMF can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF's Web site: [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4245](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4245).

1 that, even though publication is voluntary, the overwhelming majority of country documents  
2 and policy papers are published.

3 The Board also continued to strengthen the Fund's risk-management framework  
4 during FY2008. It welcomed the Advisory Committee on Risk Management's update at an  
5 informal Board briefing in January with a call for greater prioritization in the risk-  
6 management framework and more consideration of risks stemming from misreporting by  
7 members. Also in January, in a briefing to the Board, the External Audit Committee  
8 indicated satisfaction with the Fund's internal and external audit processes and encouraged  
9 the Fund to take steps to make its financial statements clearer, implement a whistleblower  
10 policy, and adopt a more formalized incident-reporting process.<sup>13</sup>

11 As part of its efforts to formalize the framework for IMF accountability, in FY2007,  
12 the Board called on Fund management to produce implementation plans for Board-endorsed  
13 recommendations in the Independent Evaluation Office's (IEO) assessments of Fund  
14 activities and, in FY2008, to issue periodic monitoring reports on the state of  
15 implementation. Three implementation plans have been produced so far; they cover the  
16 Board-endorsed recommendations in the IEO's evaluations of the IMF and aid in sub-  
17 Saharan Africa, the Fund's advice on exchange rate policies, and structural conditionality in  
18 Fund-supported programs. The first periodic monitoring report, which was issued in FY2008,  
19 covered recommendations from IEO evaluations that were discussed by the Board before the  
20 new formalized framework was put in place.

21 Turning its attention to sharpening the focus of its own work, in FY2008 the Board  
22 approved the recommendations of a working group of Executive Directors that was convened  
23 to examine the structure and mandate of Board committees and amended the terms of  
24 reference of a number of these committees accordingly. Notable among the changes  
25 approved was the broadening of the Budget Committee's mandate, as mentioned above, and  
26 the establishment of a Committee on Liaison with the World Bank and Other International  
27 Organizations, which is charged with keeping the Board informed of developments at other  
28 institutions whose work also involves promoting economic stability and growth.

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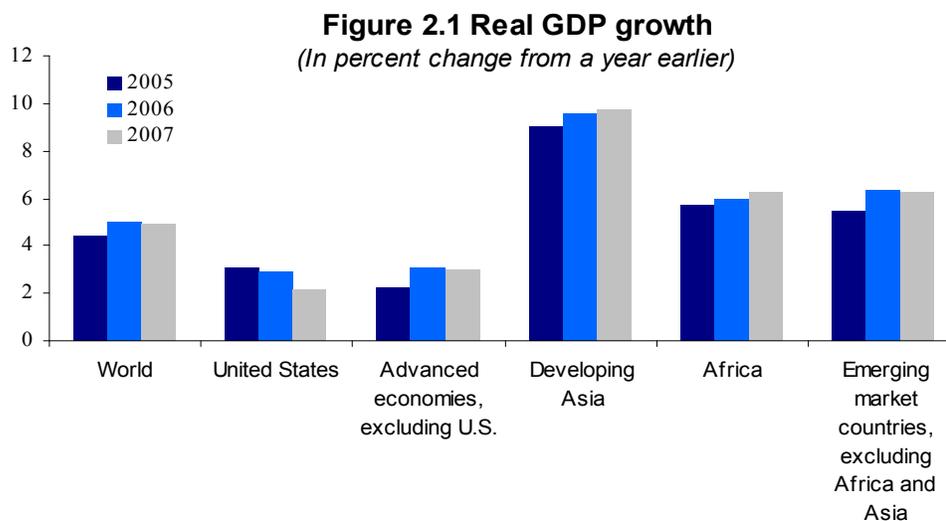
<sup>13</sup>In June 2008, the IMF launched an "integrity hotline," which will allow individuals inside and outside the Fund to raise concerns, on a confidential basis, about possible staff misconduct.

- 1 More detail about the Fund's governance, finances, and organization can be found in
- 2 Chapter 5.
- 3

## 2. Developments in the global economy and financial markets

The course of the global economy in FY2008 was shaped by the interaction of three powerful forces: an escalating financial crisis slowed growth in some of the advanced economies, growth in emerging [market](#) and developing economies continued at a brisk pace, and inflationary pressures intensified throughout the world, fueled in part by soaring commodity prices.

Overall, global GDP measured at purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates increased by 4.9 percent in 2007—well above trend for the fourth consecutive year (Figure 2.1). From the fourth quarter, however, activity decelerated in the advanced economies, particularly in the United States, where the crisis in the subprime mortgage market affected a broad range of financial markets and institutions. Although growth in emerging [market](#) and developing economies also slowed beginning in the fourth quarter of 2007, it remained robust, by historical standards, across all regions.



15

Foreign exchange markets were also affected by developments in financial markets. The real effective exchange rate of the U.S. dollar declined sharply from mid-2007, as foreign investment in U.S. securities was dampened by the weakening of U.S. growth prospects and expectations of interest rate cuts. The currencies of a number of countries that have large current account surpluses—[notably for example](#), China and oil-exporting countries

20

1 | in the Middle East—continued to be ~~tightly~~-managed. The main counterpart of the dollar's  
2 | depreciation has been an appreciation of the euro, the yen, and other floating currencies, such  
3 | as the Canadian dollar and some emerging market currencies.

4 |         The sharp increase in prices for primary commodities, particularly for food and oil,  
5 | pushed up headline inflation in virtually all of the Fund's member countries, with spillover  
6 | effects into core inflation, especially in emerging market economies. Surging food prices  
7 | have compressed real income, especially in countries for which food represents a larger share  
8 | of consumption baskets. While oil exporters have benefited from record oil prices, some net  
9 | oil importers have seen their trade balances deteriorate and growth prospects weaken.

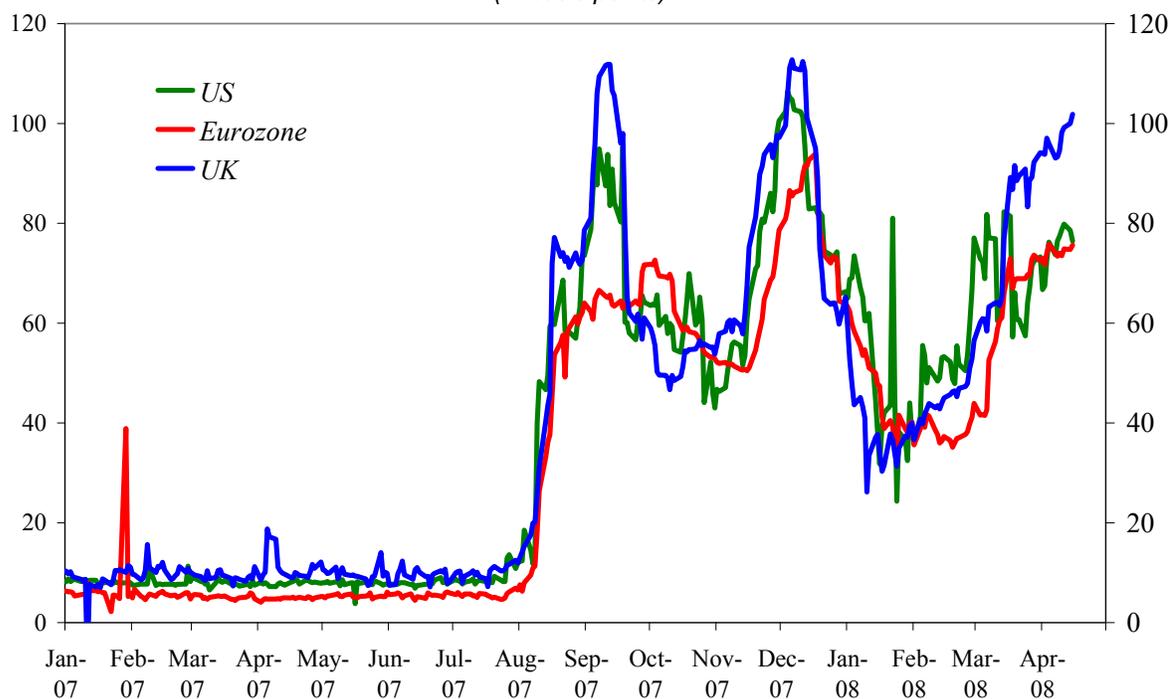
#### 10 | **ADVANCED ECONOMIES**

11 | Spillovers from the credit deterioration in the U.S. subprime mortgage market led to a full-  
12 | blown liquidity crisis in term-funding interbank markets in August 2007. By October 2007,  
13 | key central banks had begun taking aggressive policy actions, including providing liquidity  
14 | to troubled institutions, that helped calm markets temporarily. However, pressures rekindled  
15 | and intensified toward the end of 2007 as major financial institutions began to report  
16 | substantial losses, notably from exposures to securities related to subprime mortgages.  
17 | Market deterioration was compounded by signs that the U.S. economy was slowing. The  
18 | crisis continued to spread as systemic concerns were exacerbated by a deterioration of asset  
19 | credit quality, a drop in the valuation of structured credit products, and a lack of market  
20 | liquidity accompanying a broad deleveraging in the financial system.

21 |         While the United States remained the epicenter of the crisis, financial institutions in  
22 | other advanced economies were also affected because of exposure to structured credits and—  
23 | to varying degrees—weaknesses in prudential supervision and in the risk-management  
24 | systems of financial institutions. In response to unfolding events, major central banks in the  
25 | United States and Europe began to play a pivotal role in containing systemic risk, providing  
26 | large-scale access to short-term funding through various existing and newly created facilities  
27 | as private banks retrenched from interbank markets, and becoming key counterparties in  
28 | term-funding markets as nonbank financial institutions retreated. Sovereign wealth funds also  
29 | played an important and timely role in containing market strains, contributing substantial  
30 | amounts of capital to major financial institutions. Nonetheless, financial systems were still

1 experiencing considerable stress as the IMF's financial year came to a close, with continuing  
 2 strains in interbank markets, wide credit spreads, and leveraged investors selling assets under  
 3 illiquid market conditions (Figure 2.2).

**Figure 2.2 Three-month LIBOR spreads to OIS**  
 (In basis points)



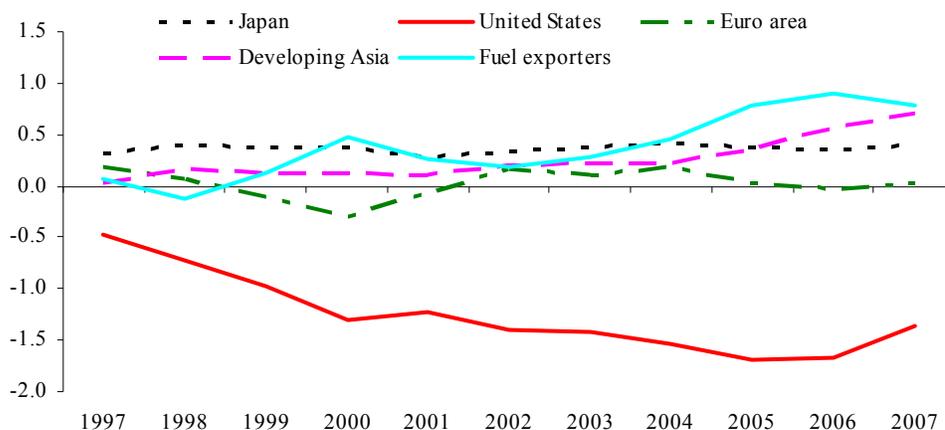
4

5 Note: OIS denotes overnight index swap.

6 Central banks in the advanced economies found themselves caught—to different  
 7 degrees—between rising inflation pressures and slower growth prospects, and striking the  
 8 right balance depended on country or regional circumstances. A number of central banks  
 9 eased monetary policy, most dramatically in the *United States*, where the U.S. Federal  
 10 Reserve lowered the federal funds rate by 300 basis points between August 2007 and April  
 11 2008. The pace of activity in the United States declined sharply in the fourth quarter of 2007,  
 12 and consumption and business investment softened markedly as sentiment soured and  
 13 lending conditions tightened. Growth in 2007 was only 2.2 percent, down from 3 percent in  
 14 2006, and fell further, to about 1 percent, in the first quarter of 2008 as the correction in the  
 15 U.S. housing market led to a contraction of residential investment and household  
 16 consumption slowed markedly. Rising oil prices contributed to the dampening of

1 consumption while boosting 12-month headline inflation to more than 4 percent in late 2007  
 2 and early 2008. The weakening of growth prospects in the United States relative to its trading  
 3 partners and expectations of interest rate cuts dampened foreign investment in U.S.  
 4 securities, putting downward pressure on the dollar. The dollar's depreciation vis-à-vis the  
 5 euro, the yen, and other floating currencies, such as the Canadian dollar and some emerging  
 6 market currencies, boosted net exports, the one area of strength in the U.S. economy, and the  
 7 current account deficit of the United States moderated somewhat, to 5.3 percent of GDP in  
 8 2007. (Figure 2.3 shows current account balances for different countries and regions as a  
 9 percentage of world GDP.)

**Figure 2.3 Current account balance**  
 (In percent of world GDP)



10

11 For most of 2007 and in early 2008, activity in the *advanced European economies*  
 12 continued to expand at a robust pace. Strong domestic demand was fueled by steady  
 13 employment growth and buoyant investment. The euro area as a whole recorded annual  
 14 economic growth of 2.6 percent in 2007, close to the rapid pace achieved in 2006, while  
 15 growth in the United Kingdom registered a strong 3.1 percent increase despite strains in the  
 16 banking sector. In the first quarter of 2008, euro area growth accelerated to almost 3 percent,  
 17 notwithstanding deteriorating consumer and business sentiment in response to financial  
 18 sector dislocation, the impact of rising oil prices on real disposable income, euro  
 19 appreciation, and a weakening export market. The Bank of England responded to weaker

1 growth prospects by lowering interest rates, but the European Central Bank kept policy rates  
2 steady.

3 *Japan's* economy remained largely resilient to the global slowdown through the first  
4 quarter of 2008. GDP grew at 2.1 percent in 2007, before accelerating to 3.3 percent in the  
5 first quarter of 2008, led by robust net exports and business investment. Japan's external  
6 surplus remained large. Business activity appeared to be slowing in the second quarter of  
7 2008, however, and the Bank of Japan kept interest rates steady.

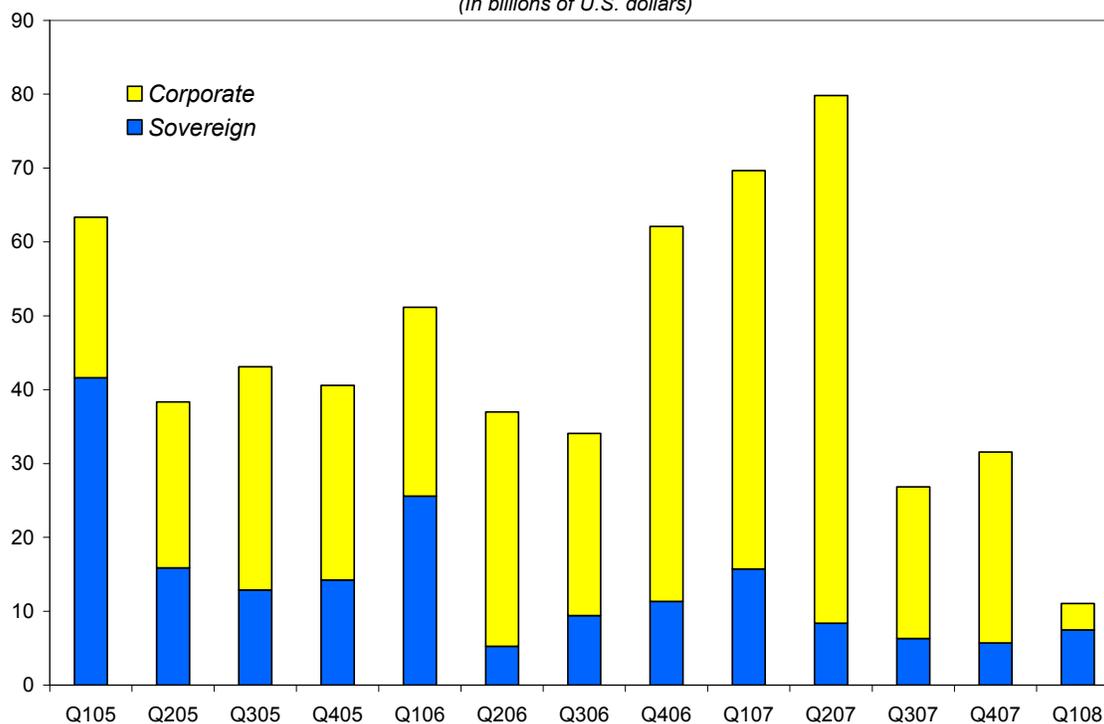
### 8 | **EMERGING MARKET AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES**

9 Throughout FY2008, financial conditions in most emerging market countries continued to  
10 benefit from those countries' improved macroeconomic fundamentals and stronger public  
11 sector balance sheets. However, some countries—notably those in emerging Europe<sup>1</sup> where  
12 domestic credit growth had been fueled by external funding and large current account deficits  
13 needed to be financed—came under market pressure. While emerging market sovereigns  
14 remained broadly resilient to the financial turbulence in mature economies, and bank lending  
15 continued to be strong through the fourth quarter of 2007, emerging market corporate bond  
16 issuance slowed sharply in the third quarter of 2007 and remained subdued in early 2008,  
17 while the cost of funding rose (Figure 2.4).

---

1 | <sup>1</sup>As used in Fund publications, this term includes Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, and Turkey.

**Figure 2.4 Emerging market external bond issuance**  
(In billions of U.S. dollars)



1

2 Growth in *emerging Europe* moderated by almost a full percentage point, to 5.7  
3 percent, in 2007 but exceeded growth in the advanced European economies for the sixth  
4 consecutive year. In most of the emerging European countries, growth continued to be driven  
5 by buoyant domestic demand, which again substantially outpaced production in 2007. As a  
6 consequence, the region's overall current account deficit widened to 6.7 percent of GDP.  
7 Demand continued to be supported by strong credit growth fueled by capital inflows and—in  
8 many countries—vigorous wage growth, as labor market conditions tightened further.  
9 Inflation pressures increased, especially toward year-end, because of rising food and energy  
10 prices and increasing labor costs. Most central banks in emerging market economies  
11 continued to tighten monetary policy in response to building inflationary pressures.

12 Real GDP growth was sustained at 8.5 percent in the *Commonwealth of Independent*  
13 *States*<sup>2</sup> in 2007, as high commodity prices, expansionary macroeconomic policies, strong

<sup>2</sup>The group formed in 1991 by 12 of the former Soviet republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

1 capital inflows during most of the year, rapid credit growth, and rising asset prices fueled  
2 strong growth in domestic demand.

3 Growth in *emerging Asia* remained strong throughout 2007, although with some signs  
4 of softness, especially in early 2008. External surpluses continued to be large. Growth was  
5 led by China, where output expanded by 11.4 percent (year over year) in ~~the second half of~~  
6 2007, driven by consumption, strong investment growth, and net exports. ~~The renminbi~~  
7 ~~continued to be tightly managed.~~ Growth in India slowed modestly, to 8.5 percent (year over  
8 year) in the second half of 2007 as consumption cooled in response to tighter monetary  
9 policy, although investment continued at a brisk pace. The strength of domestic demand in  
10 the region, combined with rising food and energy prices, contributed to a buildup of inflation  
11 pressures in a number of countries.

12 Economic activity in *Latin America and the Caribbean* grew by a robust 5.6 percent  
13 in 2007, slightly stronger than in 2006. The U.S. slowdown dampened growth in neighboring  
14 Mexico, but growth remained high in Central America and in commodity-exporting South  
15 American countries while accelerating markedly in Brazil, amid sustained declines in real  
16 interest rates and strong employment. Increased domestic demand has been the main driver  
17 of growth in the region. Current account surpluses have declined, and inflation has  
18 accelerated, driven by high capacity utilization in some countries and by rising food prices.

19 Building on the largest period of sustained economic growth since independence, the  
20 pace of economic activity in *sub-Saharan Africa* accelerated to 6.8 percent in 2007, led by  
21 very strong growth in oil-exporting countries and supported by robust expansion in the  
22 region's other economies. In non-oil-exporting countries, activity was boosted by domestic  
23 demand and investment in particular, the payoff from improvements in macroeconomic  
24 stability and the reforms undertaken in most countries.

25 Growth in the *Middle East* also remained strong, reaching 5.8 percent in 2007.  
26 Although increases in oil production were limited, high world oil prices supported greater  
27 government spending in exporting countries and strong expansion of credit to the private  
28 sector. Despite the growth of domestic spending and imports, the large current account  
29 surpluses in the oil-exporting countries narrowed only slightly—to about 22.8 percent of  
30 GDP—as higher oil prices boosted export revenues; the currencies of these countries

1 | continued to be pegged or tightly managed. Growth was even stronger in some of the non-  
2 | oil-exporting~~other~~ countries in the region, spurred by trade, financial spillovers from oil-  
3 | exporting countries, and domestic reforms. Inflation pressures rose considerably in the Gulf  
4 | Cooperation Council (GCC)<sup>3</sup> countries because of strong domestic demand, rising food  
5 | prices, supply constraints in the real estate market leading to higher rents, and interest rate  
6 | cuts (the latter to match developments in major advanced economies, as required under the  
7 | GCC countries' pegged exchange rate regimes).

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| <sup>3</sup>Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

### 3. Fostering macroeconomic and financial stability and growth through surveillance

Surveillance is at the core of the IMF's mandate. The IMF is responsible, under its Articles of Agreement, for overseeing the international monetary system to identify any vulnerabilities that could undermine its stability. It fulfills this responsibility in part by monitoring the macroeconomic policies of its 185 member countries and providing analysis and policy advice tailored to each member's specific circumstances (referred to as bilateral surveillance) and monitoring economic conditions and developments in international capital markets and assessing the global effects of major economic and financial developments, such as oil market conditions or external imbalances (multilateral surveillance). These activities are supplemented by the Fund's surveillance of regional institutions that conduct monetary and economic policy for groups of countries bound together in formal arrangements, such as currency unions (regional surveillance; see Box 3.1).

---

#### **Box 3.1 How the Fund conducts surveillance**

*Bilateral surveillance.* When a country joins the IMF, it makes commitments under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement<sup>1</sup> to pursue policies conducive to orderly economic growth and price stability and to avoid manipulating exchange rates for unfair competitive advantage. It also commits to providing the IMF with accurate and timely data about its economy. The IMF is mandated by Article IV to oversee members' compliance with these obligations, which it does through ongoing surveillance over members' economic policies. In addition to maintaining contact with the national authorities from its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the IMF sends staff teams to each member country once a year, in most cases. (Informal staff visits often take place between these formal visits, known as Article IV consultations.) During an Article IV consultation, the IMF team analyzes economic and financial data and discusses with government and central bank officials economic developments since the previous consultation, as well as the country's exchange rate, monetary, fiscal, and financial sector policies, and other policies with a direct impact on domestic and external stability.<sup>2</sup> The team may also meet with legislators and nongovernmental parties, such as trade unions, academics, and financial market participants. It prepares a summary of its findings and policy advice, which it leaves with the national authorities, who have the option of publishing it. On return to IMF headquarters, the team prepares a report describing the economic situation and the talks with the authorities and evaluating the country's policies that is submitted to the Executive Board for review and discussion. The discussion formally concludes an Article IV consultation, and a summary of the Board's views is transmitted to the country's government. Through this kind of peer review, the global community

1 provides policy ~~guidance and~~ advice to each of its members, and the lessons of international  
2 experience are brought to bear on national policies. If the member country agrees, the full Article IV  
3 consultation report and a Public Information Notice (PIN), which summarizes the Board discussion,  
4 are published on the IMF's Web site, in line with the IMF's transparency policy (see Chapter 5).

5 Through Article IV consultations, the IMF seeks to identify policy strengths and weaknesses, as well  
6 as potential vulnerabilities, and advises countries on appropriate corrective actions if needed.

7 Supplementing these systematic and regular Board reviews of individual member countries are  
8 frequent informal sessions at which the Board discusses developments in individual countries. On a  
9 voluntary basis, countries may also choose to participate in the Financial Sector Assessment  
10 Program (FSAP) or to request Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSCs) in other  
11 areas.<sup>3</sup> Results of these assessments are an important input into surveillance.

12 *Multilateral surveillance.* Given the linkages between national economies and financial systems and  
13 the international economy and financial markets, the Fund monitors world economic and financial  
14 market developments and prospects to help ensure that the international monetary and financial  
15 system is functioning smoothly and to identify vulnerabilities that could undermine its stability.

16 Multilateral surveillance is carried out through the Board's reviews of the staff's *World Economic*  
17 *Outlook (WEO)* and *Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR)*, which are usually published twice a  
18 year. The WEO presents the staff's analysis of global economic prospects and the policies  
19 appropriate in different countries, while the GFSR focuses on developments in, and risks confronting,  
20 the international financial markets. The Board also holds informal discussions of world economic and  
21 financial market developments, and IMF staff continuously monitor developments in mature and  
22 emerging financial markets as well as economic developments globally.

23 *Regional surveillance.* Bilateral and multilateral surveillance is supplemented by regional surveillance  
24 of formal arrangements such as currency unions, whose members have devolved responsibilities  
25 over monetary and exchange rate policies to regional institutions, as well as by the preparation of  
26 regional economic outlooks that bring together key cross-cutting insights relating to countries with  
27 regional ties.

28 \_\_\_\_\_  
29 <sup>1</sup>The IMF's Articles of Agreement can be found at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm).

30 <sup>2</sup>The Fund's 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance over Members' Policies includes a principle  
31 recommending that members avoid exchange rate policies that result in external instability, regardless of the  
32 particular purposes of the policies; implied in this principle is that countries have an overarching commitment to  
33 pursue policies consistent with external stability.

34 <sup>3</sup>See CD-Box 3.1, "ROSCs and Data Standards Initiatives," on the CD-ROM.

35  
36 As financial markets experienced exceptional turbulence, growth slowed dramatically  
37 in some of the advanced economies, and world prices for food and oil soared during FY2008,

1 the IMF's Executive Board intensified its efforts to further strengthen and modernize the  
2 Fund's surveillance activities.<sup>1</sup> In June 2007, the Board adopted a new, more comprehensive  
3 framework for bilateral surveillance, which replaced the framework that had been in place  
4 since 1977. In addition, the Board endorsed efforts aimed at achieving a better understanding  
5 of the linkages between national economies and the global economy and between financial  
6 markets and the real economy, which is essential to restoring confidence in, and stability to,  
7 global financial markets and to improving global economic prospects.<sup>2</sup> New initiatives were  
8 ~~also~~ launched, such as coordinating work on developing voluntary principles for sovereign  
9 wealth funds (see below).

10 The Board also sought to deepen the Fund's understanding of fiscal/financial  
11 linkages. It held a seminar in February 2008 to examine how fiscal policy can help countries  
12 realize the benefits of globalization and financial deepening (Box 3.2).<sup>3</sup>

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### 13 **Box 3.2 Globalization, Financial Markets, and Fiscal Policies**

14 In February 2008, the Executive Board discussed "Globalization, Financial Markets, and Fiscal  
15 Policies," a paper prepared by the Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD).<sup>1</sup> The seminar considered how  
16 fiscal policy can help countries realize the benefits of globalization and financial deepening.  
17

18 **The impact of globalization on public finances.** Executive Directors noted that, despite the general  
19 trend toward lower tax rates—for corporate taxes—revenue has been strong until recently. While  
20 recognizing that tax competition could be healthy, they pointed out that sustained revenue buoyancy  
21 should not be taken for granted and that harmful tax competition could undermine members' revenue.  
22 On the expenditure side, globalization could create upward pressure because of demands for more  
23 social protection and more investment in human and physical capital. Executive Directors also called  
24 for more attention to financial sector contingent liabilities, noting that timely intervention strategies  
25 emphasizing preemptive restructuring of at-risk financial institutions could reduce the ultimate fiscal  
26 cost, but that such strategies should avoid creating expectations of government bail-outs for financial

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<sup>1</sup>[In June 2008, the G-8 called on the IMF to work with the International Energy Agency and appropriate national authorities in carrying out further analysis of the real and financial factors behind the surge in oil and commodity prices, the volatility of these prices, and the effect of rising prices on the global economy, and to report its findings at the October 2008 Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.](#)

<sup>2</sup>See "The Recent Financial Turmoil—Initial Assessment, Policy Lessons, and Implications for Fund Surveillance," a paper on the crisis written by IMF staff and discussed by the Board, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4240](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4240).

<sup>3</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Holds Seminar on Globalization, Financial Markets, and Fiscal Policies, PIN 08/28, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0828.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0828.htm).

1 institutions. On balance, the Board observed that, to the extent that globalization and financial  
2 deepening create fiscal pressures, a prepositioning of fiscal policy is warranted. This would not  
3 necessarily mean a tighter fiscal policy, but fiscal policy should be flexible and able to respond to  
4 pressures by maintaining room for maneuver in revenue and expenditure policies.

5 **Market access.** Greater access to external market financing could either strengthen or loosen fiscal  
6 discipline. The effect of market discipline on fiscal policy can be enhanced by increased transparency  
7 and a credible political commitment to sound fiscal policies. Globalization and financial deepening  
8 could improve the ability of countries with sound policies to borrow abroad in domestic currency, and  
9 thus increase debt tolerance.

10 **Fiscal policy with higher capital flows.** Globalization and financial deepening have both altered the  
11 effectiveness of fiscal policy and led to increased capital flows. The stabilizing role of fiscal policy in  
12 response to capital inflows depends on country-specific circumstances. If large capital inflows create  
13 aggregate demand pressure, and the scope for using monetary policy is limited, fiscal tightening  
14 could be appropriate. In some cases, however, adjustment could occur mainly through the real  
15 exchange rate or through temporary capital controls, although in these cases fiscal policy can still be  
16 useful. A few Directors, however, noted that fiscal policy may not be the best tool for dealing with  
17 significant shifts in capital flows, given the long lags in the implementation of fiscal measures.

18 **Spillovers.** Globalization magnifies fiscal policy spillovers. Some Directors agreed that these  
19 strengthen the case for enhanced international policy cooperation in certain areas, although some  
20 other Directors were reluctant to endorse a new mandate for Fund coordination efforts.

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 | <sup>1</sup>The paper is available on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/111607a.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/111607a.pdf).  
23 |

## 24 **BILATERAL SURVEILLANCE**

25 In FY2008, the Executive Board completed 123 Article IV consultations (see CD-Table 3.1  
26 on the CD-ROM). ~~It also put In line with the new strategic directions endorsed by the~~  
27 ~~Board,~~<sup>4</sup> more emphasis ~~is being put~~ on strengthening the Fund's global perspective and better  
28 integrating the findings of the *World Economic Outlook* (WEO) and the *Global Financial*  
29 *Stability Report* (GFSR), ~~two of~~ the Fund's main instruments for multilateral surveillance  
30 (see below), in bilateral surveillance, and improving ~~its the~~ analysis of linkages between the  
31 real economy and the financial sector and spillovers between national economies and the

\_\_\_\_\_ |  
| <sup>4</sup>The Statement by the Managing Director on Strategic Directions in the Medium-Term Budget can be  
| found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site: [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4243](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4243).

1 international economy. For example, the April 2008 WEO outlined three lines of defense  
 2 countries could adopt against the spreading effects of market turmoil—a combination of  
 3 monetary policy easing, fiscal stimulus, and public funds, as appropriate, can play a  
 4 complementary role by supporting demand and limiting the negative interaction between  
 5 financial markets and the real economy—while the October 2007 WEO addressed  
 6 appropriate policy responses to large capital inflows.<sup>5</sup> The regional dimension is also  
 7 increasingly informing the Fund’s bilateral policy discussions, ~~and-~~ sSelected issues papers  
 8 and staff reports are placing more emphasis~~increasingly focus~~ on regional spillovers and  
 9 cross-country experiences. ~~As part of the refocusing of the Fund, staff reports on Article IV~~  
 10 ~~consultations are being rethought to make the outputs of surveillance timelier, more focused,~~  
 11 ~~and more concise, which should enhance their impact.~~

12 Exchange rate surveillance is one of the IMF’s key responsibilities.<sup>6</sup> Throughout its  
 13 existence, the Fund has striven to strengthen its framework for assessing exchange rates,  
 14 adapting it to underlying macroeconomic and financial developments in member countries.  
 15 The Executive Board updated its surveillance framework, after a year-long review, on June  
 16 15, 2007.<sup>7</sup> The 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance Over Members’ Policies is much  
 17 broader and more comprehensive than the 1977 Decision on Surveillance Over Exchange  
 18 Rate Policies, which it replaces and which was adopted in the wake of the collapse of the  
 19 Bretton Woods system.<sup>8</sup> By setting clear expectations, the new Decision should help improve

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<sup>5</sup>The WEO is available on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2007/02/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2007/02/index.htm). Although private capital inflows can result in long-term benefits if put to good use, they may pose significant risks to macroeconomic stability. The appropriate policy response to large capital inflows depends on country-specific circumstances and the nature of the inflows. The most robust lesson to emerge from a comprehensive cross-country analysis of policy responses over the past two decades is that keeping government spending on a steady path—rather than engaging in excessive spending during periods of heavy capital inflows—can help mitigate the adverse effects of large inflows.

<sup>6</sup>Appendix II, “Financial Operations and Transactions,” to this Report contains a brief summary of members’ exchange rate regimes in Table II.13, “De facto classification of exchange rate regimes and monetary policy framework.” The Appendix can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF’s Web site, where the full text and appendixes of the Annual Report are posted.

<sup>7</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Adopts New Decision on Bilateral Surveillance Over Members’ Policies,” PIN 07/69, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm). The Decision can also be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm#decision](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm#decision).

<sup>8</sup>Under the Bretton Woods system, which was established in 1944, central banks of countries other than the United States agreed to maintain fixed exchange rates between their currencies and the dollar, which

(continued)

1 the quality, evenhandedness, and effectiveness of IMF surveillance. It also brings greater  
2 clarity and specificity to the issues of which exchange rate policies countries should avoid  
3 and when these policies may be of concern to the international community. Some of the  
4 highlights of the new Decision are described in Box 3.3.

5

**6 Box 3.3 The 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance**

7 The new Decision expands on the 1977 Decision in a number of important ways, to clarify the  
8 framework of surveillance implied by the Articles of Agreement (and thus without creating new  
9 obligations for members):

- 10 • Introducing, as an organizing principle for bilateral surveillance, the concept of external  
11 stability, which encompasses both the current and the capital accounts of the balance of  
12 payments.
- 13 • Specifying the essential modalities of effective surveillance, including its collaborative nature,  
14 the importance of dialogue and persuasion, and the need for candor and evenhandedness,  
15 and emphasizing the importance of paying due regard to country circumstances and the need  
16 for a multilateral and medium-term perspective.
- 17 • Clarifying the concept of exchange rate manipulation to gain an unfair competitive advantage  
18 over other members, which is prohibited under Article IV of the Fund's Articles of Agreement,  
19 and relating such behavior to the concept of fundamental exchange rate misalignment.
- 20 • Providing more complete guidance to members for the conduct of their exchange rate  
21 policies so as to cover all such policies that may cause external instability, regardless of their  
22 particular purpose, as well as to the Fund in its conduct of surveillance.

23 The Executive Board endorsed the staff's definition of fundamental exchange rate misalignment but  
24 underscored the need for appropriate caution in applying it, ~~stressing~~, ~~Executive Directors stressed, in~~  
25 ~~particular~~, that it should be used with due acknowledgment of the considerable measurement  
26 uncertainties involved, and that estimates of misalignment require the exercise of careful judgment. In  
27 practice, an exchange rate would be judged to be fundamentally misaligned only if the misalignment  
28 were found to be significant, and the benefit of any reasonable doubt would be given to the authorities  
29 in establishing whether there is fundamental misalignment. The Board also noted that any judgment  
30 on misalignment should be applied in an evenhanded manner regardless of the nature of the  
31 exchange rate regime and the size of the economy, and a number of Directors emphasized the

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was convertible into gold at the fixed price of \$35 an ounce. The Bretton Woods system collapsed in 1971 when the United States ended the trading of gold at the fixed price.

1 potential market sensitivity of estimates of misalignment and the need for care in communicating  
2 them.

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3 Key operational aspects in implementing the 2007 Decision are being clarified,  
4 including through an ~~forthcoming~~ exchange of views among Executive Directors on the  
5 concepts and methodologies for assessing external stability, analyzing exchange rates and  
6 current account positions, and assessing exchange rate policies, and the Surveillance  
7 Guidance Note for staff is expected to be updated in FY2009.<sup>9</sup> In an informal seminar at the  
8 end of FY2008, the Board began to review the system and methodology used to classify  
9 member countries' de facto exchange rate arrangements to clarify the definitions of the  
10 various categories and establish more operational and unambiguous criteria for their  
11 application. These discussions will inform this year's *Annual Report on Exchange*  
12 *Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions* (AREAER), which has been published by the Fund  
13 since 1950. Prepared in consultation with member country authorities, but reflecting the  
14 staff's independent judgment, the AREAER provides a comprehensive description of the  
15 exchange rate arrangements, exchange restrictions, controls on capital flows, and other  
16 foreign exchange measures of all IMF members.<sup>10</sup>

17 Complementing the efforts of the Executive Board and the Fund's management and  
18 staff to take stock of the effectiveness of surveillance, the IMF's Independent Evaluation  
19 Office (IEO) completed an evaluation in FY2007 of the IMF's exchange rate policy advice to  
20 member countries from 1995 to 2005. At the Board's discussion of the evaluation in May  
21 2007, Executive Directors broadly endorsed the IEO's conclusion that the Fund should aim at  
22 enhancing the effectiveness of its analysis, advice, and dialogue with member countries, as

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<sup>9</sup>The Surveillance Guidance Note (issued in May 2005) provides guidance to IMF staff on the conduct of bilateral surveillance, in light of its evolution over time and the conclusions of the 2004 Biennial Surveillance Review. The note covers both the content (in particular, the choice of issues to be addressed in an Article IV consultation and the quality of coverage of topics that have received particular attention in Board reviews of surveillance) and the modalities of surveillance. It also provides guidance on the treatment in Article IV consultations of matters related to Articles VIII and XIV that concern restrictions on payments and transfers for current international transactions and multiple currency practices. In addition, the note provides guidance on the treatment of other issues that are not legally part of surveillance under Article IV but, per guidance from the Executive Board, are to be raised in the context of Article IV consultations. Members have no obligation under Article IV surveillance to provide information or to pursue specific policies in these areas.

<sup>10</sup>Appendix II, "Financial operations and transactions," to this Report contains a brief summary of members' exchange rate regimes in Table II.9, "De facto classification of exchange rate regimes and monetary policy framework." The Appendix can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ar/2008/eng/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ar/2008/eng/index.htm).

1 well as address any perception of asymmetry in its exchange rate surveillance. Most  
2 Executive Directors concurred with the IEO's finding that the rules of the game for exchange  
3 rate surveillance remain unclear in some important areas. Over the review period, there had  
4 been problems in implementing various aspects of existing policy guidance, and most  
5 Executive Directors agreed that there remains scope for improvement in several areas,  
6 including the quality of analysis of exchange rate levels and incorporation of the analysis of  
7 policy spillovers into regional and bilateral surveillance. They also agreed with the IEO  
8 recommendation that Fund management should ensure that exchange rate work across the  
9 Fund is organized and managed effectively, in tandem with ongoing work to integrate  
10 financial sector issues into Fund surveillance, and they encouraged further strengthening of  
11 the existing coordinating mechanisms (including the Surveillance Committee and the  
12 Consultative Group on Exchange Rate Issues (CGER; see below)). Most Executive Directors  
13 emphasized that the Fund's management is responsible for providing the Executive Board  
14 with all the information that it needs to conduct surveillance and is accountable to the  
15 Executive Board for how it combines this duty with the need for the Fund to serve as a  
16 confidential advisor to members.

17 ~~In May 2007, the Executive Board discussed the IEO's recommendations.~~ Based on  
18 the IEO recommendations endorsed by the Board, staff and management prepared an  
19 implementation plan, which the Board discussed in September 2007 (see Chapter 5).<sup>11</sup>  
20 Executive Directors noted that the centerpiece of the implementation plan was, appropriately,  
21 the 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance, and that strengthening work related to exchange  
22 rate issues would have to be carried out primarily in the context of Article IV consultations.  
23 Many Executive Directors agreed that ~~the strengthening of the methodology and expansion~~  
24 ~~of~~ ding the work of the ~~Consultative Group on Exchange Rate Issues (CGER; see below)~~  
25 would provide important input to the Fund's exchange rate work, although a number  
26 cautioned that significant technical limitations would continue to exist in estimating  
27 equilibrium exchange rates.

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<sup>11</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses Implementation Plan Following IEO Evaluation of the IMF's Exchange Rate Policy Advice, 1999–2005," PIN 07/119, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07119.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07119.htm).

1           Since the mid-1990s the CGER has provided exchange rate assessments for a number  
2 of advanced economies from a multilateral perspective, with the aim of informing the  
3 country-specific analysis of the IMF’s Article IV staff reports and fostering multilateral  
4 consistency. These assessments are additional tools at the disposal of the IMF staff country  
5 desks, which are responsible for formulating exchange rate assessments as part of the Fund’s  
6 bilateral surveillance. The role of exchange rates in the external adjustment process is  
7 increasing as the world economy rapidly becomes more integrated. During the past 15 years,  
8 world trade and international financial integration have grown very rapidly, with the ratio of  
9 world trade to world GDP increasing by over 40 percent and the ratio of international  
10 financial cross-holdings to world GDP more than doubling. Emerging market countries have  
11 contributed significantly to these developments, as is evidenced by the increase in their share  
12 of world trade—from 27 percent in 1990 to 40 percent in 2006—as well as by their  
13 importance in international capital flows. Accordingly, the Fund has extended its CGER  
14 methodologies, which can help gauge the consistency of current account balances and real  
15 effective exchange rates with their underlying fundamentals, to cover about 20 emerging  
16 market countries.<sup>12</sup>

### 17 **MULTILATERAL SURVEILLANCE**

18 To assist and inform policymakers and the public, the Fund has introduced greater continuity  
19 in its multilateral surveillance work, for example, with formal quarterly updates of WEO  
20 forecasts and a quarterly financial stability note, to complement its two major vehicles for  
21 multilateral surveillance, the WEO and the GFSR, which are published twice a year. It has  
22 also deepened its analysis of macro-financial linkages, exchange rates, and spillovers,  
23 especially from advanced economies and markets.

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<sup>12</sup>In April 2008, the Fund published a paper describing these methodologies, *Exchange Rate Assessments: CGER Methodologies*, as Occasional Paper No. 261. See [www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=19582.0](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=19582.0).

**1 World Economic Outlook**

2 In its September 2007 discussion of the *World Economic Outlook* (WEO),<sup>13</sup> the Executive  
3 Board acknowledged that after strong economic growth in the first half of 2007, the global  
4 outlook had become exceptionally uncertain and underscored the importance of sound  
5 policies and continued vigilance. In its March 2008 discussion, the Executive Board agreed  
6 that global growth prospects for 2008 had deteriorated markedly since the January 2008  
7 WEO Update. Executive Directors discussed global economic developments and prospects  
8 against the background of exceptional uncertainties about the likely duration and cost of the  
9 financial crisis that had spread far beyond the U.S. subprime mortgage market. Growth had  
10 slowed in the advanced economies in the face of tightening financial conditions but remained  
11 strong in the rapidly globalizing emerging economies. Executive Directors emphasized that  
12 the still unfolding events in financial markets posed the greatest risk to the outlook. Many  
13 Directors still saw a positive momentum driven by the potential strength of domestic demand  
14 in fast-growing emerging economies, while recognizing these economies' exposure to  
15 negative external risks through both trade and financial channels. Executive Directors also  
16 cautioned that risks related to inflationary pressures and the oil market had increased as  
17 commodity prices soared in the context of continued tight supply-demand conditions as well  
18 as of growing investor interest in commodities as an asset class and other financial factors. A  
19 number of Directors also saw a continued risk of a disorderly unwinding of global  
20 imbalances despite the recent depreciation of the U.S. dollar against other flexible currencies  
21 and the narrowing of the U.S. current account deficit.

22         Against this backdrop, Directors underscored that policymakers around the world  
23 faced a fast moving set of challenges. The key priorities in the advanced economies were  
24 dealing effectively with the financial crisis and countering downside risks to growth while  
25 taking account of inflationary pressures and the need to preserve longer-term fiscal  
26 sustainability. The challenge for many emerging and developing economies was controlling  
27 inflationary pressures while ensuring that strong domestic demand did not lead to a buildup  
28 of vulnerabilities. A number of these economies were already facing a fallout from the

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<sup>13</sup>The full summings up of the Board's discussions of the October 2007 and April 2008 WEO can be found on the CD-ROM as well as in the reports themselves, which are available on the IMF's Web site. See [www.imf.org/external/ns/cs.aspx?id=29](http://www.imf.org/external/ns/cs.aspx?id=29) for links to different issues of the WEO as well as the updates.

1 slowdown in the advanced economies, and an intensified or prolonged global slowdown  
2 would require judicious responses from their policymakers. The Board considered that  
3 ensuring the consistency of policy approaches across countries in these difficult global  
4 conditions would be important.

5 More generally, Executive Directors welcomed the ongoing consultations among  
6 countries, especially by the monetary authorities of the advanced economies with each other  
7 and with international bodies such as the IMF and the Financial Stability Forum (FSF), in  
8 dealing with the present financial turmoil. Joint efforts could prove more effective than  
9 individual efforts in bolstering confidence and demand. Executive Directors agreed that the  
10 Fund was uniquely placed for adding a multilateral perspective to policy responses to the  
11 current crisis, providing a forum for discussion and exchanges of views, and promoting  
12 consistency of national policies and assessing their spillovers in an increasingly integrated  
13 global economy.

#### 14 **Global Financial Stability Report**

15 At their March 2008 discussion of the *Global Financial Stability Report* (GFSR),<sup>14</sup> Executive  
16 Directors noted that global financial stability had deteriorated markedly since their discussion  
17 of the October 2007 GFSR, which had also focused on financial market turbulence, as the  
18 deterioration in the U.S. subprime mortgage market had been followed by severe dislocations  
19 in broader credit and funding markets, posing risks to the macroeconomic outlook in the  
20 United States and globally. Policymakers' immediate priorities were to reduce uncertainty,  
21 mitigate risks to the global financial system, and restore confidence. The Board underscored  
22 that, in carrying forward the recommendations in the GFSR, directed at both the public and  
23 the private sectors, careful attention should be paid to sequencing and prioritization, to  
24 country circumstances, and to coordination among the relevant international and national  
25 agencies. It emphasized the role of the Fund in contributing to these efforts, working  
26 alongside national and international institutions and bodies.

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<sup>14</sup>The full summings up of the Board discussions of the October 2007 and April 2008 GFSR can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF's Web site. See [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/GFSR/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/GFSR/index.htm).

1 Executive Directors generally supported the GFSR's finding that markets and  
2 investors, the official sector, and monetary authorities had collectively failed to appreciate  
3 the extent of leverage taken on by a wide range of financial institutions, and the associated  
4 risks of a disorderly unwinding. Private sector risk management and, disclosure, and  
5 financial sector supervision, and regulation all lagged behind rapid financial innovation and  
6 shifts in business models, and continuing uncertainty over the size and spread of losses had  
7 elevated systemic risks. Potential losses could be sizable, and financial institutions should  
8 move quickly to repair their balance sheets by raising equity and medium-term funding.

9 The resilience demonstrated by emerging markets and developing countries could yet  
10 be tested by rising costs, tighter external funding conditions, or a reversal of the recent  
11 commodity price boom. A protracted weakening of growth in the advanced economies or a  
12 broadening of the problems in financial markets could also have an adverse impact on  
13 emerging markets, depending on country circumstances, for example, by increasing the  
14 vulnerability to potential capital outflows of those emerging economies that are particularly  
15 dependent on advanced economies' direct investments.

16 It was recognized that a sound understanding of the valuation and accounting of  
17 structured finance products was important for comprehending the depth and extent of present  
18 financial market instability. The Board noted that there were incentives to rely heavily on  
19 short-term wholesale funding to support these longer-term, illiquid structured products. It  
20 was also suggested that the rating agencies should review the quality of their methodologies.  
21 Executive Directors generally welcomed the prompt and innovative actions of central banks  
22 to inject liquidity into the banking system to keep interbank markets functioning smoothly  
23 and agreed that the financial turmoil has highlighted the need for central banks to consider  
24 more carefully their roles regarding financial stability and monetary policy implementation,  
25 noting that these roles were becoming more intertwined. While the authorities in individual  
26 countries are moving to stem the effects of disorderly financial market conditions, the Fund  
27 should, in coordination with other multilateral bodies such as the FSF as well as with national  
28 agencies, play a larger role in international forums to influence policy.

**1 Multilateral consultation**

2 In FY2007, the Fund launched a new vehicle—the multilateral consultation—for the purpose  
3 of fostering cooperation among appropriate groups of countries in addressing challenges to  
4 the global economy and individual members. The IMF’s first multilateral consultation gave  
5 its five participants—China, the euro area, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States—a  
6 forum for discussing global imbalances and how best to reduce them while sustaining robust  
7 global growth. In FY2008, the Board reviewed its experience, concluding that the  
8 multilateral consultation discussions have helped deepen agreement on a coherent medium-  
9 term approach that identified measures that should gradually reduce imbalances over time  
10 while supporting global growth; have been beneficial from a regional and international  
11 perspective; and have strong ownership. The participants’ individual statements of policy  
12 intentions, while not as ambitious as the Fund advised in the context of Article IV  
13 consultations and the WEO, still constituted significant steps forward and, once  
14 implemented, should contribute substantially toward reducing imbalances over the medium  
15 term. Moreover, the publication of these policy intentions has provided a valuable roadmap  
16 for the future. Executive Directors recommended that the Fund continue to play an active  
17 role in monitoring progress, and this has been done in individual Article IV reports on the  
18 relevant members.

19 Executive Directors considered that the multilateral consultation approach is a useful  
20 instrument for enhancing and deepening Fund multilateral surveillance. They noted that the  
21 multilateral consultation had two unique aspects: voluntary participation of a limited number  
22 of participants that were possible major contributors to a solution to imbalances, and a  
23 framework wherein the voice of the entire international community could be heard through  
24 the Executive Board and through the International Monetary and Financial Committee  
25 (IMFC).<sup>15</sup> These features, together with uncertainty as to what future problems might need to  
26 be addressed, warrant retaining flexibility with respect to the operational modalities going  
27 forward.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup>[The IMFC is an advisory body to the IMF’s Board of Governors. It is composed of 24 Governors \(or their alternates\). See Box 5.3 for more detail on the IMFC’s composition and activities.](#)

<sup>16</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Discusses Multilateral Consultation on Global Imbalances,” PIN 07/97, and “Staff Report on the Multilateral Consultation on Global Imbalances with China, the Euro Area, Japan,

1 **REGIONAL SURVEILLANCE AND OUTREACH**

2 Since members of currency unions have devolved responsibilities over monetary and  
3 exchange rate policies—two central areas of Fund surveillance—to regional institutions, the  
4 IMF holds formal discussions with representatives of these institutions in addition to its  
5 Article IV consultations with the unions' individual members. During FY2008, the IMF's  
6 Executive Board discussed developments in the Central African Monetary and Economic  
7 Union (CEMAC), the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), and the euro area.<sup>17</sup> ~~It  
8 will discuss developments in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)  
9 early in FY2009.~~

10 **Currency unions**

11 *CEMAC.* Macroeconomic conditions in the CEMAC were highly favorable at the time of the  
12 Board discussion, which took place in June 2007,<sup>18</sup> in large part because of sustained high oil  
13 prices. Nonetheless, in terms of growth, the region had fallen behind the rest of sub-Saharan  
14 Africa, there was little trade and financial integration, dependency on oil revenues had  
15 increased, and deep-seated structural impediments to economic diversification remained.  
16 These problems need to be addressed urgently if the region is to achieve the Millennium  
17 Development Goals (see Chapter 4). The Board thus welcomed the recent reform package  
18 adopted by the CEMAC Heads of State, which is intended to strengthen regional institutions  
19 and advance the integration process.

20 *ECCU.* In its February 2008 discussion, the Executive Board welcomed the ECCU's  
21 strong economic performance, characterized by robust growth and generally low inflation.  
22 Observing that the region continues to face significant challenges nonetheless, it supported  
23 the focus on policies aimed at sustaining growth and building resilience by enhancing  
24 competitiveness and economic diversification. The Board also underscored the need to

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Saudi Arabia, and the United States," on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0797.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0797.htm). and [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/062907.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/062907.pdf), respectively.

<sup>17</sup>~~It discussed developments in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) early in FY2009.~~

<sup>18</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Concludes 2007 Discussion on Common Policies of Member Countries with CEMAC," PIN 07/81, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0781.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0781.htm). The members of CEMAC are Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.

1 accelerate fiscal consolidation, avoid distortions in tax systems, and control spending. It  
2 commended the progress made in enhancing the regulatory framework for the banking  
3 system and the financial sector more broadly, and recommended continued efforts to  
4 strengthen the risk-based supervisory framework. Executive Directors supported the renewed  
5 momentum toward economic integration and noted that liberalizing capital and labor flows  
6 should play an important role in allowing the region to benefit more fully from globalization.  
7 Since data weaknesses remain a key constraint on effective policymaking and surveillance,  
8 Executive Directors encouraged the national and regional authorities to bolster statistical  
9 practices and data management.<sup>19</sup>

10 *Euro area.* In their discussion of euro area policies in July 2007,<sup>20</sup> Executive  
11 Directors welcomed the euro economy's move from recovery to upswing. They expected real  
12 GDP growth to remain above potential for the near term and employment gains to stay  
13 healthy thanks, in part, to reforms of labor markets and welfare systems. However, with  
14 rising resource utilization, inflationary pressures could be expected to build gradually and  
15 some further monetary policy tightening might be required. ~~They~~ Executive Directors  
16 considered the external position of the euro area to be roughly in balance and the real  
17 effective exchange rate of the euro to be trading within range of the medium-term  
18 equilibrium. ~~Directors~~ They welcomed the broad-based structural reforms under way and  
19 underscored that their continued implementation, in line with the authorities' commitments  
20 under the multilateral consultation (see above), would help strengthen prospects for an  
21 orderly resolution of global current account imbalances. Looking forward, population aging  
22 was likely to prompt a significant slowing of potential growth; thus, the fundamental  
23 challenge in the region is achieving a joint structural acceleration of productivity and labor  
24 force participation. Executive Directors emphasized the need for prompt implementation of  
25 the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive and welcomed steps to integrate national

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<sup>19</sup>The ECCU's members are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. See "IMF Executive Board Concludes 2007 Discussion on Common Policies of Members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union," PIN 08/12, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0812.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0812.htm).

<sup>20</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses Euro Area Policies," PIN 07/89, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0789.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0789.htm).

1 payments and securities clearing and settlement systems as well as ongoing work to facilitate  
2 cross-border bank mergers and acquisitions.

### 3 **Other regional surveillance initiatives and outreach**

4 | The Fund has ~~also~~ taken ~~other~~ steps in the past few years to expand and strengthen its  
5 regional work. Some area departments have created units dedicated to regional issues as well  
6 as department-wide working groups on cross-cutting issues. For example, working groups in  
7 the African Department are studying such issues as the scaling up of aid, natural resource  
8 management, and the development of domestic debt markets; in the European Department,  
9 large cross-border capital flows, rapid credit growth, the implications of financial integration  
10 for growth and supervision, the use of EU funds by new member states, the competitiveness  
11 of the Mediterranean countries, and vulnerabilities in southeastern Europe; and in the  
12 Western Hemisphere Department, issues related to the financial sector, monetary and  
13 exchange rate policy, pensions, and oil and natural resources. The Fund's Regional Office for  
14 Asia and the Pacific, which is located in Tokyo, contributes to research and outreach on  
15 regional surveillance.

16 In addition, the IMF's five area departments now produce *Regional Economic*  
17 *Outlooks* (REOs) twice a year. Publication of the REOs is followed by extensive outreach  
18 | events—such as seminars for government officials and academics, ~~and~~ media briefings, and  
19 interviews of IMF officials—in several countries in each region. Press releases summarizing  
20 REO findings are posted on the IMF's Web site along with the full text of the REOs  
21 themselves, as well as transcripts and webcasts of press conferences held upon publication of  
22 the REOs.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>The REOs can be accessed at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/reorepts.aspx](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/reorepts.aspx). Materials related to the REOs published in FY2008 can be found on the [CD-ROM or on the](#) IMF's Web site. See, for example, the transcripts of the press briefings following the publication of the October 2007 and April 2008 REOs for Asia and the Pacific, at [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2007/tr071019.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2007/tr071019.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080411a.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080411a.htm), respectively; and the following press releases: "IMF Regional Economic Outlook for Europe Sees Need for Financial Sector, Fiscal, and Structural Reforms to Tackle Financial Turbulence and Sustain Growth," PR 07/252, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07252.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07252.htm); "IMF Regional Economic Outlook for Europe Sees Slower Growth; Explores Challenges Policymakers Face in Seeking to Limit the Impact of Financial Turbulence," PR No. 08/89; "IMF Sees Continued Strong Growth, but also Heightened Policy Challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008," PR 07/249, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07249.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07249.htm); "IMF Sees Latin America and the Caribbean Region Resilient So Far, But Risks Ahead," PR 08/83, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0883.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0883.htm); "IMF's

(continued)

1           The IMF also organizes and participates in various regional forums. In June 2007, for  
2 example, the IMF participated in the Sixth Annual Regional Conference for Central America,  
3 which brought together ministers of finance, central bank governors, and financial sector  
4 superintendents from Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic to discuss two  
5 major regional projects—the consolidation of supervision of regional financial  
6 conglomerates and fiscal coordination, including the establishment of a customs union for  
7 Central America—as well as the development of equity and private debt markets and fiscal  
8 policies to support economic and social stability. In October 2007, IMF staff and the  
9 Honduran authorities held a regional workshop on medium-term expenditure frameworks.  
10 The workshop was attended by budget officials from Central America, the Dominican  
11 Republic, and Panama, and speakers from the IMF, the World Bank, the Inter-American  
12 Development Bank, Colombia, and Spain. In November 2007, the IMF’s Western  
13 Hemisphere Department organized a conference on economic and financial linkages in the  
14 Western Hemisphere. A regional seminar on globalization and taxation, involving finance  
15 ministers and senior officials from 13 African countries, was held in February 2008 in  
16 Nigeria; a high-level seminar on African finance was held in Tunis in March 2008 (see  
17 Chapter 4). The IMF also participated in the April and September 2007 meetings of the Trade  
18 Policy Coordination Committee of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation  
19 program, held in Manila; the annual meeting of the finance ministers and central bank  
20 governors of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Jeddah in October 2007; and a  
21 conference on the role of the private sector in economic development and regional  
22 integration in the Maghreb, held in Tunis in November 2007.

23           In June 2007, the IMF held a policy seminar on financial integration in the Nordic-  
24 Baltic region, at which IMF staff and Executive Directors, the European Central Bank  
25 representative to the IMF, and academics discussed an IMF study of the arrangements for

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Regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia Sees Continued Positive Near-Term Economic Outlook, but the Region Faces Challenges to Sustain Ongoing Transformation and Reduce Unemployment,” PR 07/241, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07241](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07241); “IMF Regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia Sees Sustained Growth, Highlights the Need to Contain Inflationary Pressures, PR 08/104; “Sub-Saharan Africa: Regional Economic Outlook,” PR 07/237, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07237.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07237.htm); and “Sub-Saharan Africa Spring 2008 Regional Economic Outlook: Growth Expected to Remain Robust but Global Developments Cloud Prospects,” PR 08/86, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0886.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0886.htm).

1 cross-border oversight and crisis management. The study highlights gaps that may have  
2 arisen as a result of growing financial integration in the region. Since financial integration is  
3 also increasing in Europe as a whole, and most countries in the Nordic-Baltic region are ~~also~~  
4 bound by the European regulatory framework, addressing these challenges may need to be  
5 considered in this broader European-wide context.<sup>22</sup>

6 As part of its initiative to hold periodic seminars on economic developments and  
7 prospects in the Caribbean, the Board held its first such seminar in September 2007.<sup>23</sup>  
8 Executive Directors noted that the historically open nature of the Caribbean economies had  
9 served them well, enabling them to achieve relatively high per capita income levels. The  
10 macroeconomic performance of the region had been favorable in recent years, and its  
11 commitment to social development and equitable growth has contributed to notable progress  
12 in health care, education, and poverty eradication. Nonetheless, the region is vulnerable  
13 because of its limited economic diversification; persistent, large current account deficits;  
14 large public debt; and exposure to natural disasters—hurricanes, in particular. Executive  
15 Directors welcomed the initiative to establish the Caribbean Single Market and Economy,  
16 increased regional cooperation being key to enabling the Caribbean countries to make the  
17 most of globalization, and considered that closer integration of the Caribbean’s still largely  
18 segmented financial markets could boost growth. They noted that the Caribbean countries’  
19 heavy reliance on tax incentives to attract investors was costly in terms of forgone revenues  
20 and recognized that the erosion of preferential access to European markets for bananas and  
21 sugar would entail significant losses for several countries in the region. Directors also  
22 emphasized the importance of timely disbursement of aid and concessional assistance in  
23 support of countries’ adjustment and restructuring efforts.

#### 24 **FINANCIAL SECTOR SURVEILLANCE**

25 The Fund has been strengthening its financial sector surveillance work at the bilateral,  
26 multilateral, and regional levels, on an ongoing basis, working on the development of

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22The paper, “Financial Integration in the Nordic-Baltic Region: Challenges for Financial Policies,” is available on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2007/nordbal/pdf/0607.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2007/nordbal/pdf/0607.pdf).

23See “IMF Executive Board Discusses Selected Regional Issues in the Caribbean,” PIN 07/124, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07124.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07124.htm).

1 analytical tools for assessing financial sector stability, both at the institutional level and  
 2 system-wide, and quantitative analytical methodologies for identifying, measuring, and  
 3 assessing the impact of financial sector credit and liquidity risks and improving stress testing.  
 4 These tools have already been applied in the Fund’s work, in particular in the context of  
 5 financial sector assessment programs (FSAPs). Initiatives in FY2008 included analytical and  
 6 policy-related work on the impact of the financial crisis that began in mid-2007 on economic  
 7 activity; more emphasis on macro-financial linkages in the conjunctural sections of the  
 8 WEO; greater focus on financial sector analysis in Article IV consultations and continued  
 9 emphasis on FSAPs; internal training on financial sector issues; data collection initiatives  
 10 that focus on the position of financial institutions vis-à-vis other sectors and the associated  
 11 risks; and analytical and empirical work on how financial and real sector reforms  
 12 complement each other. Fund staff continued to collaborate with the FSF and its working  
 13 groups, as well as to consult with the private sector, regulators and national authorities,  
 14 standard setters, and other bodies.

### 15 **Assessment of financial crisis and recommendations**

16 In its October 2007 Communiqué, the IMFC asked the Fund to reflect on the underlying  
 17 causes of, and policy lessons from, the turmoil that erupted in financial markets in August  
 18 2007. In response, five working groups in the IMF’s Monetary and Capital Markets  
 19 Department, in close cooperation with the relevant FSF working groups and other  
 20 stakeholders, studied the structural causes of the ongoing crisis and drew up a set of  
 21 recommendations of a medium-term nature. Their findings were discussed by the Board in  
 22 April 2008 and are summarized in Box 3.4.<sup>24</sup> The shorter-term policy responses that may be  
 23 required to help manage and mitigate the crisis are discussed in the April 2008 GFSR (see  
 24 above).

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#### 26 **Box 3.4 Summary of MCM Working Group Policy Recommendations**

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#### 28 **Findings**

#### **Lessons and recommendations**

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<sup>24</sup>See “The Recent Financial Turmoil—Initial Assessment, Policy Lessons, and Implications for Fund Surveillance,” the paper discussed by the Board, which can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF’s Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf).

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**Risk-management practices**

Risk management practices in many financial institutions reflected shortcomings of both judgment and governance. Institutions relied too heavily on model-based strategies that were based on limited historical data, without due regard for their limitations. Hedging strategies were overly concentrated and, especially in the case of structured financial products, inadequate attention was paid to tail and liquidity risks.

Risk managers should challenge aggressively the assumptions underlying risk-management and pricing models and scrutinize their firms' risk profile, including hedging strategies, counterparty risk, and possible second-round effects from market shocks.

Senior managers need to ensure that internal governance structures are robust and that information and decision-making responsibilities are well defined and appropriate.

Supervisors need to take a more active role in monitoring risk management and encourage more rigorous stress testing, especially during good times.

Regulators may wish to consider whether the opacity and complexity of structured credit products such as ABS CDOs (collateralized debt obligations consisting of portfolios of bonds of asset-backed securities) undermine market discipline and require prudential or other measures, while guarding against the risk of overregulation.

**Valuation, disclosure, and accounting**

The accounting treatment of structured products and shortcomings in valuation models and financial reporting contributed to the depth and duration of the crisis.

Supervisors should ensure that financial institutions develop robust pricing, risk-management, and stress-testing models. Consideration should be given to raising prudential norms (for example, capital buffers) for structured financial products.

Supervisors should promote better internal processes within regulated entities for managing valuation-modeling risk.

Cross-border convergence of accounting and regulatory standards, as well as of bank disclosure requirements, should be sought, especially where global financial

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and growth through surveillance*

1 institutions are involved. Disclosure of off-balance-sheet  
2 holdings, SIVs (structured investment vehicles), and  
3 conduits should be enhanced.

4  
5 Steps could be taken to improve price discovery and  
6 liquidity of hard-to-value securitized instruments—for  
7 example, greater standardization and development of a  
8 centralized registry.

**9 Credit-rating-agency practices**

10 Credit-rating methodologies failed to Credit rating agencies should improve rating methods and  
11 capture the risks embodied in structured practices. At a minimum, they should introduce  
12 products. Investors in structured differentiated ratings for structured products, disseminate  
13 products relied too heavily on ratings information on the susceptibility of the ratings of such  
14 and did not appreciate the products' products to downgrades, and disclose more information  
15 vulnerability to sharp price changes and about rating methodologies.  
16 multiple-notch downgrades.

17 Approval and licensing procedures could be used to  
18 reduce potential conflicts of interest in the credit-rating  
19 industry and spur improvements in transparency and the  
20 disclosure of rating methodologies.

21  
22 National authorities and the major international standard  
23 setters should review the use and effectiveness of credit  
24 ratings in prudential regulation, especially in light of  
25 possible changes to the ratings scales applied to  
26 structured products.

**27 Supervision and crisis management**

28 Consolidated supervision was The Basel II framework will permit a more risk-sensitive  
29 inadequate, and supervisors did not approach to supervision, and countries with internationally  
30 adequately account for the risks active banks will need to adopt it quickly. But the transition  
31 associated with new financial to Basel II will need to be carefully managed since partial  
32 instruments, nor did they address or incomplete implementation would pose risks; the  
33 deterioration in underwriting standards. application of capital floors may need to be extended; and  
34 Gaps in crisis-management and bank- particular attention should be paid to the impact analysis  
35 resolution frameworks were also from the parallel run period.  
36 exposed.

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and growth through surveillance*

1 Supervisory practices, such as the frequency of on-site  
2 supervision and the use of external auditors, need to be  
3 strengthened, and supervisors need to be given adequate  
4 resources to perform their duties effectively.

5  
6 Consolidated supervision and prudential reporting should  
7 be applied to off-balance-sheet entities, with **better**  
8 **regard** more attention to reputational risks and contingent  
9 liabilities.

10  
11 Bank-resolution and deposit-insurance frameworks need  
12 to be strengthened, and interagency coordination needs to  
13 be more effective. Central banks should remain well  
14 informed and involved.

15  
16 Minimum underwriting and consumer-protection standards  
17 should apply to all financial intermediaries to limit  
18 excessive risk taking and regulatory arbitrage.

**Central bank liquidity**

19  
20  
21  
22 Shortcomings in existing emergency-  
23 liquidity frameworks led to disruptions in  
24 interbank markets and exacerbated the  
25 turmoil.

26  
27 Central banks need to be able to lend to a sufficiently  
28 broad set of counterparties and accept a sufficiently broad  
29 range of collateral while avoiding excessive  
30 counterparty/credit risk.

31  
32 Care is needed to avoid unduly stigmatizing the use of  
33 central bank liquidity.

34  
35 There would be merit in improving collaboration among  
36 central banks, including by establishing a more permanent  
37 set of emergency swap lines to address problems of  
liquidity in foreign currency, and in seeking greater  
convergence in operational frameworks.

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36 Even though the turmoil in financial markets was still evolving at the close of  
37 FY2008, and consensus on the appropriate policy responses was still emerging, the Fund's

1 surveillance has already responded. Recent developments suggest there is scope to sharpen  
2 surveillance and policy advice in the following areas:

- 3 • In its dialogue with supervisors and regulators, the Fund should seek to ensure  
4 that risk-management practices in financial institutions are adequate, especially  
5 with regard to complex structured finance products, and that stress testing by both  
6 private sector institutions and supervisors is robust.
- 7 • Many of these issues are also relevant to the Fund’s dialogue with central banks.  
8 In countries where central banks do not have supervisory functions, it is  
9 particularly important to assess the degree of cooperation with banking  
10 supervisors and arrangements for coordinated action and early intervention in the  
11 event of financial sector stress.
- 12 • The Fund should pay special attention to the authorities’ stress-testing and bank-  
13 resolution frameworks in emerging market countries, especially those that have  
14 either large current account deficits financed by debt-creating flows or financial  
15 sectors dominated by banks from mature markets or both. Although emerging  
16 market countries have thus far proved resilient to the turmoil in financial markets,  
17 the risk of contagion is significant in countries with these characteristics.

### 18 **Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP)**

19 Assessments under the FSAP, a joint initiative of the IMF and the World Bank, are an  
20 important input into surveillance, and the Fund continues to carry them out selectively. The  
21 FSAP was introduced in 1999 to provide member countries, on a voluntary basis, with a  
22 comprehensive evaluation of their financial systems and provides the basis for the IMF’s  
23 Financial System Stability Assessments (FSSAs)—assessments of risks to macroeconomic  
24 stability stemming from the financial sector, including the latter’s ability to withstand  
25 macroeconomic shocks. Regional FSAPs are also undertaken for currency unions, notably  
26 where significant regulatory and supervisory structures are at the regional level. Regional  
27 FSAPs have been completed for CEMAC and ECCU, and an FSAP for WAEMU was under  
28 way at the end of the Fund’s financial year.

1 With a total of 121 initial assessments now completed or under way, the IMF and the  
2 World Bank are increasingly focusing on FSAP updates. The core elements of updates  
3 include financial stability analysis, factual updates of the observance of standards and codes  
4 included in the initial assessment,<sup>25</sup> and a reassessment of key issues raised in the initial  
5 assessment.

6 In FY2008, 17 FSAPs were completed, of which 12 were updates;<sup>26</sup> another 45 (of  
7 which 24 are updates) are either under way or agreed and being planned.

### 8 **Collaboration with other institutions**

9 The Fund also works closely with other organizations on financial sector issues. It has  
10 increased its collaboration with the World Bank in this area in the context of the Joint Bank-  
11 Fund Management Action Plan (see Chapter 5). It has strengthened its analysis of  
12 vulnerabilities in advanced economies and collaboration with standard setters (such as the  
13 Basel Committee on Banking Supervision), central banks, and finance ministries in  
14 conjunction with the FSF and the G-20. It prepared a Global Financial Stability Note for the  
15 FSF's March 2008 meeting and has sponsored or cosponsored a number of conferences and  
16 seminars on financial sector issues (Box 3.5).

---

#### 17 **Box 3.5 Collaboration and outreach on financial sector issues**

18 During FY2008, the IMF sponsored or cosponsored a number of conferences and seminars on  
19 financial globalization and financial stability.

20 In December 2007, the IMF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP), the 21 COE-Market  
22 Quality Project of Keio University, and the Financial Research and Training Center of Japan's  
23 Financial Services Agency hosted the conference "Financial Stability and Financial Sector  
24 Supervision: Lessons from the Past Decade and Way Forward," in Tokyo. The conference brought  
25 together a select group of senior officials from the Asia-Pacific region, international financial  
26 institutions, academics, private sector representatives, and other stakeholders to review the progress  
27 that had been made in banking reform and financial sector supervision and examination over the last  
28 10 years. Discussions focused on the readiness of financial systems in developing countries in the

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25 Factual updates describe developments that are relevant to compliance with standards and codes but do not reassess the ratings in the initial FSAP.

26 These numbers refer to FSSAs discussed by the Board during FY2008.

1 region to cope with ongoing changes in the global financial landscape, including through an effective  
2 implementation of the Basel II standards.

3 The Fund also cosponsored seminars and conferences with member countries and think tanks. In  
4 September 2007, it cohosted with the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago the “Tenth Annual  
5 International Banking Conference: Globalization and Systemic Risk,” which provided a forum where  
6 policymakers from advanced and emerging market countries and academics could discuss the  
7 current landscape of cross-border banking activity; how systemic risk may be enhanced or contained  
8 by globalization; the potential sources of systemic risk (particularly banks, insurance companies,  
9 pension funds, hedge funds, and other capital market participants); regulatory efforts to address  
10 systemic concerns; and policy alternatives that need to be considered. In January 2008, the Fund  
11 cohosted a seminar with the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., “Global Downturn? The World  
12 Economy in 2008.”<sup>1</sup> In April 2008, it cosponsored the Conference on International Macro-Finance in  
13 Washington, D.C., in collaboration with the World Economy and Finance Research Programme of the  
14 U.K. Economic and Social Research Council. Participants included, in addition to IMF staff,  
15 representatives from central banks of several member countries and leading academics. The  
16 conference served as a forum where participants could present recent theoretical and empirical  
17 research narrowing the gap between “open-economy macro” and “finance” approaches to  
18 international financial issues.

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 <sup>1</sup>The transcript of the seminar is available on the CD-ROM and on the IMF’s Web site, at  
21 [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080131.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080131.htm).

## 22 **Vulnerability Exercise**

23 The Vulnerability Exercise established in 2001 provides regular cross-country assessments of  
24 vulnerabilities and crisis risks in emerging market economies. The Fund ~~revamped-developed~~  
25 ~~a new~~ methodology in FY2008 ~~that enables it to~~ distinguish between underlying  
26 vulnerabilities and crisis risks ~~in emerging market countries, which thereby~~ facilitating the  
27 identification of underlying weaknesses in a benign environment when crisis risk is low. It  
28 ~~also~~ intends to extend this exercise to mature markets. The Spring 2008 Vulnerability  
29 Exercise focused on the impact of global turmoil on emerging market economies, ~~and~~ the  
30 risks that asset price booms could end in sharp corrections; ~~and the risk~~ that a decline in  
31 capital inflows could precipitate a further downward spiral of asset prices, loan quality, and  
32 growth prospects.

## 1 Sovereign Wealth Funds

2 Sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) are becoming increasingly important players in the  
3 international monetary and financial system, and their assets have increased to an estimated  
4 \$1.9–\$2.8 trillion—this is in addition to the dramatic growth of international reserve  
5 holdings, which reached \$6 trillion at the end of 2007. SWFs offer various economic and  
6 financial benefits—in the home country, they facilitate the intergenerational transfer of  
7 wealth, help prevent boom-bust cycles, contribute to fiscal stability, and allow for better  
8 portfolio diversification of sovereign assets, while they can have a stabilizing influence in  
9 global financial markets and enhance liquidity, as evidenced by SWFs' recent injections of  
10 capital into several large banks (see Chapter 2)—but they also pose challenges for  
11 policymakers.

12 At the 2007 Annual Meetings, while recognizing the positive role of SWFs in  
13 enhancing market liquidity and financial resource allocation, the IMFC in its Communiqué  
14 welcomed the IMF's analysis of issues for investors and recipients of flows from SWFs,  
15 including work by the IMF to engage in a dialogue with countries on identifying a set of best  
16 practices for SWFs.<sup>27</sup> In November 2007, the Fund convened the first annual roundtable of  
17 sovereign asset and reserve managers in Washington, D.C., to facilitate the exchange of ideas  
18 and experiences in the management of reserves and other sovereign assets. The roundtable  
19 was attended by high-level delegations from central banks, finance ministries, and sovereign  
20 asset managers from 28 countries. Discussions covered trends in reserve accumulation and  
21 their implications for central bank balance sheets.

22 At the Executive Board's discussion of SWFs in March 2008,<sup>28</sup> most Executive  
23 Directors considered that the Fund was well placed to facilitate and coordinate the  
24 development of generally agreed principles and practices for SWFs and stressed that this  
25 work should go hand in hand with work being undertaken at the Organization for Economic  
26 Cooperation and Development (OECD) and elsewhere. Executive Directors supported an

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<sup>27</sup>The Communiqué can be found in Appendix III on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2007/102007a.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2007/102007a.htm).

<sup>28</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses a Work Agenda on Sovereign Wealth Funds," PIN 08/41, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0841.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0841.htm). The background paper prepared by the staff can also be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/022908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/022908.pdf).

1 inclusive, collaborative approach with SWFs that would involve relevant members and  
2 stakeholders, and agreed that these principles and practices would be adopted on a voluntary  
3 basis.

4 In its April 2008 Communiqué,<sup>29</sup> the IMFC welcomed the IMF's initiative to work as  
5 a facilitator and coordinator with SWFs in developing a set of best practices and stated that it  
6 looked forward to reviewing the progress made at its next meeting.

7 On April 30–May 1, 2008, representatives of SWFs met at IMF headquarters in  
8 Washington, D.C., with representatives from the countries in which they invest, the  
9 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the European Commission.  
10 The SWFs formally established an international working group that is tasked with developing  
11 by October 2008 a common set of voluntary principles for SWFs, drawing on the existing  
12 body of principles and practices, that properly reflect their investment practices and  
13 objectives.<sup>30</sup> The IMF will provide the secretariat for the working group, which is composed  
14 of representatives from 25 IMF member countries. The working group is cochaired by a  
15 senior representative of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and the Director of the IMF's  
16 Monetary and Capital Markets Department, who were selected by the participating SWFs.

### 17 **AML/CFT**

18 The Fund remains firmly engaged in AML/CFT work but is concentrating on those areas  
19 where it has the greatest comparative advantage, that is, assessments of countries that are  
20 systemically important or that present serious money laundering or terrorist financing risk—  
21 for example, emerging economies and middle-income countries whose financial systems  
22 have developed faster than their AML/CFT safeguards. This work has strong synergies  
23 with the Fund's other financial sector assessment work, and the Fund is continuing  
24 to integrate AML/CFT issues into its broader surveillance mandate, exploring the

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<sup>29</sup>The Communiqué is available [in Appendix III](#) on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2008/041208.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2008/041208.htm).

<sup>30</sup>[The international working group's Web site, www.iwg-swf.org/, which was launched in June 2008, provides group members with access to confidential working documents. It also makes available to interested parties public information issued by the group and links to SWF Web sites. Inquiries can be sent to the IMF through the site.](#)

1 relationships between money laundering, informal sectors, and the mainstream economy.

2 The Fund's AML/CFT technical assistance work supports its assessment work. Going

3 forward, it will be more demand-driven and will rely primarily on external funding.

4 ~~The Fund's work on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism~~

5 ~~(AML/CFT) is focusing on the assessment of countries that are systemically important or that~~

6 ~~present acute risk, including emerging and middle-income countries whose financial systems~~

7 ~~have outpaced their AML/CFT capacity. In accordance with its efforts to become a more~~

8 ~~cost-effective and efficient institution, the Fund is seeking to mobilize external financing for~~

9 ~~its AML/CFT work.~~

### 10 **Financial soundness indicators**

11 Financial soundness indicators are a relatively new body of economic statistics that are used,  
12 along with other economic and financial indicators, to assess the financial strength and

13 vulnerabilities of a country's financial sector. The IMF worked closely with national

14 agencies and regional and international institutions to develop a set of core and encouraged

15 FSIs. The Executive Board endorsed the FSIs in 2001 and a work program in 2003 aimed at

16 increasing the capacity of member countries to compile FSIs and expanding reporting and

17 analysis of FSIs in the work of the Fund. As part of this work program, the IMF produced the

18 *Financial Soundness Indicators Compilation Guide* and launched a voluntary Coordinated

19 Compilation Exercise (CCE) in 2004. The 62 participants in the CCE undertook to compile

20 the 12 core FSIs and as many of the 28 encouraged FSIs as possible and to provide them, the

21 underlying data series, and related metadata to the IMF for dissemination. FSIs are routinely

22 monitored by the IMF as part of its enhanced surveillance of financial systems and are

23 frequently ~~reported~~ included in staff reports and FSAP reports.

24 In November 2007, the Executive Board reviewed the experience with the work

25 program and discussed proposals for taking the work on FSIs forward.<sup>31</sup> Executive Directors

26 were of the view that FSIs represented an important starting point for analysis of financial

27 stability and a key element of the IMF's financial soundness assessment toolkit. They urged

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<sup>31</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Concludes Financial Soundness Indicators—Experience with the Coordinated Compilation Exercise and Next Steps," PIN 07/135, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/07135.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/07135.pdf).

1 that FSIs continue to be a standard part of surveillance, FSAP reports, and the IMF's  
2 Vulnerability Exercise, and welcomed the ~~increasing~~ reporting of ~~such indicator~~ FSIs in staff  
3 reports. Noting that FSIs need to be interpreted with caution, given the diversity of the  
4 accounting, regulatory, and legal systems that underpin them, the Board called for further  
5 progress on improving cross-country comparability and encouraged continued efforts by the  
6 IMF and other international agencies to harmonize data compilation methodologies and  
7 reporting. Executive Directors saw clear value in the regular collection and dissemination of  
8 FSIs by the IMF, with the creation of a centralized public FSI database that would be  
9 available to member countries, international institutions, and markets. They agreed that  
10 countries should be encouraged—but not required—to report FSIs to the IMF.

#### 11 **FRAMEWORK OF DATA PROVISION FOR SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER DATA INITIATIVES**

##### 12 **Data provision to the Fund for surveillance purposes**

13 A review by IMF staff of the policy framework for data provision for surveillance, submitted  
14 to the Executive Board at the end of FY2008 and discussed in early FY2009, considered that  
15 the overall framework remained appropriate, but suggested efforts to clarify staff's  
16 assessments of data adequacy, strengthen data reporting for assessments of external stability,  
17 improve country participation and coverage for financial sector data initiatives, and take  
18 appropriate action in cases where members, despite adequate capacity, fail to provide data.

##### 19 **Fiscal and data transparency**

20 The need for monetary and financial statistics that are accurate, comprehensive, comparable  
21 across countries, and widely available on a timely basis has been underscored by modern  
22 episodes of instability in financial markets, including the recent stresses in the loan and  
23 securities markets. During FY2008, the Fund undertook several initiatives to enhance the  
24 transparency and quality of financial sector data in its member countries (Box 3.6). It  
25 reconvened the Working Group on Securities Databases and hosted a workshop organized by  
26 the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics. It published *Monetary and Financial*  
27 *Statistics: A Compilation Guide*, a companion to the *Monetary and Financial Statistics*  
28 *Manual*. The new Guide is intended to help countries compile high-quality data in  
29 accordance with current best practices. During FY2008, the number of economies reporting

1 international investment position data for the Fund's statistical publications continued to  
2 increase, reaching 113 at end-2007.

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3  
4 **Box 3.6 Initiatives on financial sector data**

5 Well-functioning local-currency bond markets can contribute to strong and sustainable economic  
6 growth and financial stability in emerging market and developing countries, but internationally  
7 comparable data on bond markets are limited. Information about these markets is typically spread  
8 across different organizations that use different classifications and data exchange formats. In 2007,  
9 the finance ministers of the Group of Eight (G-8) countries called on the IMF and other international  
10 organizations to improve the quality, comparability, and consistency of these data.

11 In response, the IMF reconvened the Working Group on Securities Databases, which it chairs, to  
12 discuss the development of a global securities database. The other members of the Working Group  
13 when it was established by the IMF in 1999 were the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the  
14 European Central Bank (ECB). Its work was put on hold in 2001 until the ECB's development of a  
15 Centralized Securities Database was more advanced. In September 2007, representatives from the  
16 BIS, the ECB, the World Bank, the Deutsche Bundesbank, the Bank of Mexico, and the U.S. Federal  
17 Reserve met at IMF headquarters in Washington, D.C., to take stock of the available data on local  
18 debt markets in emerging market and developing countries and to identify any gaps. Participants  
19 established that the BIS and the ECB both had databases on domestic and international debt  
20 securities that could be developed to meet the requirements of users of statistics. Following up on this  
21 meeting, in March 2008 the IMF hosted a workshop organized by the Irving Fisher Committee on  
22 Central Bank Statistics. Participants in the workshop, who included representatives from international  
23 and regional organizations as well as from central banks and statistical offices in a wide range of  
24 countries, came together to discuss the challenges of compiling securities statistics as well as specific  
25 methodological issues. They agreed on the need for a guide on compiling securities statistics, since  
26 there is as yet no international standard in this area. The guide will focus initially on statistics on debt  
27 securities but will eventually be expanded to cover other securities and securities holdings.

28 In addition, in April 2008, the IMF published the *Monetary and Financial Statistics: Compilation Guide*,  
29 which is aimed at providing direct assistance to data compilers at the national level who are  
30 responsible for implementing the methodological and statistical frameworks contained in the IMF's  
31 *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual*, which was published in 2000. By including the compilation  
32 of flow data, the Guide and the Manual represent a major advance in the guidance the IMF has been  
33 providing to countries since 1948 on monetary statistics; the focus had previously been on the  
34 compilation and reporting of balance-sheet data (end-of-month stocks) for the central bank and other  
35 depository corporations. The Guide focuses on the cross-country harmonization of source data and  
36 methodology for the compilation and presentation of the statistics. It also describes the unified

1 framework for countries' reporting of monetary data to the IMF. In 2004, the Fund introduced the  
2 Standardized Report Forms (SRF) for countries' reporting of balance-sheet data for depository  
3 corporations, insurance corporations, pension funds, and other institutional types of financial  
4 corporations. Thus far, more than 100 countries/territories have established monthly reporting of SRF  
5 data, and time series from these data are published in the IMF's quarterly *International Financial*  
6 *Statistics: Supplement on Monetary and Financial Statistics*. The Guide also introduces illustrative  
7 supplementary data, disaggregated by maturity, currency denomination, and type of interest rate, of  
8 sectoral balance-sheet accounts of central banks, other depository corporations, and other financial  
9 corporations. The supplementary data include subcategories—by type of contract—for financial  
10 derivatives. The financial statistics described in the Guide, which record the distribution and  
11 redistribution of financial assets and liabilities among the sectors of an economy on a quarterly basis,  
12 are an important input to the IMF's balance-sheet approach to analyzing a country's vulnerability to  
13 external or internal shocks.

14 Finally, in FY2009, the Fund will also initiate regular collection and dissemination of financial  
15 soundness indicators (FSIs) and will create a publicly available database. Countries will be  
16 encouraged—but not required—to report FSIs to the Fund.

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17       The Executive Board approved in May 2007 the Fund's revised *Code of Good*  
18 *Practices on Fiscal Transparency*, a central element in IMF actions to promote transparency  
19 and good governance. The revisions reflected a broad consultative process, in which country  
20 authorities, civil society organizations, international institutions, academia, and the private  
21 sector took part. Revised versions of the *Manual on Fiscal Transparency* and the *Guide on*  
22 *Resource Revenue Transparency* were also published. Assessments of practices under the  
23 *Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency* have so far been published for 86 countries  
24 as part of the voluntary Standards and Codes Initiative, which was launched in 1999.<sup>32</sup> Fiscal  
25 transparency is one of 12 topics covered by the Initiative, under which the IMF and the  
26 World Bank respond to member countries' requests for summaries of their observance of  
27 good practice standards in three broad areas—transparent government operations and  
28 policymaking, financial sector standards, and market integrity standards for the corporate  
29 sector. The assessments are designed to help countries strengthen their economic institutions,

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<sup>32</sup>Further information on the Standards and Codes Initiative and copies of country assessments can be found on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp](http://www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp).

1 to inform the work of the IMF and the Bank, and to inform market participants (see CD-Box  
2 3.1 on the CD-ROM).<sup>33</sup>

3 In February 2008, the IMF and the World Bank released new, enhanced versions of  
4 the Quarterly External Debt Statistics (QEDS) database and the Joint External Debt Hub  
5 (JEDH). The QEDS database, which was initially launched in 2004, brings together external  
6 debt statistics that are normally published individually by countries that subscribe to the  
7 IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). To further enhance the availability of  
8 external debt data, the World Bank and the IMF invited a group of low-income countries that  
9 participate in the IMF's General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) to report a simplified  
10 quarterly set of data focusing on the external debt of the public sector. Fourteen countries  
11 have accepted the invitation, and 12 of them have already started providing the requested  
12 data. The intention is to expand the number of reporting countries over time.<sup>34</sup> The JEDH is a  
13 joint undertaking of the BIS, the IMF, the OECD, and the World Bank. It represents a further  
14 step by the institutions involved to facilitate and encourage worldwide dissemination of  
15 external debt data by as many countries as possible.<sup>35</sup>

### 16 **Coordinated Direct Investment Survey**

17 In 2007, the IMF decided to undertake a Coordinated Direct Investment Survey in  
18 collaboration with its Inter-Agency Task Force partners, including the OECD, the Statistical  
19 Office of the European Communities, the ECB, and the United Nations Conference on Trade  
20 and Development. All Fund member countries and a few non-members were invited to  
21 participate. As of April 2008, 135 countries had indicated a willingness to participate in the  
22 survey. The survey will collect information on outstanding direct investment positions,

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<sup>33</sup>See "IMF Launches Revised Fiscal Transparency Code and Manual," PR 07/95, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr0795.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr0795.htm). The Code and the Manual are also available on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4175](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4175) and [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4177](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4177), respectively.

<sup>34</sup>The SDDS was established in 1996 to guide countries that have or seek access to international capital markets and that already meet high standards for the quality of their statistical data. The GDDS was established in 1997 to help countries improve their statistical systems and is open to all IMF members. Both are voluntary, but once a country subscribes to the SDDS, observance of the standard is mandatory. See CD-Box 3.1 on the CD-ROM and *The IMF's Data Dissemination Initiative After 10 Years*, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/books/2008/datadiss/dissemination.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/books/2008/datadiss/dissemination.pdf).

<sup>35</sup>See "IMF and World Bank Expand Databases on External Debt Statistics," PR 08/37, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0837.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0837.htm).

1 broken down by equity and debt, and then by debt assets and liabilities, by counterpart  
2 country as of the end of 2009. The survey will also capture world totals and the geographic  
3 distribution of positions, ~~and~~ ~~thereby~~ ~~fore~~ ~~contributing~~ to improved understanding of  
4 globalization. The first results are expected to be available by the end of 2010 or early in  
5 2011 and to be published by the IMF. A task force was formed in 2007 to assist the IMF in  
6 preparing a guide for countries responding to the survey.<sup>36</sup> The survey is the first such  
7 undertaking by the IMF in a coordinated manner on direct investment data. It is, to a large  
8 extent, modeled on the very successful Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS),  
9 which has been conducted under the auspices of the IMF on an annual basis since 2001.<sup>37</sup>

### 10 **The Data Standards Initiatives**

11 Data standards continue to play an important role ~~for~~ ~~in~~ strengthening Fund surveillance.  
12 Implementation of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives is progressing, with 64 SDDS  
13 subscribers and 92 GDDS participants, together representing about 85 percent of the Fund's  
14 membership. In February 2008, in an informal seminar, the Executive Board discussed a  
15 paper reviewing 10 years of experience with the GDDS, which points to possible future  
16 directions and emphasizes data dissemination and plans for improvement that focus on the  
17 periodicity and timeliness of data. An outreach program with member countries is in progress  
18 (two consultations were held in April 2008, one in South Africa and the other in Thailand). A  
19 Seventh Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives will be discussed by the Executive  
20 Board in the fall of 2008.

### 21 **THE TRIENNIAL SURVEILLANCE REVIEW**

22 Over the past 30 years, the Executive Board has reviewed the IMF's surveillance work at  
23 regular intervals.<sup>38</sup> At a Board briefing in April 2008 based on an Issues Note prepared by  
24 staff, Executive Directors began discussing the design of the Triennial Surveillance Review,  
25 which will provide them with an opportunity to discuss strategic issues related to refocusing  
26 the Fund's surveillance, including focus, quality of analysis in key areas—macro-financial

<sup>36</sup>The Guide can be found at [www.imf.org/external/np/sta/cdis/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/cdis/index.htm).

<sup>37</sup>The data on the CPIS can be found at [www.imf.org/external/np/sta/pi/cpis.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/pi/cpis.htm).

<sup>38</sup>Under the 1977 Surveillance Decision, reviews of the surveillance procedures and the implementation of surveillance were conducted biennially from 1988 to 2004. In accordance with the Medium-Term Strategy's call for streamlining IMF procedures, the new 2007 Decision provides for triennial reviews.

1 linkages and a multilateral perspective in bilateral surveillance—candor and consistency in  
2 assessing external stability, and effectiveness of surveillance communication. ~~It is envisaged~~  
3 ~~that t~~The Review ~~will lead to the adoption, by the time of the 2008 Annual Meetings of the~~  
4 ~~IMF and the World Bank, of is to include~~ a Statement of Surveillance Priorities, which is  
5 expected to ~~that will~~ help focus surveillance across the Fund, underpin policy dialogue with  
6 members, and enhance accountability.

7

## 1 4. Program support and capacity building

2 The IMF provides support to its member countries through a variety of instruments,  
3 depending on their needs. It has a number of different lending facilities (Table 4.1) as well as  
4 mechanisms for providing policy support without financing, and also provides, at the request  
5 of members, technical assistance (TA) and training that are consistent with the purposes of  
6 the Fund. The IMF's Executive Board regularly reviews these instruments to ensure that they  
7 continue to meet the evolving needs of member countries.

8 Consideration and approval of members' requests for financial assistance and  
9 program support are core responsibilities of the Board, alongside surveillance. Under its  
10 lending facilities, the IMF makes temporary financing available to member countries to give  
11 them time to adjust their policies so as to overcome short-term balance of payments  
12 problems, such as insufficient foreign exchange to purchase needed imports or make  
13 payments on external obligations; stabilize their economies; and avoid similar problems in  
14 the future. IMF financing is provided in support of economic reform programs developed by  
15 member countries themselves in collaboration with the IMF, and is expected to have a  
16 catalytic effect, enabling a country to restore confidence in its policies and attract additional  
17 financing from other sources. The Executive Board regularly evaluates members'  
18 performance under their programs, and, in most cases, funds are disbursed as program targets  
19 are met.

20 TA and training help member countries fulfill the commitments they make when they  
21 join the IMF—to pursue policies that foster financial and macroeconomic stability,  
22 sustainable economic growth, and orderly exchange rate arrangements, and to provide the  
23 IMF with timely, accurate, and high-quality data about their economies. TA and training are  
24 also vehicles for helping member countries implement the recommendations that come out of  
25 the IMF's Article IV consultations (see Chapter 3). Hence, aligning and integrating capacity  
26 building with surveillance and program work have become key objectives of the IMF's  
27 Executive Board. The IMF offers TA and training mainly in its core areas of expertise,  
28 including macroeconomic policy, tax and revenue administration, public expenditure  
29 management, monetary policy, exchange systems, financial sector reforms, debt  
30 management, and macroeconomic and financial statistics. In recent years, member countries

1 have increasingly requested assistance in addressing issues related to globalization and  
 2 investment, such as preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism;  
 3 strengthening public investment, public-private partnerships, and management of fiscal risks;  
 4 adopting international standards and codes for data and financial and fiscal management;  
 5 correcting weaknesses identified under the joint IMF–World Bank Financial Sector  
 6 Assessment Program; and carrying out debt sustainability analyses.

#### 7 **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND POLICY ADVICE**

8 Financing under the IMF’s main credit facilities is subject to charges (interest) and in some  
 9 cases may be subject to surcharges, depending on the type and duration of financing and the  
 10 amount of IMF credit outstanding. The bulk of such financing is provided through Stand-By  
 11 Arrangements, which address short-term balance of payments difficulties, and Extended  
 12 Arrangements, which focus on external payments difficulties caused by longer-term  
 13 structural problems. In FY2008, the Fund’s Executive Board approved SDR 934.2 million in  
 14 the use of Fund resources under these facilities (Table 4.2), which included three  
 15 precautionary Stand-By Arrangements—for Gabon (36 months, SDR 77.2 million),  
 16 Honduras (12 months, SDR 38.9 million), and Iraq (15 months, SDR 475.4 million)—and a  
 17 36-month Extended Arrangement for Liberia (SDR 342.8 million), extended as a blend with  
 18 concessional financing under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF), the  
 19 principal instrument for providing IMF financial support to low-income countries (see  
 20 below). In addition, the Board approved a decrease in the amount of SDR 35 million of an  
 21 existing Stand-By Arrangement for Paraguay.

22 **Table 4.2 Arrangements under main facilities approved in FY2008**

23 *(In millions of SDRs)*

24 Member	25 Type of arrangement	26 Effective date	27 Amount approved
28 Gabon	36-month Stand-By	May 7, 2007	77.2
29 Honduras	12-month Stand-By	April 7, 2008	38.9
30 Iraq	15-month Stand-By	December 19, 2007	475.4
31 Liberia	36-month Extended Fund Facility	March 14, 2008	342.8
32 <b>Subtotal</b>			<b>934.2</b>
33 Paraguay (decrease) <sup>1</sup>	27-month Stand-By	October 15, 2007	(35.0)
34 <b>Total</b>			<b>899.2</b>

35 Source: IMF Finance Department.

36 <sup>1</sup>Only the amount of the decrease is shown.

1 The IMF provides subsidized loans through the PRGF, which focuses on poverty  
 2 reduction in the context of a growth-oriented economic strategy, and debt relief under the  
 3 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative  
 4 (MDRI). A low-income country seeking a PRGF arrangement or debt relief must prepare a  
 5 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in a participatory process involving domestic  
 6 stakeholders, including civil society, based on the strategy developed and owned by the  
 7 country; the PRSP is issued to the Boards of the IMF and the World Bank. During FY2008,  
 8 the Executive Board approved four new PRGF arrangements (for Guinea, Liberia, Nicaragua,  
 9 and Togo), with commitments totaling SDR 424.8 million (Table 4.3). In addition, it  
 10 approved the augmentation, in the amount of SDR 9.0 million, of an existing PRGF  
 11 arrangement for Burkina Faso. As of April 30, 2008, the reform programs of 25 member  
 12 countries were supported by PRGF arrangements, with commitments totaling SDR 1.1  
 13 billion and undrawn balances of SDR 0.5 billion. Total concessional loans outstanding  
 14 amounted to SDR 3.9 billion at April 30, 2008 (Figure 4.1).

15

16 **Table 4.3 PRGF arrangements approved in FY2008**  
 17 *(In millions of SDRs)*

18 Member	19 Effective date	20 Amount approved
21 <b>New Arrangements</b>		
22 Guinea	December 21, 2007	48.2
23 Liberia	March 14, 2008	239.0
24 Nicaragua	October 5, 2007	71.5
25 Togo	April 21, 2008	66.1
26 <b>Subtotal</b>		<b>424.8</b>
27 <b>Augmentation<sup>1</sup></b>		
28 Burkina Faso	January 9, 2008	9.0
29 <b>Subtotal</b>		<b>9.0</b>
30 <b>Total</b>		<b>433.8</b>

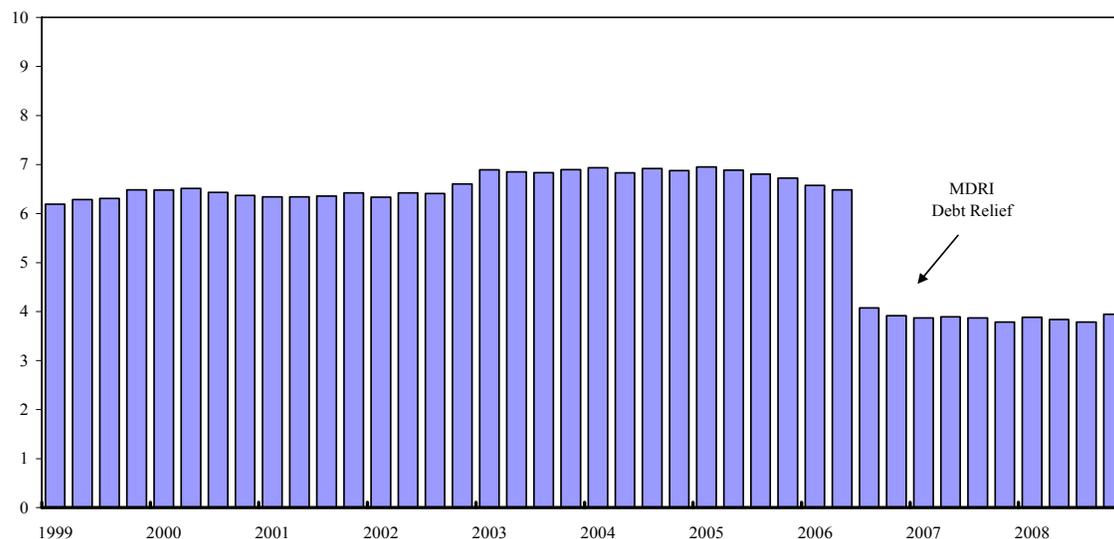
31

32 Source: IMF Finance Department.

33 <sup>1</sup>For the augmentation, only the amount of the increase is shown.

34

**Figure 4.1 Concessional loans outstanding FY1999–FY2008**  
(In billions of SDRs)



Source: IMF Finance Department.

1

2       The IMF provides emergency financial assistance to member countries recovering  
3 from conflicts (Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance, or EPCA) and natural disasters  
4 (Emergency Natural Disaster Assistance, or ENDA). Countries that are eligible for  
5 concessional lending under the PRGF can make use of financing under the Exogenous  
6 Shocks Facility (ESF) and are also eligible for emergency assistance at subsidized interest  
7 rates.<sup>1</sup> During FY2008, the Executive Board approved emergency assistance totaling SDR  
8 218.5 million. Of this amount, two requests were approved under ENDA (SDR 133.3 million  
9 for Bangladesh and SDR 2.1 million for Dominica), and three under EPCA (two requests,  
10 each in the amount of SDR 40.7 million, were approved for Côte d'Ivoire, and one of SDR  
11 1.8 million for Guinea-Bissau). As of April 30, 2008, three countries—Côte d'Ivoire,

<sup>1</sup>Since 2001, bilateral contributions have allowed the IMF to provide EPCA to low-income countries at a reduced rate of 0.5 percent per year, from which 16 low-income countries have benefited to date. In early 2005, when subsidization was extended to cover ENDA, the Executive Board set an initial goal of raising additional contributions of SDR 45–65 million to cover the estimated needs for the five-year period through 2009. Since 2005, 17 countries have committed SDR 29 million, prompting the IMF to intensify its resource mobilization efforts. The aim now is to secure SDR 100 million in contributions to cover projected subsidization costs through 2014. [See CD-Tables 4.1. and 4.2 on the CD-ROM for the lists of countries that have pledged contributions, or contributed to, the Exogenous Shock Facility and Emergency Assistance.](#)

1 Guinea-Bissau, and Lebanon—had outstanding EPCA credit, which amounted to  
2 SDR 133.8 million, and five—Bangladesh, Dominica, Grenada, Maldives, and Sri Lanka—  
3 had outstanding ENDA credit, for a total of SDR 245.4 million.

4 In recent years, a number of countries have chosen to repay their outstanding credit to  
5 the Fund ahead of schedule. For example, in FY2008, Bolivia, Iraq, and the former Yugoslav  
6 Republic of Macedonia completed advance repayment of their outstanding obligations to the  
7 IMF, for a total of SDR 330.9 million.

8 More generally, a number of Fund members have transitioned from a financial and  
9 surveillance relationship with the Fund to one that is principally a surveillance relationship,  
10 thanks to their improved macroeconomic conditions and ready access to private capital  
11 following five years of exceptional broad-based global growth and buoyant financial market  
12 conditions. The need for Fund financing has been especially modest over the past few years  
13 for middle-income member countries, which traditionally have been the major users of Fund  
14 resources in the credit tranches, and approvals of Stand-By and Extended Arrangements have  
15 declined. Many low-income countries have also benefited from improved macroeconomic  
16 policies, the favorable global environment, and strong demand for commodities. Although  
17 demand for financing under the PRGF remains strong, fewer PRGF arrangements were  
18 approved in FY2008 than in previous years, reflecting, in part, a shift to use of the Fund's  
19 Policy Support Instrument (PSI; see below).

## 20 **Emerging market economies**

21 In recent years, emerging market economies as a group have become a source of strength for  
22 the global economy, and their demand for traditional Fund financial support has decreased.  
23 Many have built sizable reserves for self-insurance purposes and have shown resilience in the  
24 face of recent financial market turbulence. More flexible exchange rates and increased  
25 reliance on local currency-denominated debt have reduced two sources of vulnerability. The  
26 Board has underscored the importance of strengthening debt management in these  
27 economies, and several major emerging markets, with the Fund's engagement, have  
28 implemented policies to strengthen economic fundamentals. However, continued market  
29 turbulence could increase risks for those dependent on short-term capital inflows to finance  
30 large current account deficits and rapid domestic credit growth.

***Policy challenges***

~~In the April 2008 *World Economic Outlook* (WEO), the Fund advocated the use of a variety of tools by governments to combat the spreading effects of market turmoil and limit the impact of the economic slowdown in the advanced economies. The WEO outlined three lines of defense: a combination of monetary policy easing, fiscal stimulus, and public funds, as appropriate, can play a complementary role in helping economies address the current turmoil by supporting demand and limiting the negative interaction between financial markets and the real economy.~~

~~In addition, the Fund addressed the challenges posed by large capital inflows. Although private capital inflows can result in long-term benefits if put to good use, they may pose significant risks to macroeconomic stability. The October 2007 WEO addressed, in part, the appropriate policy response to large capital inflows, which depends on country-specific circumstances and the nature of the inflows.<sup>2</sup> A comprehensive cross-country analysis of policy responses over the past two decades provides guidance. The most robust lesson to emerge from the analysis is that keeping government spending on a steady path—rather than engaging in excessive spending during periods of heavy capital inflows—can help mitigate the adverse effects of large inflows.~~

***New instruments for emerging market economies***

In the context of decreasing demand for traditional Fund support, the Fund continues to explore whether its financial instruments meet the needs of emerging market economies. There has been some encouraging support for a proposed rapid access line (RAL).<sup>3</sup> Members continue to have mixed views, however, about some elements of the design, and a consensus on the type of instrument that would be most useful to member countries has not been reached. Nevertheless, in view of recent global financial turbulence, the Fund is pushing forward its work on the modalities of a new liquidity instrument and is also considering suggestions made by some Executive Directors for a financial stability line for countries integrating into global capital markets and pursuing financial sector reforms.

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<sup>2</sup>The WEO is available on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2007/02/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2007/02/index.htm).

<sup>3</sup>The proposed instrument's name has been changed from a "reserve augmentation line" to a "rapid access line" to better reflect its purpose.

**1 Low-income countries**

2 The Fund remains closely engaged with low-income countries, while refocusing its role by  
3 concentrating on its core areas of expertise—macroeconomic policies and institutions that  
4 support the stability necessary for sustained growth and poverty reduction—and doing less  
5 on noncore structural issues. While the policy advice, financing, and capacity-building  
6 assistance (see below) it provides are tailored to each country's needs, it also draws on its  
7 cross-country experience and perspective. To improve the focus and increase the coherence  
8 of the Fund's policy work on low-income countries, and to promote the exchange of  
9 information and the Fund's engagement with donors, the Fund's interdepartmental Low-  
10 Income Committee is being revamped. As some low-income countries grow and mature, the  
11 Fund is likely to place additional emphasis on issues such as the policy response to capital  
12 inflows, commodity price booms and busts, and financial market development, while growth,  
13 poverty reduction, and debt sustainability will remain top priorities. The Board is scheduled  
14 to examine in depth the Fund's role in low-income countries early in FY2009.

**15 *Clarifying the Fund's role in low-income countries***

16 To clarify the Fund's role in, and reinforce its engagement with, low-income countries, the  
17 IMF's Managing Director traveled to Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania in  
18 February 2008 for discussions with African leaders and representatives of the private sector  
19 and civil society about the challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa and the IMF's role in the  
20 region, as well as to hear first-hand how the IMF can best support its members' efforts to  
21 enhance growth and reduce poverty. The IMF's Executive Directors also visited a number of  
22 African countries in February, meeting with heads of state and high-ranking officials as well  
23 as a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of the public and private sectors,  
24 civil society, and development partners.

25 In June 2007, the Executive Board also discussed the implementation plan for Board-  
26 endorsed recommendations in the Independent Evaluation Office's report on the IMF and aid  
27 to sub-Saharan Africa (see Chapter 5). While confirming the improvement in the region's  
28 macroeconomic performance during 1999–2005, which it attributed in part to the advice and  
29 actions of the IMF, the Board identified areas where further improvements were needed,  
30 including the IMF's role in poverty reduction efforts, the mobilization of aid, the preparation

1 of alternative scenarios for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the  
2 application of poverty and social impact analysis.<sup>4</sup>

3 The Fund's financial support for low-income countries continues to be important in  
4 itself as well as in catalyzing support from other donors. In October 2007, the Executive  
5 Board discussed the IMF's role in the poverty reduction strategy (PRS) process and its  
6 collaboration with donors, reiterating that the primary focus of the IMF's work in low-  
7 income countries in the context of the PRS process should be to provide policy advice on,  
8 and technical support for, the design of appropriate macroeconomic frameworks and  
9 macroeconomically critical structural reforms.<sup>5</sup> Noting that PRSPs have become the accepted  
10 operational framework for countries' poverty reduction efforts and for the coordination of  
11 external support for their efforts to achieve the MDGs, Executive Directors concurred that  
12 the IMF's principal contribution to the MDG effort lies in helping countries maintain  
13 macroeconomic stability, debt sustainability, and appropriate fiscal frameworks, observing  
14 that the Fund should also continue to press for more predictable and more effective aid.

15 Executive Directors agreed that close collaboration with other development partners  
16 is essential for effective IMF engagement with its low-income members and a successful  
17 refocusing of the Fund's role and called for a deepening of this collaboration, with greater  
18 emphasis on delineating areas of competence and the division of labor. At the same time,  
19 Executive Directors stressed that country ownership of the aid process is essential to  
20 successful donor coordination, emphasizing the country-level understandings between the  
21 authorities, the IMF, the World Bank, and other development partners as a critical element of  
22 the collaboration with donors. In FY2008, the Fund strengthened its collaboration with the  
23 World Bank with the implementation of the Joint Management Action Plan and pilot projects  
24 in the areas of public financial management, the financial sector, and natural resource  
25 management in a number of African countries (see Chapter 5).

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<sup>4</sup>See *IMF Annual Report 2007*, pages 42–43, and the Web site of the Independent Evaluation Office for more information: [www.ieo-imf.org](http://www.ieo-imf.org).

<sup>5</sup>The summing up of the Board discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site: "IMF Executive Board Discusses the Fund's Role in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Process and Its Collaboration with Donors," PIN 07/130, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07130.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07130.htm).

## 1 *Debt relief and debt management*

2 Additional countries benefited from debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and MDRI in  
3 FY2008, and changes were introduced into the HIPC framework to add Staff-Monitored  
4 Programs (SMPs) that meet certain standards to the instruments that HIPCs may use in  
5 building a track record to reach the decision point under the HIPC Initiative (see below).  
6 Liberia, one of three HIPC-eligible countries with protracted arrears to the Fund, was the first  
7 to benefit from the change, reaching its decision point in March (see Box 4.1).<sup>6</sup>

8

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### 9 **Box 4.1 Liberia: Clearance of IMF arrears**

10 After having been in continuous arrears to the IMF since 1984, on March 14, 2008, Liberia  
11 regularized its relations with the Fund through the clearance of SDR 543 million of arrears. Improved  
12 cooperation with the Fund, including satisfactory performance under a Staff-Monitored Program,  
13 paved the way for Liberia's arrears clearance. The clearance of Liberia's arrears and subsequent  
14 quota increase under the Eleventh General Review was facilitated by intraday bridge loans provided  
15 by the United States. In addition, a large number of IMF member countries contributed to the  
16 financing package required to provide debt relief to Liberia.<sup>1</sup> These bilateral contributions were  
17 facilitated by the partial distribution of the balance in the Fund's first Special Contingency Account  
18 (SCA-1), accumulated as reserves to guard against possible credit losses, and the proceeds of  
19 deferred-charges-adjustments that had been used to offset the impact on Fund income from Liberia's  
20 arrears (see Chapter 5).

21 Following clearance of Liberia's arrears, the Executive Board restored the country's voting and  
22 related rights and its eligibility to use the general resources of the Fund and lifted the suspension of  
23 its rights to use SDRs. On this basis, and in light of the existence of satisfactory assurances as to the  
24 availability of resources to finance the Fund's debt relief for Liberia, in FY2008 the Board approved  
25 Liberia's request for arrangements totaling SDR 582 million under the PRGF and Extended Fund

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<sup>6</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Fully Restores Liberia's IMF Status, Approves Financial Support Amounting to US\$952 Million and HIPC Decision Point Designation," PR 08/52, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0852.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0852.htm). To qualify for HIPC assistance, a country must pursue strong economic policies supported by the IMF and the World Bank. After establishing a track record of good performance and developing a PRSP or an interim PRSP, the country is said to have reached its decision point, at which time the IMF and the World Bank formally decide on the country's eligibility and the international community commits itself to reducing the country's debt to a sustainable level. The country must then continue its good track record with the support of the international community, implementing key policy reforms, maintaining macroeconomic stability, and adopting and implementing a PRSP. Paris Club and other bilateral and commercial creditors reschedule obligations coming due. A country reaches its completion point once it has met the objectives set at the decision point. It then receives the balance of the debt relief committed.

1 Facility (EFF), decided that Liberia had reached the decision point under the enhanced HIPC  
2 Initiative, and approved Liberia's request for interim HIPC assistance.

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 <sup>1</sup>Liberia cleared its arrears to the Fund in April 2008, following its clearance of arrears to the  
5 World Bank and the African Development Bank in December 2007. Further steps are being taken to  
6 regularize relations with other creditors, including Paris Club members.  
7 \_\_\_\_\_

8 As of April 30, 2008, 33 countries had reached the decision point under the enhanced  
9 HIPC Initiative; of these, 23 had reached their completion points. In total, the IMF has  
10 committed SDR 2.3 billion under the HIPC Initiative and disbursed SDR 1.7 billion. During  
11 FY2008, three member countries (Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, and Liberia)  
12 reached their decision points, and one additional country (The Gambia) reached its  
13 completion point. In addition, the Executive Board approved disbursement of HIPC topping-  
14 up assistance to São Tomé and Príncipe.

15 The MDRI was launched in early 2006 to further reduce the debts of qualifying low-  
16 income countries and free up resources that they could use to meet the MDGs. Under the  
17 established financing framework for the MDRI, qualifying members can receive 100 percent  
18 debt relief on the full stock of debt owed to the IMF at end-December 2004 that remains  
19 outstanding at the time the member qualifies for such debt relief and is not covered by  
20 assistance under the HIPC Initiative.<sup>7</sup> (See CD-Tables 4.3 and 4.4 on the CD-ROM.)

21 In September 2007, the Executive Board considered the status of implementation of  
22 the HIPC Initiative and the MDRI and discussed the financing of the Fund's concessional  
23 assistance and debt relief to low-income member countries.<sup>8</sup> Executive Directors expressed

<sup>7</sup>When the MDRI was established, the cost to the IMF of providing MDRI debt relief was estimated at SDR 2.6 billion.

<sup>8</sup>The summing up of this Board discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site: "IMF Executive Board Discusses Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)—Status of Implementation and the Financing of the Fund's Concessional Assistance and Debt Relief to Low-Income Member Countries," PIN 07/122, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07122.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07122.htm). The Board's discussion was based on a joint IMF–World Bank paper, "Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)—Status of Implementation," which is available on the Fund's Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/082807.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/082807.pdf), along with a joint IMF–International Development Association paper, "Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative—Status of Non-Paris Club Official Bilateral Creditor Participation," [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/091007.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/091007.pdf), which served as a background to the Board's discussion.

1 concern that, in spite of the delivery of debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and the MDRI  
2 and the resulting declines in debt ratios, long-term debt sustainability remains a key  
3 challenge for most HIPCs. They emphasized that HIPCs need to increase domestic revenue  
4 mobilization, diversify their production and export bases, and strengthen their public  
5 institutions to address their underlying vulnerabilities and ensure long-term debt  
6 sustainability. They also strongly underscored the importance of strengthening public debt  
7 management and encouraged HIPCs to follow responsible financing strategies based on their  
8 debt sustainability analyses. In addition, they emphasized that staff should continue to  
9 provide TA to HIPCs to improve their debt management capabilities and help them develop  
10 medium-term debt strategies. They called on all creditors to ensure that lending to HIPCs  
11 does not result in a rapid reaccumulation of debt and is provided in a transparent manner.

12 In January 2008, the Executive Board amended the PRGF-HIPC Trust Instrument to  
13 add Staff-Monitored Programs (SMPs) meeting policy standards associated with programs  
14 supported by arrangements in the upper credit tranches or under the PRGF to the instruments  
15 HIPCs may use to build a track record toward reaching the decision point under the HIPC  
16 Initiative.<sup>9</sup> The amendment is aimed at giving these countries credit, in appropriate  
17 circumstances, for their record in implementing strong programs of macroeconomic  
18 stabilization and structural reform during the period when the Fund and other international  
19 institutions are securing the financing assurances needed for the clearance of arrears and  
20 provision of debt relief.

21 A project aimed at enhancing low-income countries' debt management capabilities  
22 has been initiated with the World Bank, and training is being provided to country officials to  
23 enable them to use the Debt Sustainability Framework as a policy tool (see "Building  
24 Institutions and Capacity" below). In FY2008, Fund staff worked closely with the export  
25 credit group in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to  
26 define the sustainable lending principles agreed in January 2008. The principles commit  
27 OECD export credit agencies to observe IMF and World Bank concessionality requirements  
28 in low-income countries where they exist and to take into account the results of debt

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<sup>9</sup>The summing up of this Board discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF Web site:  
"IMF Executive Board Modifies HIPC Initiative," PIN 08/03,  
[www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0803.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0803.htm).

1 sustainability analyses for other low-income countries. The Fund and the World Bank have  
2 also established dedicated Web pages to make information on country-specific debt  
3 sustainability analyses and concessionality issues more accessible to donors and creditors.<sup>10</sup>

#### 4 ***Nonfinancial support***

5 The Fund provides nonfinancial program support to low-income countries through Policy  
6 Support Instruments (PSIs). Two PSIs were approved in FY2008 (for Mozambique and  
7 Senegal), bringing to six the number of countries for which PSIs have been approved to date.  
8 (PSIs were approved for Nigeria in FY2006 and for Cape Verde, Tanzania, and Uganda in  
9 FY2007.) The Executive Board established the framework for PSIs in FY2006 to address the  
10 needs of low-income countries that no longer need or want IMF financial assistance but that  
11 still seek IMF advice on, and monitoring and endorsement of, their economic policies. PSIs  
12 also perform a “signaling” function—that is, they indirectly provide information about  
13 countries’ economic performance and prospects that can be used to inform the decisions of  
14 outsiders (for example, private creditors, donors, and the general public). PSIs mirror the  
15 design of and achieve many of the same purposes as PRGF arrangements and, like PRGF  
16 arrangements and debt relief, are based on development of a poverty reduction strategy. In  
17 the event of an exogenous shock, on-track PSIs can provide the basis for rapid access to ESF  
18 resources.

#### 19 ***Scaling up of aid***

20 The international community has committed to scaling up aid and improving aid delivery to  
21 low-income countries to help them meet the MDGs (Box 4.2). Through its policy advice,  
22 financial support (including debt relief), and TA, the IMF has worked to help countries  
23 establish a macroeconomic environment that will enable them to use aid effectively. In July  
24 2007, the Executive Board discussed the implications of the planned scaling up of aid to low-  
25 income countries for the role of the Fund and the design of Fund-supported policy  
26 programs—in particular, design of fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate policies (Box 4.3).<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>See *The Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries*, which is available on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/lic.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/lic.htm).

<sup>11</sup>The discussion took place in the context of a review of two staff papers and several other background papers synthesizing recent IMF work on accommodating scaled-up aid flows. These papers are available on the IMF’s Web site: “Aid Inflows—The Role of the Fund and Operational Issues for Program Design,”

(continued)

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**Box 4.2 Global Monitoring Report finds progress toward MDGs off track**

The IMF and the World Bank track the progress made by low-income countries toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), jointly publishing their findings annually in the *Global Monitoring Report* (GMR). The fifth GMR, issued in April 2008 and titled *Global Monitoring Report: MDGs and the Environment—Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Development*, found that although much of the world is set to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015, poor countries are unlikely to achieve the goals of reducing child and maternal mortality. Serious shortfalls are also likely with respect to primary school completion, nutrition, and sanitation goals.

The report stressed the link between the environment and development and called for urgent action on climate change, warning that developing countries stand to suffer the most from climate change and the degradation of natural resources. To build on hard-won gains, developing countries need support to address the links between growth, development, and environmental sustainability.

Progress toward the MDGs differs dramatically across countries, regions, and income groups. Sub-Saharan Africa lags on all counts, including the goal for poverty reduction, although many countries in the region are now experiencing improved growth performance. However, with stronger efforts by both the countries themselves and their development partners, most MDGs remain achievable for most countries. The report lays out an integrated six-point agenda, with strong, inclusive growth at the top, and calls for more effective aid; a successful outcome to the Doha Round of trade talks; more emphasis on strengthening programs in health care, education, and nutrition; and financing and technology transfers to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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<sup>1</sup>See “Progress Toward Nutrition, Health, Education, and Other Development Goals Off Track,” *Global Monitoring Report* Finds, PR 08/75. The GMR can be found on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gmr/2008/eng/gmr.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gmr/2008/eng/gmr.pdf).

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**Box 4.3 Scaled-up aid to low income countries: Operational implications**

In July 2007, the Executive Board discussed the operational implications of scaled-up aid for IMF advice and program design. Noting that scaling up of aid had not yet been widely observed,

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[www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/061407.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/061407.pdf), along with a background paper, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/061407a.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/061407a.pdf); and “Fiscal Policy Response to Scaled-Up Aid,” [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507.pdf), along with two background papers, “Macro-Fiscal and Expenditure Policy Challenges,” [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507a.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507a.pdf), and “Strengthening Public Financial Management,” [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507b.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507b.pdf). The summing up of the Board’s discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF’s Web site, “IMF Executive Board Discusses Operational Implications of Aid Inflows for IMF Advice and Program Design in Low-Income Countries,” PIN 07/83, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0783.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0783.htm).

1 Executive Directors reiterated that IMF engagement in low-income countries should continue to be  
2 focused on the Fund's core areas. They welcomed the finding that Fund-supported programs had  
3 become more accommodating of the use of aid and more supportive of pro-poor spending.

4 Executive Directors supported a focus on identifying best practices for the design of macroeconomic  
5 policies in IMF-supported programs in the context of scaled-up but volatile and uncertain aid flows,  
6 stressing that, in an environment of scaled-up aid, macroeconomic policy formulation should be  
7 based on a longer-term view of spending plans and potential resource availability, with medium-term  
8 frameworks the appropriate policy tools for this purpose. Observing that aid disbursements are often  
9 volatile, they saw merit in smoothing expenditures over time so that programs are adequately funded,  
10 and underscored the need for careful monitoring of spending to ensure debt sustainability, noting that  
11 inefficient spending would simply add to debt burdens without improving economic and social  
12 outcomes.

13 Executive Directors underscored the importance of coordinating fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate  
14 policies in managing aid inflows, and many noted that scaling up strengthened the case for exchange  
15 rate flexibility, while a regime of managed floating could pose difficult challenges for policy and  
16 program design. They saw a continuing critical role for the Fund in advising member countries on  
17 exchange rate policies and recommended that monetary programs should seek to reconcile the  
18 absorption of aid with price stability and reserve adequacy, while avoiding the crowding out of private  
19 investment.

20 Executive Directors considered that measures for eventually reducing reliance on aid should be an  
21 integral component of macroeconomic policy for managing scaled-up aid. They emphasized that  
22 strengthening fiscal institutions and public financial management (PFM) systems is critical for  
23 effective use of scaled-up aid and called upon low-income countries to prepare appropriately  
24 sequenced and prioritized action plans for strengthening their PFM systems, based on a diagnostic  
25 assessment of existing systems. These plans should prioritize reform measures consistent with local  
26 capacity to undertake such reforms. With the growing trend toward decentralization, Executive  
27 Directors emphasized the need for effective PFM systems at subnational levels, where much social  
28 spending takes place. Executive Directors stressed the need for continued donor support, including  
29 TA, to low-income countries for developing and implementing PFM action plans.

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### 30 *Food and fuel prices*

31 In FY2008, the Fund set up an interdepartmental task force on food and fuel prices, which  
32 presented its work program to the Executive Board at a briefing in April 2008. The Board  
33 had a wide-ranging discussion on the appropriate response to the food and fuel crisis, use of  
34 Fund facilities, and provision of policy advice. The Board approved the work program, and  
35 tThe work of the task force is proceeding on three fronts: diagnosing the problem;

1 collaborating with other institutions, including UN agencies such as the Food and Agriculture  
2 Organization and the World Food Program, and the World Bank, to ensure that the Fund's  
3 contribution (including financial support) is coordinated with international efforts to address  
4 the difficulties posed by price increases; and providing policy advice to the most vulnerable  
5 countries, while ensuring that the policies put in place are sustainable over the medium and  
6 long terms.

7 ~~For example, t~~The Fund has provided a comprehensive note on policy options as  
8 background for deliberations of the finance ministers of the West African Economic and  
9 Monetary Union's member countries.<sup>12</sup> ~~and is working advising with PRGF-eligible and other~~  
10 ~~countries and other economies on the possible appropriate policy responses to higher food~~  
11 ~~prices, particularly measures that target the poor. In April 2008, the Fund sent staff went to~~  
12 ~~Haiti, a large net importer of food, to assess the impact of rising food prices on the~~  
13 ~~government's economic program and to discuss the kind of support that would best serve~~  
14 ~~Haiti's needs.~~ A number of countries, mostly in Africa, have asked for extra financial support  
15 (through their PRGF arrangements) to cover higher food import costs, and in early FY2009  
16 the Executive Board approved financial support through the PRGF for several countries,  
17 including the Kyrgyz Republic and Mali, whose balance of payments will be severely  
18 affected by the rising costs of food imports. The Board is also considering ways to modify  
19 the -Exogenous Shocks Facility to enhance its usefulness.

20 In April 2008, the African Consultative Group met at IMF headquarters in  
21 Washington, D.C.,<sup>13</sup> to discuss the impact of high world food and fuel prices and the  
22 challenges they present for policymakers in sub-Saharan Africa and globally. The Group  
23 agreed that policies should aim at helping those least able to cope with high prices, while not  
24 jeopardizing hard-won gains on economic stabilization, and observed that although  
25 temporary, targeted subsidies can help protect the most vulnerable from the effect of shocks,  
26 it is necessary to ensure that subsidies do not become permanent. Although countries should

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<sup>12</sup>"Food and Fuel Price Increases in Sub-Saharan Africa: Background Note for WAEMU Meeting on April 23, 2008" can be found on the CD-ROM.

<sup>13</sup>This was the third meeting of the Group, which was formed one year ago to enhance the IMF's policy dialogue with the African Caucus. It comprises members of the African Caucus and the IMF's Managing Director.

1 aim to put in place an efficient social safety net, the Group noted that this is not always easy,  
2 and some second-best solutions may be appropriate.

3 The Group agreed that countries that have a comparative advantage in food  
4 production should remove impediments to domestic agricultural production (noting that  
5 several were already doing so) and that countries should avoid distortionary policies such as  
6 untargeted subsidies. The Managing Director reiterated the IMF's readiness to support  
7 countries in designing macroeconomic policies to deal with shocks, including the creation of  
8 fiscal space for safety nets. The Group supported the call for bilateral and multilateral donors  
9 to substantially increase food aid.

#### 10 *Aid for trade*

11 In September 2007, the Executive Board discussed a joint IMF–World Bank paper on efforts  
12 by the multilateral community to support the integration of developing countries into the  
13 global economy.<sup>14</sup> Executive Directors welcomed initiatives by the World Trade  
14 Organization (WTO) and other institutions to enhance aid for trade and improve its  
15 coordination and delivery. While regretting that trade in products of interest to the poorest  
16 countries continues to be subject to many obstacles in both developed and developing  
17 economies, Executive Directors pointed out that many existing trade opportunities remain  
18 unexploited because of infrastructural and other domestic supply constraints as well as policy  
19 weaknesses and governance issues, and that aid for trade could help low-income countries  
20 take greater advantage of existing and new trade opportunities. They also noted that benefits  
21 from aid for trade could be magnified if accompanied by strengthened policy frameworks,  
22 including further trade reforms.

23 Executive Directors agreed that individual countries' priorities for trade-related  
24 reforms and for strengthening competitiveness need to be properly identified with support  
25 from trade diagnostic studies under the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and integrated  
26 in national development and poverty reduction strategies. Executive Directors also stressed

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<sup>14</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses Aid for Trade," PIN 08/14, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0814.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0814.htm). The paper is available on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/080107.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/080107.pdf).

1 the importance of securing increased financing for the EIF and urged donors to fulfill their  
2 pledges on all trade-related aid.

### 3 **Program design**

4 In FY2008, the Executive Board ~~concluded a~~ review ~~ofed~~ the Fund's access policy in the  
5 credit tranches and under the EFF ~~and PRGF, and its the Fund's~~ exceptional access policy;  
6 discussed an IEO report on structural conditionality in IMF-supported programs ~~(see Chapter~~  
7 ~~5);~~ and considered a new approach for fragile states under a two-phase Economic Recovery  
8 Assistance Program (ERAP).

### 9 *Access policy*

10 The Executive Board periodically reviews the Fund's access policy—that is, the limits and  
11 guidelines that govern the amount of financing the Fund makes available to its members in  
12 support of their economic programs. Reviews include consideration of the normal limits  
13 applying to the use of resources in the credit tranches (normally under Stand-By  
14 Arrangements) and under the EFF, as well as the framework for exceptional access, which  
15 guides decisions on financing beyond the normal limits. Reviews also consider the policies  
16 for lending under the PRGF. At the conclusion in February 2008 of the Board's latest review,  
17 most Executive Directors agreed that the guidelines and limits underlying the Fund's access  
18 policy remain appropriate and supported maintaining the current limits, although some  
19 Executive Directors saw a need for increasing access limits, as the resources available to  
20 some dynamic members have not kept pace with trade and capital flows. Executive Directors  
21 also reaffirmed that access decisions should continue to be guided by a member's need for  
22 financing; its capacity to repay its obligations to the Fund, including the strength of its  
23 adjustment program; and the amount of its outstanding financial obligations to the Fund.  
24 Most Executive Directors considered that the exceptional access framework and the current  
25 access limits and norms for lending under PRGF remain broadly appropriate and that no  
26 changes are needed at this time.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Concludes Review of Access Policy in the Credit Tranches and Under the  
EFF and the PRGF, and Exceptional Access Policy,” PIN 08/30, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at  
[www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0830.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0830.htm).

### Structural conditionality in IMF-supported programs

In December 2007, the Board discussed an IEO evaluation of structural conditionality in IMF-supported programs. Executive Directors broadly agreed with the IEO's findings and noted that the IEO assessment gives useful impetus to efforts to make the Fund more focused and relevant. It commended the shift the IEO found in the composition of structural conditionality toward the Fund's core areas, but most Executive Directors expressed concern about the IEO finding that the number of structural conditions had not declined significantly, and that some structural conditionality might have covered areas not critical to program goals. The Board broadly supported strengthened efforts to streamline conditionality, with parsimony as the guiding principle and a focus on measures critical to achieving program objectives. Another area of concern was the IEO's finding that compliance rates on structural conditionality had been low in many cases, and that, often, structural conditionality had not spurred further reforms. To enhance broad national ownership of reforms, the Board called for greater reliance on the authorities' views in setting conditions. The Executive Board considered management's implementation plan for Board-endorsed recommendations in early FY2009.

### *Fragile states*

In March 2008, the Executive Board considered a new approach—a two-phase Economic Recovery Assistance Program (ERAP)—for helping fragile states.<sup>16</sup> Under the first phase of the proposed ERAP, the IMF would provide TA but no financing. The second phase would allow for financing with limited but well-focused conditionality with a view to further strengthening economic performance and policy implementation so as to enable recipients to meet the standards of upper-credit-tranche financing as quickly as possible.

Executive Directors generally agreed that there was scope to improve the Fund's capacity to assist low-income fragile states, with many seeing merit in a graduated, flexible,

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<sup>16</sup>The Fund roughly defines fragile states as countries (including post-conflict countries) whose economic and social performance is substantially impaired by weak governance, limited administrative capacity, persistent social tensions, and a tendency to conflict and political instability. The summing up of the Board discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site: "IMF Executive Board Discusses the Fund's Engagement in Fragile States and Post-Conflict Countries—A Review of Experience," PIN 08/43, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0843.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0843.htm). The Board's discussion was based on a staff paper, "The Fund's Engagement in Fragile States and Post-Conflict Countries—A Review of Experience—Issues and Options," which can also be found on the IMF's Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/030308.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/030308.pdf).

1 medium-term programmatic approach. They stressed that the Fund should focus on helping  
2 fragile states rebuild their institutional capacity to implement macroeconomic policy advice  
3 and basic economic reforms. There was agreement that the Fund’s engagement could help  
4 catalyze international financial support for the country and lay the groundwork for debt  
5 relief. Many Executive Directors also saw merit in the proposed approach, while a number of  
6 others considered that the necessary improvements in the Fund’s engagement with low-  
7 income fragile states could be achieved in the context of the Fund’s existing toolkit of TA,  
8 surveillance, assessment letters, Staff-Monitored Programs, and EPCA. Management will  
9 return to the Board with operational proposals that reflect the Board’s views; the results of  
10 outreach to member countries conducted during the IMF–World Bank spring meetings in  
11 April 2008; and further planned outreach to donors and other stakeholders.

## 12 **BUILDING INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY**

13 The Fund’s TA and training are critical instruments in helping member countries design and  
14 implement good policies, ~~thereby and also~~ contributing to the stability of the global  
15 economy. In some areas, such as the development of sound fiscal and monetary institutions,  
16 the Fund may be the best—or the only—source of advice and training for members.  
17 However, in an environment of resource constraints, the Fund needs to prioritize and to adopt  
18 a more strategic approach, and therefore reforms have been undertaken as part of the  
19 refocusing of the Fund’s work to enhance the impact of its capacity-building activities.

## 20 **Strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of TA**

21 The IMF provides TA in its core areas of expertise—namely, macroeconomic, monetary,  
22 exchange rate, and tax policy; revenue administration; expenditure management; financial  
23 sector stability; legislative frameworks; and macroeconomic and financial statistics. About  
24 80 percent of the Fund’s TA is provided to low- and lower-middle-income countries (Figure  
25 4.2). The substantial changes being made to Fund TA have a number of objectives,  
26 including<sup>17</sup>

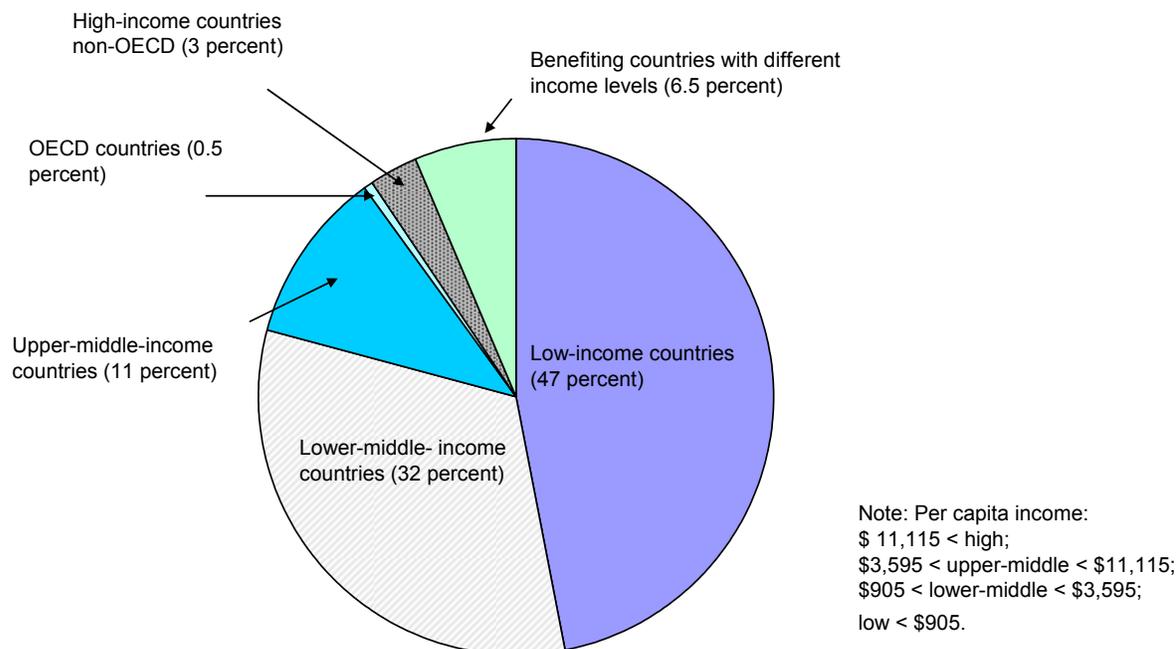
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<sup>17</sup>A paper on TA reforms was prepared by the Fund’s Office of Technical Assistance Management, in collaboration with other departments, and submitted to the Executive Board in FY2008. At a meeting in early FY2009, the Board broadly supported the reforms put forward by the staff. See “IMF Executive Board

(continued)

- 1       • enhancing the integration of TA with Fund surveillance and lending;
- 2       • improving prioritization of TA by better aligning it with the strategic objectives of
- 3       recipient countries and the Fund;
- 4       • better integrating TA into the Fund’s medium-term budget to make it easier to set
- 5       priorities and to allow TA to be more responsive to changes in priorities;
- 6       • widening the dissemination of TA findings to increase sharing of lessons learned
- 7       and facilitate coordination with donors and other TA providers;
- 8       • making TA evaluations more systematic through the introduction of performance
- 9       indicators; and
- 10      • enhancing budgeting, costing, and financing of TA.

**Figure 4.2 Fund TA is focused on low-income and lower-middle-income countries<sup>1</sup>**  
(TA field delivery in person-years; average over FY2003–08)



1 <sup>1</sup>Excludes the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center.

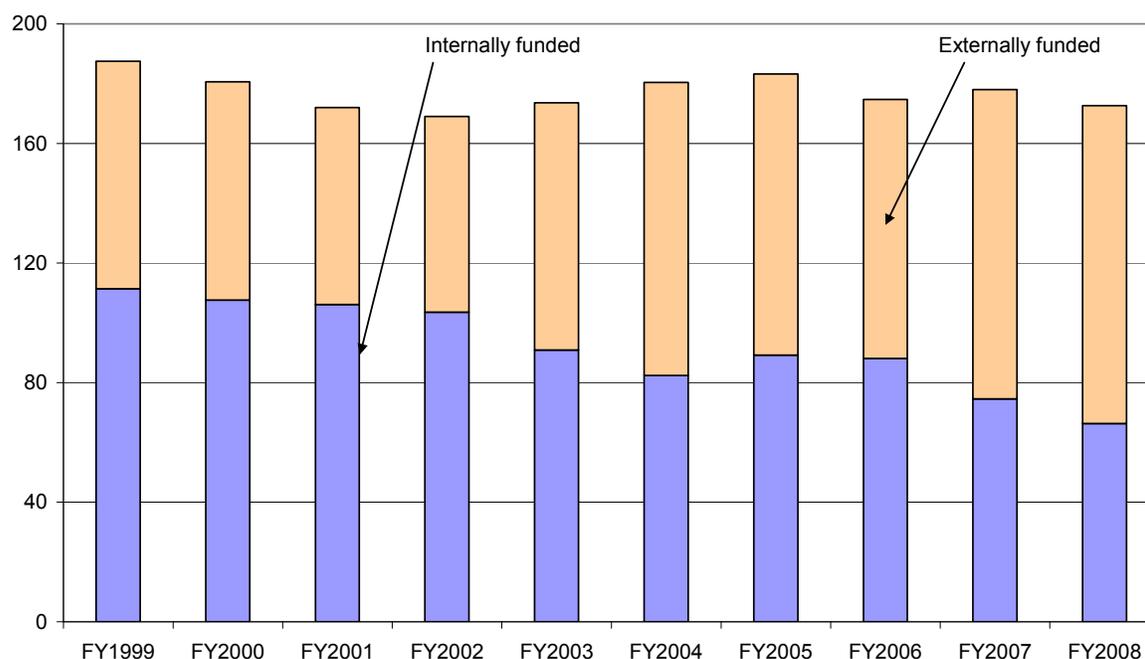
2 As the primary link between the institution and member countries, Fund area  
 3 departments have assumed lead responsibility for setting TA strategies in coordination with  
 4 country authorities. Presented in Regional Strategy Notes (RSNs), TA plans articulate the  
 5 priorities shared by the Fund and country authorities. They are portrayed in a medium-term  
 6 setting to ensure an appropriate balance between short-term policy needs and medium-term  
 7 capacity-building requirements. The medium-term approach also facilitates full integration of  
 8 TA plans with the Fund's operating budget and donor timing. Experience with RSNs as a  
 9 new initiative will be reviewed in FY2009, and refinements made as necessary.

10 Measuring the performance of Fund TA is a critical aspect of institutional  
 11 accountability and governance. Plans to strengthen TA governance and performance  
 12 measurement include (1) introducing quantitative performance indicators Fund-wide to help  
 13 make the assessment of TA delivery more transparent and accountable; (2) clearly specifying  
 14 objectives and deliverables against which results can be measured; (3) evaluating TA more  
 15 systematically; (4) costing TA more accurately and transparently; and (5) considering a

1 broader charging scheme for TA, which could further improve efficiency and accountability  
2 in resource use by subjecting TA to a “value-for-money” market test.

3 Pressures on Fund finances will continue to dictate that resource use be even better  
4 planned and more transparently managed than before, and the Fund is exploring ways to  
5 harness new external resources for TA and increasing its engagement with donor partners  
6 (Figure 4.3). At the same time, however, financing options need to take into account the  
7 unique nature of Fund TA, which not only contains elements of a public good benefiting the  
8 international economy, but also enhances the effectiveness of aid flows generally.

**Figure 4.3 External funds have increasingly financed TA field delivery**  
(Person-years)



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10 The Fund’s six regional TA centers (RTACs)—in the Pacific; the Caribbean; East,  
11 West, and Central Africa; and the Middle East—provide a particularly vivid illustration of  
12 successful Fund-donor collaboration. The RTACs receive the bulk of their funding from  
13 donor countries, international agencies, and regional development banks, many of which  
14 have singled out the RTACs’ governance structure for special praise. Under this framework,  
15 strategic guidance for each center’s work program is provided by a steering committee  
16 comprising representatives from beneficiary countries, donors, and the Fund, an arrangement

1 that has ensured strong ownership of each center's activities by all stakeholders. In light of  
2 the positive experience with RTACs, plans are being pursued to establish new centers,  
3 including in Central America, [Central Asia, ]<sup>[SCH1]</sup> West Africa, and southern Africa.  
4 Because RTACs have a more hands-on approach, they complement topical trust funds, which  
5 could support more specialized TA on specific issues. Donor interest and participation in  
6 both initiatives are expected to be strong.

#### 7 ***Selected TA activities in FY2008***

8 TA is provided by a number of Fund departments; the largest providers include Fiscal Affairs  
9 (FAD), Monetary and Capital Markets (MCM), and Statistics (STA).

10 FAD helps IMF member countries improve fiscal policies and institutions, including  
11 by strengthening their macro-fiscal frameworks, reforming tax and expenditure policies, and  
12 modernizing public financial management (PFM) and revenue administration. In FY2008,  
13 demand was particularly strong for TA in PFM, expenditure policy, natural resource taxation,  
14 and VAT implementation. In addition to providing advice on a range of matters related to the  
15 budgetary process, the department launched a blog on PFM on the IMF's Web site to share  
16 its experience and expertise with practitioners and the public, and organized two seminars on  
17 performance budgeting. It also provided TA related to the financial oversight of public-  
18 private partnerships, and advised countries on how to address the distributional implications  
19 of macro-critical reforms with respect to subsidies, domestic pricing mechanisms, and tariffs  
20 and taxes, among other things. TA related to tax policy and revenue administration covered  
21 such areas as fiscal regimes for natural resource-rich countries; design, reform, and  
22 implementation of VAT systems; regional tax coordination; and customs modernization.  
23 Regional courses and workshops are an important component of TA on tax policy. In post-  
24 conflict countries, FAD provided TA on performance budgeting, PFM, and the rebuilding of  
25 revenue administration capacity. FAD also arranged the International Tax Dialogue  
26 Conference, Taxation of Small and Medium-Size Enterprises in Buenos Aires in October  
27 2007, jointly with the World Bank, the OECD, the Inter-American Development Bank, and  
28 CIAT (Centro Americano de Administraciones Tributarias).

29 MCM focuses on the development and integration of capital and financial markets as  
30 well as on monetary policy and operations. It has been working to help Central American

1 countries harmonize their capital markets, providing diagnostic and strategic TA to seven  
2 countries; publishing studies on public debt, equity, and private debt markets in the region;  
3 and organizing regional seminars and participating in other forums organized by regional  
4 organizations. It has also organized, with the support of regional and host-country authorities,  
5 a series of regional workshops in emerging Asia, emerging Europe, and Latin America on the  
6 development of derivatives markets. In connection with the deepening of domestic bond  
7 markets in emerging market economies, MCM staff have organized, in collaboration with the  
8 World Bank and the Group of 8 (G-8), conferences and dialogues for policymakers, market  
9 participants, and foreign investors. MCM also collaborated with the World Bank and the  
10 OECD on the organization of a global conference on pension funds and participated in  
11 similar regional outreach events organized by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC),  
12 OECD, and global and regional pension fund associations.

13 STA's TA is focused on helping member countries meet internationally accepted data  
14 standards. STA works to develop new data series and improve the accuracy and reliability of  
15 existing data series in such areas as national accounts and price statistics, government  
16 finance, monetary and financial statistics, financial soundness indicators, and balance of  
17 payments, international investment positions, and external debt statistics. During FY2008,  
18 STA undertook 383 short-term TA missions, 160 of them to sub-Saharan Africa, and placed  
19 14 long-term statistics advisors, 6 of them in the RTACs. (See Chapter 3 for more  
20 information about the Fund's work on data and statistics.) It also conducted 40 training  
21 courses in macroeconomic statistics through the IMF Institute and the IMF Regional Training  
22 Centers (see below) in collaboration with various organizations.

23 Additionally, the Fund has launched new initiatives to build capacity for public debt  
24 and fiscal risk management. A joint ~~IMF-World Bank-World Bank Fund~~ technical working  
25 group is developing a methodological framework for medium-term strategies for the  
26 management of public debt in low-income countries, building on the Debt Sustainability  
27 Framework. This work was endorsed by the Executive Board at a formal seminar in May  
28 2007 at which it discussed a paper written jointly by IMF and World Bank staff on

1 strengthening public debt management in developing countries.<sup>18</sup> Despite progress made by  
2 several countries in strengthening public debt management and the supporting governance  
3 framework and in deepening domestic public debt markets, many developing countries—  
4 including a number of HIPCs—continue to face policy, institutional, and operational  
5 challenges in developing effective frameworks for managing public debt. Underscoring the  
6 importance of avoiding a reaccumulation of unsustainable debt, Executive Directors  
7 supported a four-year pilot project for providing TA to low-income countries, with  
8 preference given to requests from countries that have received debt relief under the MDRI,  
9 with a view to helping them build the capacity to develop and implement an effective  
10 medium-term debt strategy. To complement TA, Executive Directors broadly supported the  
11 Fund’s participation in the World Bank’s initiative of developing debt management  
12 performance indicators, and emphasized the need for coordination between the Fund and the  
13 Bank and other providers of TA in the international donor community. The Bank and Fund  
14 are also cooperating on improving debt management systems in middle-income countries in  
15 the context of a broader asset-liability management framework.

### 16 **Training by the IMF Institute**

17 The IMF Institute (INS), in collaboration with other IMF departments, trains officials from  
18 member countries in four core areas—macroeconomic management, financial sector policies,  
19 government budgeting, and the balance of payments—including how to strengthen the  
20 statistical, legal, and administrative frameworks in these areas. About three-fourths of the  
21 training provided by the Institute benefits low- and lower-middle-income countries, and the  
22 Institute’s training program accounts for about three-fourths of all IMF training for officials,  
23 including training at the regional technical assistance centers (RTACs).

24 In FY2008, the IMF Institute delivered 303 course-weeks, producing over 9,800  
25 participant-weeks of training (see CD-Table 4.5 on the CD-ROM), an increase of about 16  
26 percent since FY2004. The seven IMF regional training centers (RTCs; see CD-Table 4.6 on  
27 the CD-ROM) account for most of this increase. With substantial cofinancing from local

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<sup>18</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Discusses Strengthening Debt Management Practices: Lessons from Country Experiences and Issues Going Forward,” PIN 07/60, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0760.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0760.htm). The staff paper can be found on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4189](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4189).

1 cosponsors and other donors, the RTCs have provided a very cost-effective way of expanding  
2 training and now account for over half of all Institute training. Training at the RTCs has other  
3 advantages: courses can be better attuned to regional needs and foster collaboration within  
4 regions. The Institute's distance learning program, which has also benefited from an infusion  
5 of donor funds, accounts for much of the remainder of the increase in training. Training at  
6 IMF headquarters, which accounts for about one-third of participant-weeks in FY2008,  
7 focuses mainly on longer courses, which are less amenable to regional delivery because of  
8 the number of IMF staff involved. The remainder of the training in FY2008 took place at  
9 overseas locations outside the regional network, largely as part of ongoing collaboration  
10 between the IMF Institute and regional institutions. In the tight IMF budget environment, the  
11 expansion of training has been greatly facilitated by increased donor funding.

12       Considerable efforts are being made to deepen the coverage and broaden the content  
13 of the INS curriculum, with a view to addressing the needs of member countries and  
14 supporting IMF strategic priorities, in a changing global environment. These efforts—which  
15 have been guided by extensive input from member countries, discussion with IMF  
16 management and other IMF departments, and reviews within INS—have resulted in several  
17 new or significantly upgraded courses in recent years. In FY2008, the Institute offered an  
18 overhauled version of the headquarters course on financial programming and policies, which  
19 provides much more extensive treatment of balance sheet vulnerabilities and capital account  
20 crises; another new variant of this course, placing the design of macroeconomic policy more  
21 specifically in the context of a formal or informal inflation targeting regime; and a two-week  
22 version for delivery outside of Washington of the four-week course at headquarters on  
23 macroeconomic diagnostics.

24       The Institute also continues to deliver a small number of short seminars for high-level  
25 officials, including ministers and central bank governors, with a view to generating a  
26 constructive dialogue on policy issues of global or regional importance between member  
27 country officials and experts in the international financial institutions, academia, and  
28 financial markets. Seminars in FY2008 included the Market and Policy Implications of the  
29 Crisis in Asset-Backed Commercial Paper, African Finance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and  
30 Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations in Latin American Countries.

Table 4.1 IMF lending facilities

	Credit facility (year established)	Purpose	Conditions	Phasing and monitoring	Access limits <sup>1</sup>	Charges <sup>2</sup>	Repurchase (repayment) terms <sup>3</sup>		
							Obligation schedule (Years)	Expectation schedule (Years)	Installments
7	<b>Credit tranches and Extended Fund Facility<sup>4</sup></b>								
8	Stand-By Arrangements (1952)	Medium-term assistance for countries with balance of payments difficulties of a short-term character.	Adopt policies that provide confidence that the member's balance of payments difficulties will be resolved within a reasonable period.	Quarterly purchases (disbursements) contingent on observance of performance criteria and other conditions.	Annual: 100% of quota; cumulative: 300% of quota.	Rate of charge plus surcharge (100 basis points on amounts above 200% of quota; 200 basis points on amounts above 300% of quota). <sup>5</sup>	3 1/4-5	2 1/4-4	Quarterly
22	Extended Fund Facility (1974) (Extended Arrangements)	Longer-term assistance to support members' structural reforms to address balance of payments difficulties of a long-term character.	Adopt 3-year program, with structural agenda, with annual detailed statement of policies for the next 12 months.	Quarterly or semiannual purchases (disbursements) contingent on observance of performance criteria and other conditions.	Annual: 100% of quota; cumulative: 300% of quota.	Rate of charge plus surcharge (100 basis points on amounts above 200% of quota; 200 basis points on amounts above 300% of quota).	4 1/2-10	4 1/2-7	Semiannual

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Table 4.1 (continued)

	Credit facility (year established)	Purpose	Conditions	Phasing and monitoring	Access limits <sup>1</sup>	Charges <sup>2</sup>	Repurchase (repayment) terms <sup>3</sup>		
							Obligation schedule (Years)	Expectation schedule (Years)	Installments
7	<b>Special facilities</b>								
8	Supplemental Reserve Facility (1997)	Short-term assistance for balance of payments difficulties related to crises of market confidence.	Available only in context of Stand-By or Extended Arrangements with associated program and with strengthened policies to address loss of market confidence.	Facility available for one year; frontloaded access with two or more purchases (disbursements).	No access limits; access under the facility only when access under associated regular arrangement would otherwise exceed either annual or cumulative limit.	Rate of charge plus surcharge (300 basis points, rising by 50 basis points a year after first disbursement and every 6 months thereafter to a maximum of 500 basis points).	2 1/2-3	2-2 1/2	Semiannual
22	Compensatory Financing Facility (1963)	Medium-term assistance for temporary export shortfalls or cereal import excesses.	Available only when the shortfall/excess is largely beyond the control of the authorities and a member has an arrangement with upper credit tranche conditionality, or when its balance of payments position excluding the shortfall/excess is satisfactory.	Typically disbursed over a minimum of six months in accordance with the phasing provisions of the arrangement.	45% of quota each for export and cereal components. Combined limit of 55% of quota for both components.	Rate of charge.	3 1/4-5	2 1/4-4	Quarterly

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Table 4.1 (continued)

Credit facility (year established)	Purpose	Conditions	Phasing and monitoring	Access limits <sup>1</sup>	Charges <sup>2</sup>	Repurchase (repayment) terms <sup>3</sup>			
						Obligation schedule (Years)	Expectation schedule (Years)	Installments	
Emergency Assistance	Assistance for balance of payments difficulties related to the following:		None, although post-conflict assistance can be segmented into two or more purchases.	Generally limited to 25% of quota, though larger amounts can be made available in exceptional cases.	Rate of charge; however, the rate of charge may be subsidized to 0.5 percent a year, subject to resource availability.	3 1/4-5	Not applicable	Quarterly	
(1) Natural disasters (1962)	Natural disasters	Reasonable efforts to overcome balance of payments difficulties.							
(2) Post-conflict (1995)	The aftermath of civil unrest, political turmoil, or international armed conflict	Focus on institutional and administrative capacity building to pave the way toward an upper credit tranche arrangement or PRGF.							

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Table 4.1 (concluded)

<sup>1</sup>Except for PRGF, the IMF's lending is financed from the capital subscribed by member countries; each country is assigned a *quota* that represents its financial commitment. A member provides a portion of its quota in foreign currencies acceptable to the IMF—or SDRs (see Box 5.2)—and the remainder in its own currency. An IMF loan is disbursed or drawn by the borrower *purchasing* foreign currency assets from the IMF with its own currency. Repayment of the loan is achieved by the borrower *repurchasing* its currency from the IMF with foreign currency. PRGF lending is financed by a separate PRGF Trust.

<sup>2</sup>The *rate of charge* on funds disbursed from the General Resources Account (GRA) is set at a margin over the weekly interest rate on SDRs. The rate of charge is applied to the daily balance of all outstanding GRA drawings during each IMF financial quarter. In addition, a one-time service charge of 0.5 percent is levied on each drawing of IMF resources in the GRA, other than reserve tranche drawings. An up-front commitment fee (25 basis points on committed amounts up to 100 percent of quota, 10 basis points thereafter) applies to the amount that may be drawn during each (annual) period under a Stand-By or Extended Arrangement; this fee is refunded on a proportionate basis as subsequent drawings are made under the arrangement.

<sup>3</sup>For purchases made after November 28, 2000, members are expected to make repurchases (repayments) in accordance with the schedule of expectation; the IMF may, upon request by a member, amend the schedule of repurchase expectations if the Executive Board agrees that the member's external position has not improved sufficiently for repurchases to be made.

<sup>4</sup>*Credit tranches* refer to the size of purchases (disbursements) in terms of proportions of the member's quota in the IMF; for example, disbursements up to 25 percent of a member's quota are disbursements under the *first* credit tranche and require members to demonstrate reasonable efforts to overcome their balance of payments problems. Requests for disbursements above 25 percent are referred to as *upper* credit tranche drawings; they are made in installments as the borrower meets certain established performance targets. Such disbursements are normally associated with a Stand-By or Extended Arrangement. Access to IMF resources outside an arrangement is rare and expected to remain so.

<sup>5</sup>Surcharge introduced in November 2000.

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## 5. Governance, organization, and finances

The financial year that ended on April 30, 2008, was a pivotal one of reform and change in the governance, organization, and finances of the Fund.

~~The Executive Board's e~~fforts over the past few years to enhance the IMF's governance ~~reached a achieved sigmilestonenificant success~~ in ~~FY2008~~ April 2008 with the approval by the Board of Governors of a dynamic and forward-looking package of quota and voice reforms proposed by the Executive Board. The approved reforms are a significant achievement for the membership, which is seeking to rebalance quotas to reflect the many changes that have occurred in the world economy in recent years—especially the growing economic importance of the some of the emerging market countries—and to increase the voice of low-income countries in the Fund's deliberations.

The Executive Board also made considerable progress in placing the Fund's finances on a sound footing. ~~It reached agreement on a new, by agreeing to revamp the Fund's~~ income model, which was approved by the Board of Governors in early FY2009, and approved ~~ing~~ a new medium-term budget that will achieve substantial savings in administrative expenditures.

Other reforms undertaken during FY2008, which were aimed at ensuring ~~that~~ the Fund's ability to meet its members' needs is run as efficiently as possible so that it can continue to assist its members in line with its mandate despite tightened budget constraints, include increased collaboration with the World Bank and other organizations; a more focused and effective communications strategy; and mechanisms for improving accountability and risk management.

### QUOTA AND VOICE REFORM

~~On April 28, 2008, the Board of Governors approved by a large margin a Resolution overhauling the Fund's governance structure based on a March 28, 2008, recommendation by the Executive Board.<sup>4</sup> The reform is forward looking and dynamic, fully meeting and, in~~

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<sup>4</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Recommends Reforms to Overhaul Quota and Voice," PR 08/64, and "IMF Board of Governors Adopts Quota and Voice Reforms by Large Margin," PR 08/93, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm) and

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1 some respects, going beyond the commitments made by the Board of Governors in its  
2 September 2006 “Resolution on Quota and Voice Reform in the IMF”<sup>2</sup> at the time of the  
3 2006 Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank in Singapore (Box 5.1).

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4 **Box 5.1. Program for quota and voice reform approved in Singapore**

5 On September 18, 2006, at the IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings in Singapore, the Fund’s Board  
6 of Governors adopted Resolution 61-5, calling for a comprehensive program of quota and voice  
7 reforms to be completed within two years. The Resolution provided for an initial round of ad hoc  
8 quota increases for four countries—China, Korea, Mexico, and Turkey—that were clearly  
9 underrepresented, and requested that the Executive Board reach agreement on a set of more  
10 fundamental reforms, including

- 12 • a simple and transparent new quota formula;
  - 13 • a second round of ad hoc quota increases based on the new formula, with a view to achieving a  
14 significant further alignment of members’ quotas with their relative positions in the world  
15 economy;
  - 16 • in general reviews of quotas conducted after the completion of these reforms, consideration of  
17 the possibility of distributing any increases in quotas with a view to achieving a better  
18 alignment of members’ quotas with their relative positions in the world economy, while  
19 ensuring that the Fund has adequate liquidity to achieve its purposes;
  - 20 • an amendment to the Articles of Agreement to provide for at least a doubling of basic votes to,  
21 at a minimum, protect the existing voting share of low-income countries as a group, together  
22 with adoption of a measure to keep the proportion of basic votes in total voting power  
23 constant in the future; and
  - 24 • measures to increase the staffing resources of the chairs with the largest constituencies,  
25 including consideration of the merits of an amendment to the Articles of Agreement enabling  
26 these chairs to appoint more than one Alternative Executive Director.
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www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0893.htm, respectively. See also “Reform of Quota and Voice in the International Monetary Fund—Report of the Executive Board to the Board of Governors,” on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/032108.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/032108.pdf).

<sup>2</sup>See “IMF Board of Governors Approves Quota and Related Governance Reforms,” Press Release No. 06/205, which can be found on the CD-ROM or on the IMF Web site at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2006/pr06205.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2006/pr06205.htm). See also “Report of the Executive Board to the Board of Governors: Quota and Voice Reform in the International Monetary Fund,” on the IMF Web site at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/083106.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/083106.pdf).

1            Following a broad and intensive consultation among the IMF's member countries, on  
 2 April 28, 2008, the Board of Governors approved by a large margin a Resolution  
 3 overhauling the Fund's governance structure.<sup>3</sup> The quota and voice reform package  
 4 approved by the Board of Governors ~~as (Resolution 63-2) addresses-achieves~~ two key  
 5 objectives set out in the Resolution on Quota and Voice Reform in the IMF (Resolution 61-  
 6 5), which it adopted in September 2006 at the time of the IMF–World Bank Annual  
 7 Meetings in Singapore in 2006: (1) to make significant progress in realigning quota shares<sup>4</sup>  
 8 with members' relative weight and role in the global economy and to make quota and voting  
 9 shares more responsive to changes in global economic ~~realities~~ ~~ie realities~~ in the future, and,  
 10 ~~(2)-~~equally important, ~~(2)~~ to enhance the voice and participation ~~and-voice~~ of low-income  
 11 countries, in which the Fund plays an important advisory and financing role.<sup>5</sup> ~~The reform~~  
 12 ~~package adopted by (See Box 5.1.) Resolution 61-5 also included a first round of ad hoc~~  
 13 quota increases<sup>6</sup> for four of the Fund's most clearly underrepresented member countries—  
 14 China, Korea, Mexico, and Turkey.

15            ~~Resolution 63-2~~ The reform package approved in FY2008 includes ~~includes~~ a new  
 16 formula for calculating quotas that is simpler and more transparent ~~quota formula and than~~

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<sup>3</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Recommends Reforms to Overhaul Quota and Voice,” PR 08/64, and “IMF Board of Governors Adopts Quota and Voice Reforms by Large Margin,” PR 08/93, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0893.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0893.htm), respectively. See also Resolution 63-2 on the CD-ROM and also “Reform of Quota and Voice in the International Monetary Fund—Report of the Executive Board to the Board of Governors,” on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/032108.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/032108.pdf).

~~<sup>4</sup>In general, quotas are based broadly on the relative size and key economic characteristics of members and play a central role in determining members' financial contributions to the Fund, access to Fund resources, and voting power. They are reviewed periodically and can be increased when deemed necessary by the Board of Governors.~~

<sup>5</sup>See “IMF Board of Governors Approves Quota and Related Governance Reforms,” Press Release No. 06/205, which can be found on the CD-ROM or on the IMF Web site at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2006/pr06205.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2006/pr06205.htm). See also “Report of the Executive Board to the Board of Governors: Quota and Voice Reform in the International Monetary Fund,” on the IMF Web site at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/083106.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/083106.pdf).

~~<sup>6</sup>Ad hoc quota increases for specified members can be ~~those~~ approved either during or outside of a general review of quotas by the Executive Board. General reviews take place at least once every five years to ensure that the Fund has enough resources to cover its members' needs for financing. Most of the financing provided under the IMF's lending facilities—with the exception of concessional lending to low-income countries—is funded out of its quota-based resources (see Chapter 4 for more information on the IMF's financing activities).~~

1 ~~the five-formula system previously used by the Fund<sup>7</sup> and~~ a second round of ad hoc quota  
2 increases.<sup>8</sup> ~~to enhance the~~ It also calls for representation of dynamic economies. Resolution  
3 ~~63-2 also approved~~ an amendment to the Articles of Agreement that will increase the voice  
4 of low-income countries ~~through (1) a~~ tripling ~~of~~ basic votes—the first such increase  
5 since the Fund’s inception ~~in 1944—and, equally important, ; and (2)~~ establishment of a  
6 mechanism to preserve, ~~going forward,~~ the share of basic votes in total votes in the event of  
7 future quota increases. In addition, the proposed amendment will allow Executive Directors  
8 elected by a large number of members to appoint an additional Alternate Executive  
9 Director, which, in the current circumstances, will benefit the two African constituencies on  
10 the IMF’s Executive Board. ~~Recognizing that representation will need to adjust to changes~~  
11 ~~in the global economy and to make further progress in closing the gap between actual quota~~  
12 ~~shares and those calculated under the quota formula, the reform package also calls for the~~  
13 ~~Executive Board to recommend further realignments that will raise the shares of~~  
14 ~~underrepresented members in future general quota reviews, which are conducted at least~~  
15 ~~once every five years.~~

16 The new quota formula is based on four variables—GDP, openness, variability, and  
17 reserves—with weights of 50 percent, 30 percent, 15 percent, and 5 percent, respectively.  
18 The GDP variable is a blend of 60 percent of GDP at market exchange rates and 40 percent  
19 of GDP at purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates. ~~The new formula also includes a~~  
20 ~~compression factor of 0.95, which reduces the dispersion of calculated quota shares.~~ All  
21 members that are underrepresented under the new quota formula are eligible for quota  
22 increases based primarily on achieving a uniform proportional reduction in the gap between  
23 their actual quota shares prior to the reform and their quota shares calculated under the new  
24 formula.

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<sup>7</sup>The new and old quota formulas, detailed information about changes in quota and voting shares for individual members, and the proposed quotas for members eligible for ad hoc quota increases can be found in IMF Issues Brief 08/01, “Reform of IMF Quotas and Voice: Responding to Changes in the Global Economy,” on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2008/040108.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2008/040108.htm).

<sup>8</sup>In the first round of ad hoc quota increases, ~~which was~~, approved by the Board of Governors on September 18, 2006, four significantly underrepresented member countries— with significant underrepresentation (China, Korea, Mexico, and Turkey)— ~~received quota increases.~~

1        The reform package provides for an overall quota increase of 11.5 percent, which  
2 includes the first round of ad hoc quota increases in September 2006 and a second round of  
3 approximately 9.55 percent—thus, from SDR 217.4 billion on April 30, 2008, to SDR 242.4  
4 billion. Under the reform, 135 countries will see increases in their voting power, with an  
5 aggregate shift of 5.4 percentage points. A total of 54 countries are eligible for ad hoc quota  
6 increases. For individual members, the proposed increases from both rounds range from 11.7  
7 to 106.1 percent of their pre-reform quotas (taking into account the first round of ad hoc  
8 increases following the Singapore Annual Meetings). The aggregate shift in quota shares for  
9 these members will be 4.9 percentage points. Consistent with the objectives of the reform,  
10 some of the largest increases will go to dynamic emerging market countries. In terms of  
11 share of total quotas, the aggregate shift to this group will be 4.9 percentage points.

12        ~~The new quota formula is based on four variables—GDP, openness, variability, and~~  
13 ~~reserves—with weights of 50 percent, 30 percent, 15 percent, and 5 percent, respectively.~~  
14 ~~The GDP variable is a blend of 60 percent of GDP at market exchange rates and 40 percent~~  
15 ~~of GDP at purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates. The new formula also includes a~~  
16 ~~compression factor of 0.95, which reduces the dispersion of calculated quota shares.~~

17        ~~As noted previously, the reform package provides for a second round of ad hoc quota~~  
18 ~~increases of approximately 9.55 percent (with an overall increase under the reform of 11.5~~  
19 ~~percent). All members that are underrepresented under the new quota formula were eligible~~  
20 ~~for increases based primarily on achieving a uniform proportional reduction in the gap~~  
21 ~~between their actual quota shares prior to the reform and their quota shares calculated under~~  
22 ~~the new formula. To further support the objectives of the reform, the package also includes~~  
23 ~~the following three one-time elements:~~

- 24        • An agreement by a number of advanced countries that are underrepresented—  
25        Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, and the United States—to forgo  
26        part of the quota increases for which they are eligible.
- 27        • A minimum nominal quota increase of 40 percent ~~under the reform~~ for four  
28        underrepresented emerging market and developing economies whose shares in

1 global PPP-based GDP are more than 75 percent greater than their actual quota  
2 shares prior to the reform.

- 3 • A minimum nominal second-round increase of 15 percent for the four  
4 members—China, Korea, Mexico, and Turkey—that received quota increases in  
5 the first round of ad hoc increases at the Singapore Annual Meetings in 2006 but  
6 still remained substantially underrepresented.

7 As a result of the quota increases and tripling of basic votes, 135 countries will see  
8 increases in their voting power. The aggregate shift of voting shares from other member  
9 countries to this group of countries comes to 5.4 percentage points.

10 The proposed amendment of the Fund's Articles of Agreement on basic votes and  
11 Alternate Executive Directors will enter into force when the Fund certifies, by a formal  
12 communication to all members, that three-fifths of IMF members representing 85 percent of  
13 the total voting power have accepted it. Increases in quotas will not become effective until  
14 the proposed amendment enters into force. In addition, to become effective, these increases  
15 will require consent and payment on the part of eligible member countries. Consents for the  
16 proposed quota increases are to be received by October 31, 2008; the Executive Board may  
17 extend this period, taking into account, in particular, the need of members to obtain domestic  
18 legislative approval. Payment is to be received within 30 days of the later of (1) notification  
19 of consent or (2) entry into force of the amendment to the Articles on basic votes and  
20 Alternate Executive Directors.

21 The approved quota and voice reform marks an important first step in what will be  
22 an ongoing process. Looking ahead, the Resolution calls on the Executive Board to  
23 recommend further realignments in the course of future general reviews of quotas if it deems  
24 that they are necessary (see below).

25  
26 ~~On April 28, 2008, the Board of Governors approved by a large margin a Resolution~~  
27 ~~overhauling the Fund's governance structure, based on a March 28, 2008, recommendation~~

1 by the Executive Board.<sup>9</sup> The reform is forward-looking and dynamic, fully meeting and, in  
2 some respects, going beyond the commitments made by the Board of Governors in its  
3 September 2006 “Resolution on Quota and Voice Reform in the IMF”<sup>10</sup> at the time of the  
4 2006 Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank in Singapore (Box 5.1).

---

5  
6 **Box 5.1. Program for quotas and basic votes and voice reform approved in**  
7 **Singapore**

8  
9 The quota assigned to each of the IMF’s member countries is based broadly on the size and other  
10 key characteristics of its economy, and it plays an important role in the country’s relationship with the  
11 Fund. Quotas determine member countries’ contribution to the Fund’s financial resources, the  
12 amount of financial assistance they are eligible to receive from the Fund, their share of Special  
13 Drawing Right (SDR) allocations (see Box 5.2), and, in combination with “basic votes,” their voting  
14 power.

15  
16 Under the Fund’s Articles of Agreement, each member was originally allotted 250 basic votes plus  
17 one vote per SDR 100,000 of its quota.<sup>1</sup> Article XII, Section 5(a) was adopted as a balance between  
18 two alternative bases for determining voting power. On the one hand, given the Fund’s role as a  
19 financial institution, it was recognized that a member’s voting power should reflect the size of its  
20 financial contribution to the Fund. On the other hand, it was considered necessary that the Fund, as  
21 an intergovernmental organization constituted through a multilateral treaty, pay due regard to the  
22 equality of states under international law. The role of basic votes is to enhance the relative voting  
23 power of members whose quotas are below the average for the membership as a whole; many of  
24 these members are low-income countries.

25  
26 Total quotas have increased significantly since the Fund was established, with the growth of its  
27 membership; ad hoc quota increases; and quota increases in the course of general reviews, which  
28 are conducted at least once every five years. At the same time, the Articles have never been

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<sup>9</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Recommends Reforms to Overhaul Quota and Voice,” PR 08/64, and “IMF Board of Governors Adopts Quota and Voice Reforms by Large Margin,” PR 08/93, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0893.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0893.htm), respectively. See also “Reform of Quota and Voice in the International Monetary Fund—Report of the Executive Board to the Board of Governors,” on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/032108.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/032108.pdf).

<sup>10</sup>See “IMF Board of Governors Approves Quota and Related Governance Reforms,” Press Release No. 06/205, on the IMF Web site at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2006/pr06205.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2006/pr06205.htm). See also “Report of the Executive Board to the Board of Governors: Quota and Voice Reform in the International Monetary Fund,” on the IMF Web site at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/083106.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/083106.pdf).

1 amended to increase basic votes; thus, the share of basic votes in total voting power has declined to  
2 2.1 percent. The tripling of basic votes will raise this ratio to 5.5 percent. A key objective of the  
3 amendment is to ensure that this new ratio, by being expressly provided for in the Articles, will not  
4 decline as a result of any quota increases that may take place after the amendment becomes  
5 effective.

6  
7  
8 <sup>1</sup>Upon joining the IMF, a country normally pays up to one-fourth of its quota in a widely accepted  
9 foreign currency (such as the U.S. dollar, euro, yen, or pound sterling) or in SDRs and the remaining three-  
10 fourths in its own currency.

11  
12   
13 ~~The quota and voice reform package approved by the Board of Governors~~  
14 ~~(Resolution 63-2) addresses two key objectives set out in Singapore in 2006: (1) to make~~  
15 ~~significant progress in realigning quota shares<sup>11</sup> with members' relative weight and role in~~  
16 ~~the global economy and to make quota and voting shares more responsive to changes in~~  
17 ~~global economic realities in the future, and (2) equally important, to enhance the~~  
18 ~~participation and voice of low-income countries, in which the Fund plays an important~~  
19 ~~advisory and financing role. The reform package adopted by Resolution 63-2 includes a~~  
20 ~~simpler and more transparent quota formula and a second round of ad hoc quota increases<sup>12</sup>~~  
21 ~~to enhance the representation of dynamic economies. Resolution 63-2 also approved an~~  
22 ~~amendment to the Articles of Agreement that will increase the voice of low-income~~  
23 ~~countries through (1) a tripling of basic votes—the first such increase since the Fund's~~  
24 ~~inception in 1944; and (2) establishment of a mechanism to preserve, going forward, the~~  
25 ~~share of basic votes in total votes. In addition, the proposed amendment will allow~~  
26 ~~Executive Directors elected by a large number of members to appoint an additional~~  
27 ~~Alternate Executive Director, which, in the current circumstances, will benefit the two~~  
28 ~~African constituencies on the IMF's Executive Board. Recognizing that representation will~~

<sup>11</sup>In general, quotas are based broadly on the relative size and key economic characteristics of members and play a central role in determining members' financial contributions to the Fund, access to Fund resources, and voting power. They are reviewed periodically and can be increased when deemed necessary by the Board of Governors.

<sup>12</sup>In the first round of ad hoc quota increases, approved by the Board of Governors on September 18, 2006, four members with significant underrepresentation (China, Korea, Mexico, and Turkey) received quota increases.

1 need to adjust to changes in the global economy and to make further progress in closing the  
2 gap between actual quota shares and those calculated under the quota formula, the reform  
3 package also calls for the Executive Board to recommend further realignments that will  
4 raise the shares of underrepresented members in future general quota reviews, which are  
5 conducted at least once every five years.

6 Under the reform, 135 countries will see increases in their voting power, with an  
7 aggregate shift of 5.4 percentage points. A total of 54 countries are eligible for ad hoc quota  
8 increases. For individual members, the proposed increases range from 11.7 to 106.1 percent  
9 (taking into account the first round of ad hoc increases following the Singapore Annual  
10 Meetings). The aggregate shift in quota shares for these members will be 4.9 percentage  
11 points. Consistent with the objectives of the reform, some of the largest increases will go to  
12 dynamic emerging market countries.

13 The new quota formula is based on four variables—GDP, openness, variability, and  
14 reserves—with weights of 50 percent, 30 percent, 15 percent, and 5 percent, respectively.  
15 The GDP variable is a blend of 60 percent of GDP at market exchange rates and 40 percent  
16 of GDP at purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates. The new formula also includes a  
17 compression factor of 0.95, which reduces the dispersion of calculated quota shares.

18 As noted previously, the reform package provides for a second round of ad hoc quota  
19 increases of approximately 9.55 percent (with an overall increase under the reform of 11.5  
20 percent). All members that are underrepresented under the new quota formula were eligible  
21 for increases based primarily on achieving a uniform proportional reduction in the gap  
22 between their actual quota shares prior to the reform and their quota shares calculated under  
23 the new formula. To further support the objectives of the reform, the package also includes  
24 three one-time elements:

25 • An agreement by a number of advanced countries that are underrepresented—

26 Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, and the United States—to forgo  
27 part of the quota increases for which they are eligible.

28 ☐ A minimum nominal quota increase of 40 percent under the reform for four  
29 underrepresented emerging market and developing economies whose shares in global

1 ~~PPP-based GDP are more than 75 percent greater than their actual quota shares prior~~  
2 ~~to the reform.~~

3 ~~•A minimum nominal second round increase of 15 percent for the four members—~~  
4 ~~China, Korea, Mexico, and Turkey—that received quota increases in the first~~  
5 ~~round of ad hoc increases at the Singapore Annual Meetings in 2006 but still~~  
6 ~~remained substantially underrepresented.~~

## 7 ADEQUACY OF FUND RESOURCES

8 The IMF conducts general reviews of members' quotas at least once every five years to  
9 assess the adequacy of its resource base and to adjust the quotas of individual members to  
10 reflect changes in their relative positions in the world economy. The Executive Board  
11 approved on December 28, 2007, a report to the Board of Governors recommending that the  
12 Thirteenth General Review of Quotas be concluded without an increase or any adjustments  
13 to quotas, noting in its report to the Board of Governors that while the size of the Fund has  
14 declined against a range of economic and financial indicators, the IMF's current liquidity  
15 position is at an all-time high. The Board also noted its intention to monitor closely and  
16 assess the adequacy of IMF resources during the Fourteenth General Review, which began  
17 upon completion of the Thirteenth Review. The Board of Governors adopted a Resolution  
18 concluding the Thirteenth General Review effective January 28, 2008.<sup>13</sup> Total quotas stood  
19 at SDR 217.4 billion on April 30, 2008.

## 20 FINANCIAL OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

### 21 **Income, charges, remuneration, and burden sharing**

22 Since its inception, the IMF has operated based on an income model heavily reliant on  
23 income from its lending activities, which may fluctuate widely, depending on members'  
24 financing needs. In this model, the IMF earns income from interest charges and fees levied  
25 on its lending and uses that income to meet funding costs and administrative expenses and to

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<sup>13</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Recommends to Governors Conclusion of Thirteenth General Quota Review," PR 08/02, and "IMF Board of Governors Approves Conclusion of Quota Review," PR 08/13, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0802.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0802.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0813.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0813.htm), respectively.

1 build up precautionary balances. On April 7, 2008, the Executive Board agreed on a  
2 substantial reform of the Fund's income model; the reform will allow the IMF to establish  
3 other steady and reliable long-term sources of income in the coming years (see below).

4 The basic rate of charge (the interest rate) on regular lending under the current  
5 income model is determined at the beginning of each financial year as a margin in basis  
6 points above the SDR interest rate (see Box 5.2). For FY2008, the Board agreed to keep the  
7 margin for the rate of charge unchanged from FY2007, at 108 basis points above the SDR  
8 interest rate. For FY2009, the Board decided to lower the margin to 100 basis points, guided  
9 by the principles that the margin should cover the Fund's intermediation costs and the  
10 buildup of reserves, and that it should be broadly aligned with long-term credit market  
11 conditions. This new approach to setting the margin is expected to make the rate of charge  
12 more stable and predictable, fulfilling one of the goals of adopting a new income model.

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13  
14 **Box 5.2. Special Drawing Rights**

15 The SDR is a reserve asset created by the IMF in 1969 in response to the threat of a shortage of  
16 international liquidity. SDRs are "allocated"—distributed—to members in proportion to their IMF  
17 quotas. Since the SDR's creation, a total of SDR 21.4 billion has been allocated to members—  
18 SDR 9.3 billion in 1970–72 and SDR 12.1 billion in 1979–81. Today, the SDR has only limited use as  
19 a reserve asset. Its main function is to serve as the unit of account of the IMF and some other  
20 international organizations and a means of payment for members in settling their IMF financial  
21 obligations. The SDR is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF. Rather, it is a potential claim on  
22 the freely usable currencies of IMF members. Holders of SDRs can obtain these currencies in  
23 exchange for their SDRs in two ways: first, through the arrangement of voluntary exchanges  
24 between members; and second, by the IMF designating members with strong external positions to  
25 purchase SDRs from members with weak external positions in exchange for freely usable  
26 currencies.

27 The value of the SDR is based on the weighted average of the values of a basket of major  
28 international currencies, and the SDR interest rate is a weighted average of interest rates on  
29 short-term instruments in the markets for the currencies in the valuation basket. The method of  
30 valuation is reviewed every five years. The latest review was completed in November 2005, and the  
31 IMF Executive Board decided on changes in the valuation basket effective January 1, 2006. The  
32 SDR interest rate is calculated weekly and provides the basis for determining the interest charges on  
33 regular IMF financing and the interest rate paid to members that are creditors of the IMF.

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1           Surcharges (level-based) are levied on large use of credit in the credit tranches and  
2 under Extended Arrangements. The IMF also levies surcharges on shorter-term financing  
3 under the Supplemental Reserve Facility (SRF) that vary according to the length of time  
4 credit is outstanding (see Table 4.1).

5           In addition to charges and surcharges, the IMF receives income from borrowers in  
6 the form of service charges, commitment fees, and special charges. A service charge of  
7 0.5 percent is levied on each credit disbursement from the General Resources Account  
8 (GRA). A refundable commitment fee on Stand-By and Extended Arrangements is charged  
9 on the amounts that may be drawn during each 12-month period under an arrangement. The  
10 fee—0.25 percent on amounts committed up to 100 percent of quota (and 0.10 percent  
11 thereafter)—is refunded as credit is used in proportion to the drawings made. The IMF also  
12 levies special charges on overdue principal and on charges that are overdue by less than six  
13 months.

14           On the expenditure side, the IMF pays interest (remuneration) to member countries  
15 based on their creditor positions with the Fund (known as reserve tranche positions). The  
16 basic rate of remuneration is currently set at the SDR interest rate. The Articles of  
17 Agreement permit the basic rate of remuneration, less any burden-sharing adjustments, to be  
18 set no lower than 80 percent of the SDR interest rate.

19           The rates of charge and remuneration are adjusted under a burden-sharing  
20 mechanism established in the mid-1980s that distributes the cost of overdue financial  
21 obligations to the Fund equally between creditor and debtor members. Loss on income from  
22 interest charges that are overdue (unpaid) for six months or more is recovered by increasing  
23 the rate of charge and reducing the rate of remuneration. The amounts thus collected are  
24 refunded when the overdue charges are settled. In FY2008, the average adjustments for  
25 unpaid interest charges resulted in an increase to the basic rate of charge and a reduction in  
26 the rate of remuneration of 19 and 17 basis points, respectively. The adjusted rates of charge  
27 and remuneration averaged 4.90 percent and 3.47 percent, respectively, in FY2008.

28           The burden-sharing mechanism also contemplates adjusting the basic rates of charge  
29 and remuneration to generate resources to protect the IMF against the risk of loss resulting  
30 from arrears; those resources are kept in the Special Contingent Account (SCA-1). Effective

1 November 2006, however, the Board decided to suspend additional contributions to the  
2 SCA-1. On March 14, 2008, a partial distribution of SDR 525 million from the SCA-1 was  
3 made following arrears clearance by Liberia and as part of a financing package to fund IMF  
4 debt relief for Liberia through bilateral contributions (see Chapter 4).

5 Income in FY2008 was SDR 55 million short of expenditures. The continued low  
6 level of IMF credit outstanding negatively affected the income situation. The lower lending  
7 income was partly offset by the strong performance of the Investment Account (IA), which  
8 was established in April 2006 and funded in June 2006. The IA earned a cumulative return  
9 of 5.31 percent, net of fees, outperforming the three-month SDR interest rate by 161 basis  
10 points. Overall, the IA benefited from movements in government bond yields, reflecting  
11 policy interest rate cuts in the United States and the United Kingdom and a flight to quality  
12 spurred by recent turmoil in financial markets.

### 13 **The IMF's new income model**

14 The Executive Board reached a landmark agreement in April 2008 to revamp the IMF's  
15 income model, which, together with a new medium-term budget (see below), is expected to  
16 put the institution's finances on a sound footing. Support from the membership was broad,  
17 with the IMFC endorsing the new income-expenditure framework in its Communiqué of  
18 April 2008. In May 2008, the Board of Governors overwhelmingly approved the related  
19 proposed amendment of the IMF's Articles of Agreement to expand its investment authority.

20 The IMF's new income model is based on the principles set out in the January 2007  
21 report of the Committee of Eminent Persons.<sup>14</sup> The Committee found that the income model  
22 under which the IMF had operated since its inception was not sustainable. Instead, the  
23 Committee recommended a set of measures that would provide the IMF with additional  
24 broad-based and predictable income sources more suitable for financing the wide range of  
25 its functions and responsibilities, which include public goods such as surveillance of  
26 members' economic policies.

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<sup>14</sup>The report can be found at [www.imf.org/external/np/oth/2007/013107.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/oth/2007/013107.pdf).

1 Building on the Committee's recommendations, in late FY2008 the Executive Board  
2 agreed on the following measures:<sup>15</sup>

- 3 • **Proposing an amendment of the Articles of Agreement to expand the Fund's**  
4 **investment authority**, which would allow the Fund to broaden its investments  
5 and enable it to adapt its investment strategy as best practices evolve. It is  
6 expected that this measure will increase average returns and also diversify the  
7 sources of these returns. Given the public nature of the funds to be invested, the  
8 investment policies adopted by the Executive Board under the new authority  
9 would take into account, among other things, a careful assessment of acceptable  
10 levels of risk. For the foreseeable future, it is intended that these policies will rely  
11 on a passive investment approach that closely tracks widely used benchmark  
12 indices.
  
- 13 • **Establishing an endowment** to be funded by the profits from the sale of some of  
14 the IMF's gold holdings. The sale would be strictly limited to the 403 metric tons  
15 acquired after the date of the Second Amendment of the Articles of Agreement,  
16 which accounts for one-eighth of the IMF's gold holdings. The endowment  
17 would be invested with the objective of generating income while preserving the  
18 long-term real value of its resources. A decision authorizing the sale of gold has  
19 not yet been taken, but all Executive Directors have indicated either that they are  
20 ready to vote in favor of such a decision, or that they will seek approval from  
21 their domestic legislatures to enable them to vote in favor of such a decision.  
22 Gold sales would be conducted under strong safeguards to ensure that they do not  
23 add to the announced volume of official sales to avoid causing disruptions that  
24 would adversely affect gold holders and gold producers, as well as the  
25 functioning of the gold market.

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<sup>15</sup>See "IMF Managing Director Strauss-Kahn Applauds Executive Board's Landmark Agreement on Fund's New Income and Expenditure Framework," Press Release 08/74, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0874.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0874.htm).

- 1       • **Resuming annual reimbursements of the General Resources Account.** The  
2       long-standing practice of recovering the expenses incurred by the Fund in  
3       administering the PRGF-ESF Trust will be restored starting from the financial  
4       year in which the Executive Board adopts a decision authorizing the sale of the  
5       current stock of post-Second Amendment gold. The Trust's capacity for  
6       concessional lending will be protected, including by temporarily suspending  
7       reimbursement if its resources are likely to be insufficient to support anticipated  
8       demand for concessional assistance.

9       The Committee had also recommended that the IMF invest an equal proportion of  
10      the quota resources subscribed by all members as a further source of income that could be  
11      varied over the medium term. This proposal, which would also require an amendment of the  
12      IMF's Articles, was discussed extensively by the Executive Board. While it received strong  
13      support from many Executive Directors, some could not back this option. Accordingly, the  
14      investment of quota resources did not have sufficient acceptance from the membership to  
15      make it a component of the new income model.

16      The adoption of all the elements of the new income model may take some time. The  
17      proposed amendment of the Articles of Agreement to expand the IMF's investment  
18      authority will come into effect when it has been accepted by three-fifths of the members  
19      having 85 percent of the total voting power, and this acceptance will require legislative  
20      action in most member countries. Gold sales can begin once they are authorized by the  
21      Executive Board with an 85 percent majority of the total voting power ~~(some members need~~  
22      ~~to seek legislative—with U.S. Congressional~~ approval ~~needed~~ before they ~~U.S. Executive~~  
23      ~~Director~~ can vote in favor of gold sales), ~~—~~ and sales on the market would also be phased  
24      over time. Hence, net income shortfalls may continue for a few years until the full benefits  
25      of the new income measures and expenditure reductions are realized; the IMF's accumulated  
26      reserves will continue to be used to cover these shortfalls.

### 27 **Borrowing arrangements**

28      In November 2007, the Executive Board approved a five-year renewal of standing credit  
29      arrangements—the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) and the General Arrangements to

1 Borrow (GAB)—between the IMF and a group of members and official institutions whereby  
2 they can provide supplementary resources of up to SDR 34 billion (about \$54 billion) to the  
3 IMF to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international monetary system or to deal  
4 with an exceptional situation that poses a threat to the stability of that system.<sup>16</sup> The NAB  
5 became effective in November 1998, the GAB in 1962.

### 6 Arrears to the IMF

7 Liberia cleared its arrears to the Fund in March 2008 (see Chapter 4). As a result, overdue  
8 financial obligations to the IMF (including as Trustee) fell substantially, from SDR 1.89  
9 billion at April 30, 2007, to SDR 1.34 billion at end-April 2008 (Table 5.1). Sudan  
10 accounted for about 76 percent of remaining arrears, and Somalia and Zimbabwe for 18 and  
11 6 percent, respectively. At end-April 2008, all arrears to the IMF were protracted  
12 (outstanding for more than six months); one-third consisted of overdue principal, the  
13 remaining two-thirds of overdue charges and interest. More than four-fifths represented  
14 arrears to the General Resources Account (GRA), and the remainder to the SDR  
15 Department, the Trust Fund, and the PRGF-ESF Trust. Zimbabwe is the only country with  
16 protracted arrears to the PRGF-ESF Trust.

17  
18 **Table 5.1 Arrears to the IMF of countries with obligations overdue by six months**  
19 **or more, by type**  
20 *(In millions of SDRs; as of April 30, 2008)*

	Total	By type			
		General Department (incl. SAF) <sup>1</sup>	SDR Department	Trust Fund	PRGF-ESF
27 Somalia	238.7	217.1	13.5	8.1	0.0
28 Sudan	1,015.7	935.6	0.0	80.0	0.0
29 Zimbabwe	87.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	87.0
30 <b>Total</b>	<b>1,341.3</b>	<b>1,152.8</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>87.0</b>

31 Source: IMF Finance Department.

32 <sup>1</sup>Structural Adjustment Facility.  
33

<sup>16</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Approves Renewal of Standing Borrowing Arrangements,” PR 07/270, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07270.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07270.htm).

1 Under the IMF's strengthened cooperative strategy on arrears, remedial measures  
2 have been applied to address protracted arrears. As of the end of the financial year, Somalia,  
3 Sudan, and Zimbabwe remained ineligible to use GRA resources. Zimbabwe continued to be  
4 excluded from the list of PRGF-eligible countries, and a declaration of noncooperation,  
5 suspension of technical assistance, and suspension of voting and related rights remain in  
6 place.

## 7 MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

8 After learning in June 2007 of Rodrigo de Rato's intention of stepping down as Managing  
9 Director after the IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings, the Executive Board, which appoints  
10 the Managing Director of the Fund (see Box 5.3), put a new selection process in place. In  
11 accordance with this process, Dominique Strauss-Kahn was appointed in September 2007,  
12 and he assumed the position on November 1, 2007.<sup>17</sup>

13

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### 14 **Box 5.3 How the IMF is run**

15 The highest decision-making body of the IMF is the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors  
16 consists of one Governor and one Alternate appointed by each member in such manner as it may  
17 determine. The Governor is usually the member's minister of finance or central bank governor. The  
18 Board of Governors normally meets once a year. The Executive Board is responsible for conducting  
19 the business of the Fund, and for this purpose exercises all the powers delegated to it by the Board  
20 of Governors. The Executive Board is currently composed of 24 Executive Directors appointed or  
21 elected by member countries.<sup>1</sup> The Managing Director of the IMF is appointed by the Executive  
22 Board and serves as its Chair.

23 There are two committees of Governors that represent the whole membership. The *International*  
24 *Monetary and Financial Committee* (IMFC) is an advisory body currently composed of 24 IMF  
25 Governors (or their alternates), who are ministers or other officials of comparable rank, and who  
26 represent the same countries or constituencies (groups of countries) as the 24 Executive Directors.  
27 The IMFC advises, and reports to, the Board of Governors on matters relating to the latter's functions  
28 in supervising the management and adaptation of the international monetary and financial system

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<sup>17</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Moves Ahead with Process of Selecting the Fund's Next Managing Director," PR 07/159, and "IMF Executive Board Selects Dominique Strauss-Kahn as IMF Managing Director," PR 07/211, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07159.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07159.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07211.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07211.htm), respectively. [The terms of Mr. Strauss-Kahn's appointment can be found in PR 07/245, at www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07245.htm.](#)

1 and, in this connection, reviewing developments in global liquidity and the transfer of resources to  
2 developing countries; considering proposals by the Executive Board to amend the Articles of  
3 Agreement; and dealing with disturbances that might threaten the system. It has no decision-making  
4 powers. The IMFC normally meets twice a year, in March or April and in September or October, at  
5 the time of the Spring and Annual Meetings. The *Development Committee* (formally, the Joint  
6 Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF on the Transfer of  
7 Real Resources to Developing Countries) is a joint World Bank–IMF body composed of 24 World  
8 Bank or IMF governors or their alternates; it advises the IMF and World Bank Boards of Governors  
9 on critical development issues and on the financial resources required to promote economic  
10 development in developing countries. Like the IMFC, it also normally meets twice a year.

11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 <sup>1</sup>The Executive Board's calendar for FY2008 and a description of its main activities can be found on  
13 the CD-ROM. General information on the governance of the IMF can also be found on the CD-ROM, in the *IMF*  
14 *Handbook*.  
15 \_\_\_\_\_

16 The financial year was marked by other major changes as well, as the Executive  
17 Board continued to look for ways to curb the Fund's administrative expenditures, approving  
18 a budget that would result in significant savings, and sought to enhance the Fund's cost-  
19 effectiveness through a variety of measures, including improved collaboration with other  
20 international and regional bodies (Box 5.4) and a restructuring of the staff.

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 **Box 5.4 Liaison with intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations**

23 The IMF has a long history of collaboration with numerous international and regional organizations.  
24 The IMF's collaboration with the World Bank is especially close. Areas in which the IMF and the  
25 World Bank collaborate include the Financial Sector Assessment Program, development of  
26 standards and codes, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process, the Heavily Indebted Poor  
27 Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, and debt sustainability analyses. In  
28 March 2006, the IMF's Managing Director and the World Bank's President created the External  
29 Review Committee on Bank-Fund Collaboration. The Committee solicited views from member  
30 countries on the nature and practice of Bank-Fund collaboration, which has been guided since 1989  
31 by a formal Concordat. The Committee released its report in February 2007. Following up on this  
32 report, known as the Malan Report, the Fund and the Bank developed the Joint Bank-Fund  
33 Management Action Plan, which builds on the existing division of labor between the two institutions  
34 and identifies a series of specific measures designed to improve coordination on country issues;  
35 enhance communication between the staff of the two institutions on common issues through new

1 electronic platforms; and improve incentives and central support for collaboration on policies,  
2 reviews, and other institutional issues (see Chapter 4).<sup>1</sup>

3 The IMF also collaborates with the regional multilateral banks—the African Development Bank, the  
4 Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the European Bank for  
5 Reconstruction and Development—including in country mission work and the provision of technical  
6 assistance, and attends meetings of the heads of the multilateral development banks. The Inter-  
7 American Development Bank and the African Development Fund participate in the Multilateral Debt  
8 Relief Initiative.

9 The IMF is a member of the Financial Stability Forum, which brings together government officials  
10 responsible for financial stability in the major international financial centers, international regulatory  
11 and supervisory bodies, and committees of central bank experts. It also works with standard-setting  
12 bodies such as the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the International Association of  
13 Insurance Supervisors. In 2000, Horst Köhler, then IMF Managing Director, established the Capital  
14 Markets Consultative Group to provide a forum for informal dialogue between participants in  
15 international capital markets and the IMF; the Group is chaired by the IMF's Managing Director.

16 Through its Special Representative to the United Nations, the IMF communicates and cooperates  
17 with the United Nations and a number of UN agencies. The Fund's offices in Europe liaise with the  
18 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization  
19 (WTO), the Bank for International Settlements, the International Labor Organization, and the  
20 institutions of the European Union. Collaboration between the IMF and the WTO takes place formally  
21 as well as informally, as outlined in their Cooperation Agreement of 1996. IMF staff participate in the  
22 Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance and the Aid for Trade Task Force.  
23 IMF staff also liaise with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and several regional groups  
24 in Asia, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

25 The IMF is an active participant in the meetings and activities of the major intergovernmental groups,  
26 including the Group of Seven (G-7), Group of Eight (G-8), Group of Ten (G-10), Group of Twenty (G-  
27 20), and Group of Twenty-Four (G-24). The G-10 countries participate in the IMF's General  
28 Arrangements to Borrow, an arrangement established in 1962 that can be invoked when  
29 supplementary resources are needed to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international  
30 monetary system.

31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 <sup>1</sup> See "Enhancing Bank-Fund Collaboration: Joint Management Action Plan," PR 07/235, on the CD-  
33 ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07235.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07235.htm). The Plan itself can be  
34 found on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/092007.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/092007.pdf).  
35

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## 1 Administrative and capital budgets

2 On April 7, 2008, the Executive Board authorized total net administrative expenditures of  
3 \$868.3 million for FY2009; a limit on gross administrative expenditures of \$966.9 million; a  
4 one-time multiyear appropriation of \$155 million to cover ~~for~~ the costs of institutional  
5 restructuring,<sup>18</sup> and an appropriation of \$48.3 million for capital projects in FY2009, as part  
6 of a \$138 million capital plan for FY2009–11. The Executive Board also took note of the  
7 indicative net budget envelopes of \$880 million and \$895 million for FY2010 and FY2011,  
8 respectively, that constitute the medium-term administrative budget (MTB).

9 The strategic considerations underpinning the budget are set out in the Statement by  
10 the Managing Director on Strategic Directions in the Medium-Term Budget, which was  
11 submitted to the IMFC at the time of the Spring Meetings.<sup>19</sup> The central goal is to reshape  
12 the institution so that it delivers more focused outputs cost-effectively in line with its  
13 comparative advantage. The MTB will, among other things, contribute in an important way  
14 to bridging the medium-term income gap. It delivers an unprecedented 13½ percent real  
15 reduction in spending. Nonetheless, it allows for real increases in resources for such priority  
16 activities as multilateral and regional surveillance through reallocations from other areas.

17 A central priority is to put in place a sustainable budgetary framework as a basis for  
18 eliminating the income-expenditure gap in FY2013. As Figure 5.1 illustrates, together with  
19 the new income model the MTB delivers a balance between income and expenditure in  
20 FY2013.

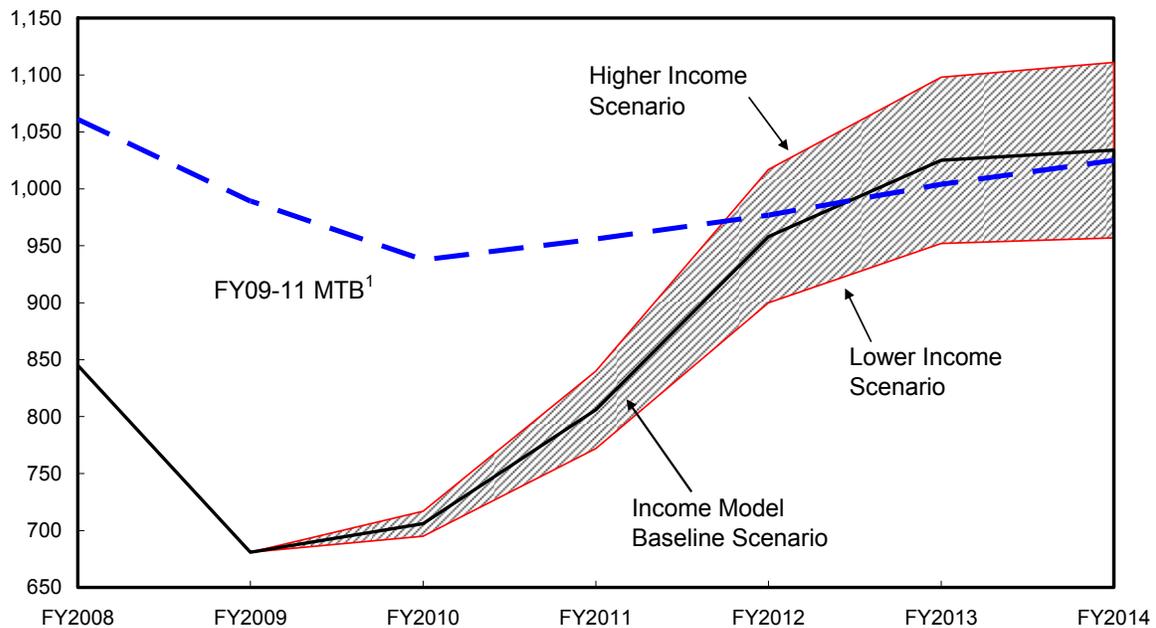
21

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<sup>18</sup>In addition, the Executive Board authorized the carry-forward and transfer of up to \$30 million of unused resources from the FY2008 administrative budget to the ~~The restructuring budget. is a one-time, multiyear appropriation to meet the costs of refocusing the Fund.~~

<sup>19</sup>The Statement by the Managing Director on Strategic Directions in the Medium-Term Budget, April 9, 2008, can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site at [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4243](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4243).

**Figure 5.1 Income model and medium-term budget**  
(In millions of U.S. dollars)



<sup>1</sup>Includes restructuring expenses, capital budget items expensed, and depreciation.

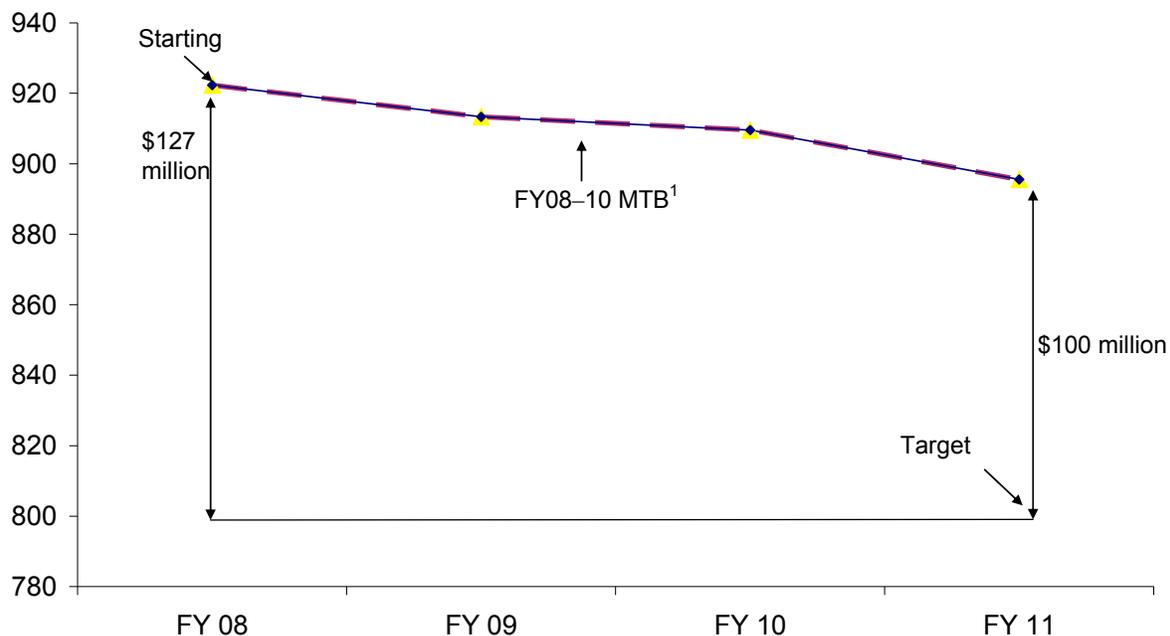
1

2

About \$100 million of this gap is met through expenditure reductions and the rest through income measures. The FY2008–10 MTB envisaged a real reduction of \$27 million dollars, or a cumulative 3 percent reduction in real terms. The FY 2009–11 MTB goes much further, incorporating an additional real reduction of \$100 million, or over 10½ percent. Thus, measured from the FY2008 budget, total savings amount to \$127 million, or over 13½ percent (Figure 5.2).

7

**Figure 5.2 The FY08–10 MTB rolled forward**  
(In millions of FY08 dollars)



<sup>1</sup>FY11 figure is calculated assuming the policy stance of a one percent real reduction is continued.

The institution, therefore, has to meet its refocusing needs in the context of a shrinking budgetary envelope. The refocusing has five components:

- Strengthening multilateral surveillance through deeper analyses of macro–financial linkages, exchange rates, and spillovers originating from systemically important countries.
- Sharpening bilateral surveillance by applying cross-country perspectives to policy issues facing individual countries.
- Refocusing work in low-income countries to emphasize macro-stability, growth, and integration with the global economy.
- Streamlining capacity building by focusing on macro-critical activities and making technical assistance more demand-driven and externally funded.

- 1           • Modernizing the Fund by updating business practices and seeking efficiency  
2           gains.

3           The budgetary strategy incorporates four key considerations: providing a framework  
4           to help refocus the institution; putting in place a budget framework that will help close the  
5           income-expenditure gap in FY2013; maximizing reductions in nonpersonnel expenditure to  
6           better exploit technology and enhance organizational efficiency; and reducing personnel-  
7           related expenditures fairly, while preserving business continuity.

8           For the three-year period FY2009–11, there are \$33 million in nonpersonnel savings  
9           (FY2008 dollars). The remaining \$67 million in savings are personnel-related (Table 5.2).

10       **Table 5.2 Composition of savings**  
11       *(In millions of FY08 dollars)*

12	<b>Personnel savings</b>	<b>67</b>
13	Efficiency gains	27
14	Fewer programs, less review, fewer layers	16
15	Fewer resident representatives/overseas staff	7
16	Streamline systems and administrative processes	7
17	Refocus capacity building	5
18	Refocus low-income country work	2
19	Refocus surveillance	2
20	Eliminate policy overlaps	1
21	<b>Nonpersonnel savings</b>	<b>33</b>
22	Travel-related expenses	10
23	Less resident representative/overseas office costs	9
24	Increased leasing of headquarters-2 building	5
25	Funding investment office through	
26	the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP)	2
27	Annual Meetings' savings	2
28	IT services	2
29	Elimination of subsidies	2
30	More revenues	1
31	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

33           The shift of administrative resources across outputs and activities supports the  
34           refocusing of the Fund. It moves resources from noncore activities to the core business of  
35           the institution, and it reallocates resources within core activities toward priority areas. The  
36           MTB provides not only a larger share but also greater absolute levels of expenditure for  
37           certain key areas. The real budgetary allocations to (1) multilateral surveillance,  
38           (2) surveillance of systemically important countries, and (3) regional surveillance increase

(Table 5.3), while resource allocations to Fund-financed technical assistance and to country programs and support decline. If the Fund succeeds in raising more external financing for TA, the output loss in this area can be mitigated.

**Table 5.3 Real expenditure allocation, FY2008–11**

	In millions of FY2008 U.S. dollars		Real percent change
	FY2008	FY2011	
Surveillance			
Multilateral	28	31	9
Bilateral	158	137	-13
<i>Of which: Systemic countries</i>	44	53	20
Regional	18	22	18
Country programs	122	103	-15
Fund-financed capacity building	106	86	-19
Support	313	272	-13

Notes: Allocations are measured by the gross dollar inputs spent on each output area. Support and governance expenditures have not been allocated across outputs. Columns do not sum to the Fund total because of omitted categories.

The reduction in staffing is the principal reason for the sizable decline in expenditures since personnel outlays account for nearly three-fourths of the budget. Staff numbers will decline by 380 by FY2011, and most of the reductions are planned for FY2009. As Table 5.4 shows, personnel expenditures fall by 7½ percent in real terms in FY2009, even though average compensation costs are expected to rise 4½ percent. In the outer years, personnel expenditures are budgeted to decline modestly in real terms. Other noteworthy expenditure changes include the following:

- A 6 percent real reduction in travel for FY2009 resulting from a policy decision to reduce travel volumes, the introduction of a new travel policy, and more favorable airline pricing.
- Building and other expenditures fall 6 percent in real terms by FY2011, despite a small nominal rise, because of some necessary IT replacements and building refurbishments.

- As the Fund moves toward more external financing of TA and increased leasing of its properties, receipts are expected to rise over the MTB period, although these estimates are subject to uncertainty.

**Table 5.4 Administrative Budget by Major Expenditure Category, FY2008–11**  
(In millions of U.S. dollars, unless otherwise indicated)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY11 less FY08	
	Outturn	Budget	Outturn	Budget	Budget	Budget	
	(Nominal)						
Personnel	708	723	714	697	702	717	–6
Travel	93	100	94	98	99	99	–1
Building and other expenditures	160	161	158	163	165	170	10
Annual Meetings	5	0	0	0	5	0	...
Reserves	n.a.	10	n.a.	9	13	18	8
Gross expenditures	966	994	967	967	985	1004	10
Receipts	–69	–71	–76	–99	–105	–109	–38
Net administrative budget	897	922	891	868	880	895	–27
	(In FY20-08 dollars)						
Personnel	736	723	714	670	649	637	–86
Travel	97	100	94	94	91	88	–12
Building and other expenditures	166	161	158	157	153	151	–9
Annual Meetings	6	0	0	0	5	0	...
Reserves	n.a.	10	n.a.	8	12	16	6
Gross expenditures	1,004	994	967	930	910	893	–101
Receipts	–71	–71	–76	–95	–97	–97	–26
Net administrative budget	933	922	891	835	813	796	–127

Source: Office of Budget and Planning.

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Looking at key output areas (Table 5.5), outputs that are expected to absorb greater shares of resources over the MTB are multilateral surveillance, regional surveillance, standards and codes and financial sector assessments, and technical assistance; smaller shares are expected for oversight of the international monetary system, generally available facilities, and facilities specific to low-income countries.

**Table 5.5 Estimated gross administrative budgeted expenditure shares, by key output area and constituent output, FY2008–11**  
(In percent share of total gross expenditures, excluding reserves)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Global monitoring	17.4	17.7	17.9	18.2
Oversight of the international monetary system	5.2	4.6	4.7	4.7
Multilateral surveillance	4.5	5.1	5.3	5.5
Cross-country statistical information and methodologies	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2
General research	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
General outreach	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5
Country-specific and regional monitoring	35.2	36.6	36.5	36.7
Bilateral surveillance	28.3	28.3	28.2	28.4
Regional surveillance	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.8
Standards and codes and financial sector assessments	3.8	4.6	4.6	4.5
Country programs and financial support	23.2	21.1	20.9	20.4
Generally available facilities	10.0	8.1	8.0	7.8
Facilities specific to low-income countries	13.2	13.1	12.9	12.6
Capacity building	24.2	24.6	24.7	24.7
Technical assistance	17.0	17.5	17.7	17.8
External training	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.9
Total, excluding reserves	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Memorandum items</i>				
Support	31.8	30.5	30.7	31.0
Governance	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.1

Source: Office of Budget and Planning.

Notes: Support and governance expenditures are allocated across outputs. Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

The Executive Board approved an appropriation of \$48.3 million for capital projects beginning in FY2009 and took note of the capital budget envelope of \$138 million for the following two years. The appropriation for FY2009 provides for expenditures over the next three years: over one-third is for building facility projects, and the remainder for information technology projects. In real terms, the capital budget reflects a significant downward adjustment. Over the last decade, real capital expenditures have varied because of, among other things, security enhancements for building facilities and IT expenditures, which are now complete. About one-half of the budget for FY2009 is for projects that preserve the integrity of the Fund's asset base, while most of the remainder includes new and revised projects that will help facilitate the institutional restructuring and refocusing.

**1 Human resources policies**

2 As part of the reforms undertaken by the IMF in order to refocus its activities, modernize  
3 operations, and improve cost-effectiveness and efficiency, a framework to restructure the  
4 staff was put in place in early 2008. The restructuring exercise had two main objectives: a  
5 reduction of approximately 380 positions, and a change in the staffing structure, with more  
6 reductions at the managerial and administrative support levels. Fund management was  
7 committed to meeting these objectives through a transparent and fair process centering on  
8 voluntary separations to the extent possible, recognizing that some mandatory separations  
9 would be needed in specific areas. With these objectives in mind, the restructuring  
10 framework comprised a voluntary phase and a subsequent mandatory phase, a range of  
11 financial and other incentives to encourage voluntary separations, and an independent panel  
12 of former senior IMF officials to make recommendations to management on individual  
13 separation decisions.

14 The voluntary phase of the restructuring was successful in meeting both objectives.<sup>20</sup>  
15 In implementing the restructuring exercise, measures were put in place to retain (to the  
16 extent possible) high-performing staff, and to ensure no undue impact on staff diversity.  
17 Outplacement assistance was provided to staff contemplating separation from the IMF, and  
18 significant efforts were made to identify employment opportunities in government agencies  
19 in member countries, other international financial institutions, and private sector  
20 organizations.

21 The IMF's staff is appointed by the Managing Director, and its sole responsibility is  
22 to the IMF. At April 30, 2008, the IMF had 1,950 professional and managerial staff and 636  
23 staff at other levels. The framework for human resource management in the Fund reflects  
24 evolving best practices that are consistent with the mission of the institution and the  
25 objective of maintaining the quality and diversity of its staff. The Articles of Agreement  
26 state that the efficiency and technical competence of Fund staff are expected to be of the  
27 "highest standards." In addition, all staff members are expected to observe the highest

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<sup>20</sup>See "IMF Completes Voluntary Separations Phase of Organizational Restructuring," PR 08/94, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0894.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0894.htm).

1 standards of ethical conduct, consistent with the values of integrity, impartiality, and  
2 discretion, as set out in the IMF Code of Conduct and its Rules and Regulations.

3 Recognizing that the membership must have at its service individuals who  
4 understand, through their professional experience and training, a wide range of  
5 policymaking challenges that confront country officials and who can offer policy advice  
6 appropriate to the circumstances of each of the 185 member countries, and in accordance  
7 with the requirement under the Articles of Agreement to pay due regard to the importance of  
8 recruiting personnel on a wide geographic basis, the Fund makes every effort to ensure that  
9 staff diversity reflects the institution's membership, actively seeking candidates from all  
10 over the world. It has established a Diversity Council to further its diversity agenda, building  
11 on the creation in 1995 of the position of Diversity Advisor. Progress is monitored and  
12 problems are reported in a transparent manner in various formats—including the *Diversity*  
13 *Annual Report*—on the IMF Web site.

14 Of the IMF's 185 member countries, 145 were represented on the staff at the end of  
15 April 2008. The IMF's organization chart and the list of the IMF's senior officers are on  
16 pages [00] and [00], respectively, of this Report. The organization of the IMF and the  
17 functions of its different departments are described in the *IMF Handbook*, which can be  
18 found on the CD-ROM. Also on the CD-ROM are tables showing the distribution of the  
19 IMF's staff by nationality, gender, and developing and industrial countries, and the staff  
20 salary structure. As of July 1, 2007, the salary structure for management was as follows:

21 Managing Director \$420,930<sup>21</sup>

22 First Deputy Managing Director \$366,030

23 Deputy Managing Directors \$358,600

24 The remuneration of Executive Directors was \$219,800; the remuneration of Alternate  
25 Executive Directors was \$190,140.

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<sup>21</sup>A supplemental allowance of \$75,350 is paid to cover expenses. See also "Terms of Appointment of Dominique Strauss-Kahn as Managing Director of the IMF," PR 07/245, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07245.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07245.htm).

**1 COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY**

2 Through its communication strategy and transparency policy, the IMF seeks to increase its  
3 accountability to stakeholders and build understanding of sound economic policies. With the  
4 guidance and support of the Executive Board, which regularly reviews the IMF's  
5 communication strategy and transparency policy, the IMF's efforts in these areas have  
6 increased significantly since the mid-1990s.

**7 Communication****8 *Communication strategy***

9 In June 2007, the Executive Board discussed the IMF's communication strategy, its fifth  
10 discussion on this subject since 1998.<sup>22</sup> It noted the progress made since its last review, in  
11 2005, in integrating communication activities with IMF operations and in increasing the  
12 IMF's openness and publication of information. Executive Directors broadly endorsed the  
13 overall direction of the communication strategy, which aims at building understanding and  
14 support for the role of the IMF and its reform agenda; further integrating communications  
15 with operations; ~~and increasing~~raising the impact of the Fund's electronic and print products  
16 ~~communication materials~~and; ~~and rebalancing its~~ outreach ~~activities~~efforts. They agreed ~~on~~  
17 ~~the growing importance of~~that communication ~~—tailored to specific audiences,~~  
18 ~~circumstances, and products—~~was an important tool in ~~strengthening the effectiveness of~~  
19 ~~the Fund in~~promoting international economic and financial stability and helping countries  
20 address economic shocks and the challenges of globalization. They also underscored the  
21 importance of two-way communication between the Fund and its members and other  
22 stakeholders, so that the staff and the institution can benefit from, and respond appropriately  
23 to, external feedback.

24 With respect to the implementation of the strategy, the Board welcomed plans to  
25 harness new technologies and modern communication practices—such as more emphasis on  
26 Web-based technologies ~~and~~; better alignment of publications with institutional priorities—  
27 and to enhance the effectiveness of communication in languages other than English in a

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<sup>22</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses the IMF's Communication Strategy," PIN 07/74, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0774.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0774.htm).

1 cost-effective manner. It also commended efforts to strengthen internal communication,  
2 which plays a valuable role in channeling external views, fostering dialogue, and facilitating  
3 understanding of the key issues faced by the Fund. ~~The IMF's e~~Efforts to better disseminate  
4 ~~surveillance such~~ products ~~such~~ as the *World Economic Outlook* and the *Regional Economic*  
5 *Outlooks*, in which the Fund presents its analysis of economic and financial developments,  
6 were acknowledged by the Board, and many Directors noted the valuable role played by  
7 press releases, press conferences, and other channels in supporting country surveillance  
8 activities.

### 9 *Initiatives during FY2008*

10 In line with the strategy endorsed by the Executive Board, and the refocusing agenda, the  
11 IMF continued to enhance its communication and outreach during the financial year.  
12 Strengthening Web-based communication and expanding communication in languages other  
13 than English continued to be priorities. The Fund's recently revamped Web site was made  
14 more user-friendly and the search engine was upgraded. The site featured new items, such as  
15 landing pages on key policy issues, and Web sites for civil society organizations<sup>23</sup> and  
16 legislators.<sup>24</sup> Blogs were launched during the year by the Fund's Chief Economist and by its  
17 Fiscal Affairs Department, with the latter focusing on public financial management. Web  
18 sites in languages other than English that are heavily used in the Fund's work were  
19 revamped or added, and material (such as summaries of, and press releases about, the *World*  
20 *Economic Outlook* and the *Global Financial Stability Report*) for which demand is high  
21 were translated and posted on these sites. The Fund's *2007 Annual Report* was translated  
22 into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish, three more  
23 languages (Arabic, Japanese, and Russian) than in the past.

24 The Fund also sharpened the focus of its outreach, undertaking a number of outreach  
25 activities in FY2008 with parliamentarians and civil society organizations (CSOs). For  
26 example, in sub-Saharan Africa, it organized seminars for the Tanzanian Parliament's  
27 Finance and Economic Affairs Committee and CSOs in Dar es Salaam; for CSOs in

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<sup>23</sup>See [www.imf.org/civilsociety](http://www.imf.org/civilsociety).

<sup>24</sup>See [www.imf.org/external/np/legislators/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/legislators/index.htm).

1 Malawi;<sup>25</sup> and for parliamentarians, nongovernmental organizations, and trade unions in  
2 Liberia. Engagement with the media has deepened, as operational staff have increased their  
3 contacts, and multimedia technologies permit the IMF to reach a broader media audience.  
4 For example, a biweekly media briefing initially intended for media based in Washington,  
5 D.C., has since developed into a webcast for journalists around the world. The Online Media  
6 Briefing Center, a password-protected multimedia site, allows journalists to access  
7 documents under embargo, participate in press briefings, and receive information and data  
8 tailored to their needs.<sup>26</sup>

### 9 **Transparency policy**

10 The IMF's transparency has increased dramatically in the past decade.<sup>27</sup> The current policy  
11 stems from an Executive Board decision in January 2001 to encourage the voluntary  
12 publication of country documents and more systematic publication of policy papers and  
13 associated Public Information Notices (PINs) that provide a summary of the Executive  
14 Board's assessment. The decision followed steps that had been taken since 1994 to enhance  
15 the transparency of the IMF and to increase the availability of information about its  
16 members' policies, while including safeguards to maintain the frankness of the IMF's policy  
17 discussions with members by striking the right balance between transparency and  
18 confidentiality. Members may request deletion of information not yet in the public domain  
19 that constitutes either highly market-sensitive material or premature disclosure of policy  
20 intentions.

21 Following their discussion in FY2006 of an IMF staff review of the transparency  
22 policy, Executive Directors called on the staff to produce annual updates on the policy's  
23 implementation for posting on the IMF's Web site. The third annual report on the  
24 implementation of the transparency policy, published in February 2008, presents

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<sup>25</sup>See [www.imf.org/external/np/exr/cs/news/2008/022008.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/cs/news/2008/022008.htm).

<sup>26</sup>See CD-Box 5.1, "Disseminating information: the IMF's publishing operations and Web site," on the CD-ROM.

<sup>27</sup>The increased transparency of the IMF is widely recognized. In its *2006 Global Accountability Report*, One World Trust ranked the IMF third out of 10 intergovernmental organizations and fourth out of 30 intergovernmental and private transnational companies in terms of transparency. The report can be read at [www.oneworldtrust.org/?display=index\\_2006](http://www.oneworldtrust.org/?display=index_2006).

1 information on documents considered by the Board between November 1, 2006, and  
2 October 31, 2007, and published by December 31, 2007, including publication rates for each  
3 type of document, lags between Executive Board discussions of documents and publication,  
4 deletion of material from documents, and the publication behavior of member countries.<sup>28</sup>  
5 Publication rates for country staff reports remained high, at 83 percent.

## 6 **ACCOUNTABILITY**

### 7 **The Independent Evaluation Office**

8 The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) was established in 2001 to conduct independent  
9 and objective evaluations of IMF policies and activities with a view to increasing the IMF's  
10 transparency and accountability and strengthening its learning culture. Under its terms of  
11 reference, the IEO is fully independent of IMF management and operates at arm's length  
12 from the IMF's Executive Board, to which it reports its findings.

13 After an external evaluation of the IEO in FY2006, the Executive Board established  
14 a framework in January 2007 to ensure more systematic follow-up and monitoring of the  
15 implementation of Board-endorsed recommendations in IEO reports. The framework calls  
16 for a forward-looking implementation plan to be presented to the Board soon after its  
17 discussion of an IEO evaluation, and for the state of implementation of actions set out in the  
18 plan to be monitored periodically. In FY2008, the Board discussed the first two  
19 implementation plans, which were developed for two IEO evaluations completed in  
20 FY2007: "The IMF and Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa," which was also discussed by the Board  
21 in FY2007, and "The IMF's Advice on Exchange Rate Policy," which was discussed early  
22 in FY2008 (see ~~below and~~ Chapter 3). Since not enough time had elapsed since these two  
23 implementation plans had been developed, the first periodic monitoring report, which was  
24 discussed by the Board in January 2008, covered earlier IEO recommendations that had  
25 been endorsed by the Board before the establishment of implementation plans. Executive  
26 Directors agreed that IEO recommendations have had a substantial impact on how the Fund

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<sup>28</sup>See "IMF Releases Third Annual Report on the Implementation of the Transparency Policy," PR 08/18, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0818.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0818.htm). The report, "Key Trends in the Implementation of the Transparency Policy," can be found on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/013108.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/013108.pdf).

1 operates, and that lessons have generally been absorbed and recommendations substantially  
2 implemented. They considered that, in the future, monitoring would benefit from greater  
3 specificity and clarity about the follow-up actions required and that periodic monitoring  
4 reports should not be produced until sufficient time—say, six months—had elapsed  
5 following Board discussion of management’s implementation plan. The Board reiterated that  
6 it was the responsibility of management and staff to prepare future monitoring reports, with  
7 periodic Board review, and reaffirmed that policy development, review, and  
8 implementation, including of Board-endorsed IEO recommendations, remained the  
9 responsibility of the Executive Board and management.<sup>29</sup>

10 ~~In May 2007, the Board discussed “An IEO Evaluation of IMF Exchange Rate~~  
11 ~~Policy Advice, 1999–2005,” based on an IEO evaluation conducted in FY2007 of strengths~~  
12 ~~and weaknesses in the Fund’s exchange rate policy advice. Executive Directors broadly~~  
13 ~~endorsed the IEO’s conclusion that during the period studied, the Fund had not been as~~  
14 ~~effective as it needs to be in some important aspects of the Fund’s exchange rate policy~~  
15 ~~advice, and that the Fund should aim at enhancing the effectiveness of its analysis, advice,~~  
16 ~~and dialogue with member countries, as well as address any perception of asymmetry in its~~  
17 ~~exchange rate surveillance. They noted that, since the end of the evaluation period, the~~  
18 ~~Fund’s Medium-Term Strategy had identified further strengthening of exchange rate~~  
19 ~~surveillance as a priority and pointed to initiatives under way to enhance the effectiveness of~~  
20 ~~the Fund’s work in this area.~~

21 ~~Most Executive Directors concurred with the IEO’s finding that the rules of the game~~  
22 ~~for exchange rate surveillance remain unclear in some important areas. Accordingly, most~~  
23 ~~agreed with the IEO’s recommendation that a revalidation of the fundamental purpose of~~  
24 ~~surveillance is an important goal, although views differed on the best vehicle through which~~

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<sup>29</sup>See “Implementation Plan Following IEO Evaluation of the IMF and Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa,” PIN 07/93; “IMF Discusses Implementation Plan Following IEO Evaluation of the IMF’s Exchange Rate Policy Advice, 1999–2005,” PIN 07/119; and “First Periodic Monitoring Report on the Status of Board-Endorsed Recommendations of the Independent Evaluation Office,” PIN 08/25, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0793.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0793.htm), [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07119.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07119.htm), and [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0825.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0825.htm), respectively. The periodic monitoring report itself, which was produced in December 2007, is available on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/120307.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/120307.pdf).

1 ~~this revalidation could occur. Taking note of the IEO's call to develop clear practical policy~~  
2 ~~guidance on certain key analytical issues, Executive Directors had diverse views regarding~~  
3 ~~the need for such guidance and on the feasibility of developing it. They discussed~~  
4 ~~extensively the IEO's recommendation that management should give much greater attention~~  
5 ~~to ensuring effective dialogue with country authorities, noting that although the IEO survey~~  
6 ~~showed that national authorities across all country groups were generally satisfied with the~~  
7 ~~policy dialogue with the Fund, many countries seek still greater value added from this.~~

8 ~~Executive Directors concurred with the IEO that, over the review period, there had~~  
9 ~~been problems in implementing various aspects of existing policy guidance, with most~~  
10 ~~agreeing that there remains scope for improvement in several areas, including the quality of~~  
11 ~~analysis of exchange rate levels and incorporation of the analysis of policy spillovers into~~  
12 ~~regional and bilateral surveillance. They agreed with the IEO recommendation that Fund~~  
13 ~~management should ensure that exchange rate work across the Fund is organized and~~  
14 ~~managed effectively, in tandem with ongoing work to integrate financial sector issues into~~  
15 ~~Fund surveillance, and they encouraged further strengthening of the existing coordinating~~  
16 ~~mechanisms (including the Surveillance Committee and the Consultative Group on~~  
17 ~~Exchange Rate Issues), as envisaged by the Medium Term Strategy.~~

18 ~~Most Executive Directors emphasized that the Fund's management is responsible for~~  
19 ~~providing the Executive Board with all the information that it needs to conduct surveillance~~  
20 ~~and is accountable to the Executive Board for how it combines this duty with the need for~~  
21 ~~the Fund to serve as a confidential advisor to members. As noted above, the Board~~  
22 ~~considered the IEO's follow-up implementation plan later in the financial year.~~

23 ~~During FY2008, the IEO also completed an evaluation of structural conditionality in~~  
24 ~~IMF-supported programs, which the Executive Board discussed in December 2007 (see~~  
25 ~~Chapter 4).~~ ~~Executive Directors broadly agreed with the IEO's findings and noted that the~~  
26 ~~IEO assessment gives useful impetus to efforts to make the Fund more focused and relevant.~~  
27 ~~It commended the shift the IEO found in the composition of structural conditionality toward~~  
28 ~~the Fund's core areas, but most Executive Directors expressed concern regarding the IEO~~  
29 ~~finding that the number of structural conditions had not declined significantly, and that some~~  
30 ~~structural conditionality might have covered areas not critical to program goals. They~~

1 ~~broadly supported strengthened efforts to streamline conditionality, with parsimony as the~~  
2 ~~guiding principle and a focus on measures critical to achieving program objectives. Another~~  
3 ~~area of concern was the IEO's finding that compliance rates on structural conditionality had~~  
4 ~~been low in many cases, and that, often, structural conditionality had not spurred further~~  
5 ~~reforms. To enhance broad national ownership of reforms, the Board called for greater~~  
6 ~~reliance on the authorities' views in setting conditions. The Executive Board considered~~  
7 ~~management's implementation plan for Board-endorsed recommendations in early FY2009.~~

8 ~~Also in FY2008, the IEO completed its evaluation and one of IMF corporate~~  
9 ~~governance, including the role of the Executive Board,<sup>30</sup> and a draft issues paper on the~~  
10 ~~IMF's approach to trade policy issues was posted on the IEO's Web site for public~~  
11 ~~comment. In FY2009, the IEO will continue to work on an evaluation of the IMF's~~  
12 ~~interactions with member countries and ~~will~~ begin an evaluation of the IMF's research~~  
13 ~~agenda. More information on the activities and reports of the IEO can be found on its~~  
14 ~~Web site.<sup>31</sup>~~

## 15 **Risk management**

16 Since 2006, the IMF has had in place a comprehensive risk-management framework, which  
17 is overseen by the Executive Board. The Advisory Committee on Risk Management  
18 (ACRM)—which is chaired by one of the Fund's Deputy Managing Directors and composed  
19 of six senior IMF staff members—supports the risk-management framework, meets  
20 regularly to discuss risk-management issues, and briefs management and the Executive  
21 Board on its work. The centerpiece of the ACRM's work is the Annual Risk Management  
22 Report, which synthesizes the results of a comprehensive risk-assessment exercise covering  
23 strategic, core mission, financial, and operational risks.<sup>32</sup> During FY2008 further steps were

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<sup>30</sup>The Board discussed the evaluation of corporate governance as well as the implementation plan for the Board-endorsed recommendations in the evaluation of structural conditionality in early FY2009.

<sup>31</sup> See [www.ieso-imf.org](http://www.ieso-imf.org).

<sup>32</sup>The IMF's safeguards assessments policy mitigates the risk that loans made to member countries will be misused (see CD-Box 5.2 on the CD-ROM).

1 taken to strengthen the modalities of the risk-assessment framework used.<sup>33</sup> The ACRM also  
2 played an important role in monitoring risks associated with the IMF's refocusing efforts.

### 3 **IMF audit mechanisms**

4 The IMF's audit mechanisms consist of an external audit firm, an internal audit function,  
5 and an independent External Audit Committee (EAC) that oversees the work of both.

6 The external audit firm, which is selected by the Executive Board in consultation  
7 with the EAC and appointed by the Managing Director, is responsible for performing the  
8 annual external audit and expressing an opinion on the financial statements of the IMF,  
9 accounts administered under Article V, Section 2(b), and the Staff Retirement Plan. At the  
10 conclusion of the annual audit, the EAC transmits the report issued by the external audit  
11 firm, through the Managing Director and the Executive Board, for consideration by the  
12 Board of Governors and briefs the Executive Board on the results of the audit. The external  
13 audit firm is normally appointed for five years. Deloitte & Touche LLP is the IMF's external  
14 audit firm.

15 The internal audit function is assigned to the Office of Internal Audit and Inspection  
16 (OIA), which independently examines the effectiveness of the risk-management, control,  
17 and governance processes of the IMF. OIA also serves as the secretariat for the ACRM. OIA  
18 conducts about 25 audits and reviews annually, which include financial audits, information  
19 technology audits, and operational and effectiveness audits. Financial audits examine the  
20 adequacy of controls and procedures to safeguard and administer the assets and financial  
21 accounts of the IMF. Information technology audits evaluate the adequacy of information  
22 technology management and the effectiveness of information security measures. Operational  
23 and effectiveness audits focus on processes and associated controls and the efficiency and  
24 effectiveness of operations and their alignment with the overall goals of the IMF. In line  
25 with best practices, the OIA reports to IMF management and to the External Audit  
26 Committee, thus assuring its independence. In addition, OIA briefs the Executive Board

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<sup>33</sup>In June 2008, the Fund also launched an "integrity hotline"—a mechanism for enabling individuals inside and outside the Fund to raise concerns on a confidential basis about possible staff misconduct. The hotline is operated by an independent third party.

1 annually on its work program and the major findings and recommendations of its audits and  
2 reviews. The quality of OIA's activities was assessed in early 2008 by an independent  
3 evaluation team of the Institute of Internal Auditors, which confirmed adherence to all  
4 applicable international standards.

5         The EAC is composed of three members selected by the Executive Board and  
6 appointed by the Managing Director, and oversees the IMF's accounting, financial  
7 reporting, internal control, and risk-management functions. The members serve for three-  
8 year terms on a staggered basis and are independent of the IMF. EAC members are nationals  
9 of different IMF member countries and must possess the expertise and qualifications  
10 required to carry out the oversight of the annual audit. Typically, candidates for the EAC  
11 have significant experience in international public accounting firms, the public sector, or  
12 academia.

13         The EAC selects one of its members as chair, determines its own procedures, and is  
14 independent of the IMF's management in overseeing the annual audit. However, any  
15 changes to the EAC's terms of reference are subject to Executive Board approval. The EAC  
16 typically meets in person in January, in June after the completion of the audit, and in July to  
17 report to the Executive Board. IMF staff and the external auditors consult with EAC  
18 members throughout the year. The 2008 EAC members are Mr. Satoshi Itoh, former  
19 Professor, Chuo University, Japan; Mr. Steve Anderson, Head of Risk Assessment and  
20 Assurance, Reserve Bank of New Zealand; and Mr. Thomas O'Neill, corporate director and  
21 former Chairman, PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting.

22

## Executive Directors and Alternates on April 30, 2008<sup>1</sup>

### **Appointed**

Meg Lundsager <i>Daniel Heath</i>	United States
Daisuke Kotegawa <i>Hiromi Yamaoka</i>	Japan
Klaus D. Stein <i>Stephan von Stenglin</i>	Germany
Ambroise Fayolle <i>Benoît Claveranne</i>	France
Alex Gibbs <i>Jens Larsen</i>	United Kingdom

### **Elected**

Willy Kiekens (Belgium) <i>Johann Prader</i> (Austria)	Austria Belarus Belgium Czech Republic Hungary Kazakhstan Luxembourg Slovak Republic Slovenia Turkey
Age F.P. Bakker (Netherlands) <i>Yuriy G. Yakusha</i> (Ukraine)	Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Georgia Israel Macedonia, former Yugoslav Republic of Moldova Netherlands Romania Ukraine

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<sup>1</sup>The voting power of each chair can be found in Appendix IV on the CD-ROM; changes in the Executive Board during FY2008 are listed in Appendix V on the CD-ROM.

*Elected (continued)*

José A. Rojas (Venezuela)	Costa Rica
Ramón Guzmán (Spain)	El Salvador
	Guatemala
	Honduras
	Mexico
	Nicaragua
	Spain
	República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Arrigo Sadun (Italy)	Albania
Miranda Xafa (Greece)	Greece
	Italy
	Malta
	Portugal
	San Marino
	Timor-Leste
Richard Murray (Australia)	Australia
Wilhemina C. Mañalac (Philippines)	Kiribati
	Korea
	Marshall Islands
	Micronesia, Federated States of
	Mongolia
	New Zealand
	Palau
	Papua New Guinea
	Philippines
	Samoa
	Seychelles
	Solomon Islands
	Vanuatu
GE Huayong (China)	China
HE Jianxiong (China)	
Jonathan Fried (Canada)	Antigua and Barbuda
Peter Charleton (Ireland)	Bahamas, The
	Barbados
	Belize
	Canada
	Dominica
	Grenada
	Ireland
	Jamaica
	St. Kitts and Nevis
	St. Lucia
	St. Vincent and the Grenadines

*Elected (continued)*

Jens Henriksson (Sweden)	Denmark
Jarle Berge (Norway)	Estonia
	Finland
	Iceland
	Latvia
	Lithuania
	Norway
	Sweden
A. Shakour Shaalan (Egypt)	Bahrain
Samir El-Khouri (Lebanon)	Egypt
	Iraq
	Jordan
	Kuwait
	Lebanon
	Libya
	Maldives
	Oman
	Qatar
	Syrian Arab Republic
	United Arab Emirates
	Yemen, Republic of
Abdallah S. Alazzaz (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia
Ahmed Al Nassar (Saudi Arabia)	
Perry Warjiyo (Indonesia)	Brunei Darussalam
Chantavam Sucharitakul (Thailand)	Cambodia
	Fiji
	Indonesia
	Lao People's Democratic Republic
	Malaysia
	Myanmar
	Nepal
	Singapore
	Thailand
	Tonga
	Vietnam
Peter Gakunu (Kenya)	Angola
Samuel Itam (Sierra Leone)	Botswana
	Burundi
	Eritrea
	Ethiopia
	Gambia, The
	Kenya
	Lesotho
	Malawi
	Mozambique

*Elected (continued)*

	Namibia
	Nigeria
	Sierra Leone
	South Africa
	Sudan
	Swaziland
	Tanzania
	Uganda
	Zambia
Thomas Moser (Switzerland)	Azerbaijan
<i>Andrzej Raczko</i> (Poland)	Kyrgyz Republic
	Poland
	Serbia
	Switzerland
	Tajikistan
	Turkmenistan
	Uzbekistan
Aleksei V. Mozhin (Russian Federation)	Russian Federation
<i>Andrei Lushin</i> (Russian Federation)	
Mohammad Jafar Mojarrad (Islamic Republic of Iran)	Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of
<i>Mohammed Daïri</i> (Morocco)	Algeria
	Ghana
	Iran, Islamic Republic of
	Morocco
	Pakistan
	Tunisia
Paulo Nogueira Batista, Jr. (Brazil)	Brazil
<i>María Ines Agudelo</i> (Colombia)	Colombia
	Dominican Republic
	Ecuador
	Guyana
	Haiti
	Panama
	Suriname
	Trinidad and Tobago
Adarsh Kishore (India)	Bangladesh
<i>K.G.D.D. Dheerasinghe</i> (Sri Lanka)	Bhutan
	India
	Sri Lanka

***Elected (continued)***

Javier Silva-Ruete  
(Peru)

Héctor R. Torres  
(Argentina)

Laurean W. Rutayisire  
(Rwanda)

Kossi Assimaidou  
(Togo)

Argentina  
Bolivia  
Chile  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Uruguay

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Congo, Democratic Republic of the  
Congo, Republic of  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Djibouti  
Equatorial Guinea  
Gabon  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Madagascar  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Niger  
Rwanda  
São Tomé and Príncipe  
Senegal  
Togo

## Senior officers on April 30, 2008

Jaime Caruana, Counsellor

Simon Johnson, Economic Counsellor

### **Area departments**

Benedicte Vibe Christensen  
Acting Director, African Department

David Burton  
Director, Asia and Pacific Department

Michael C. Deppler  
Director, European Department

Mohsin S. Khan  
Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department

Anoop Singh  
Director, Western Hemisphere Department

### **Functional and special services departments**

Michael G. Kuhn  
Director, Finance Department

Teresa M. Ter-Minassian  
Director, Fiscal Affairs Department

Leslie J. Lipschitz  
Director, IMF Institute

Sean Hagan  
General Counsel and Director, Legal Department

Jaime Caruana  
Director, Monetary and Capital Markets Department

Mark Allen  
Director, Policy Development and Review Department

Simon Johnson  
Director, Research Department

Robert Edwards  
Director, Statistics Department

### **Information and liaison**

Masood Ahmed  
Director, External Relations Department

Akira Ariyoshi  
Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Saleh M. Nsouli  
Director, Offices in Europe

Barry H. Potter  
Director and Special Representative to the UN Office at the United Nations

**Support services**

Serrano, Diana  
Director, Human Resources Department

Shailendra J. Anjaria  
Secretary, Secretary's Department

Frank Harnischfeger  
Director, Technology and General Services Department

Jonathan Palmer  
Chief Information Officer, Technology and General Services Department

**Offices**

Siddharth Tiwari  
Director, Office of Budget and Planning

Bert Keuppens  
Director, Office of Internal Audit and Inspection

Alfred Kammer  
Director, Office of Technical Assistance Management

Thomas Bernes  
Director, Independent Evaluation Office

## CD-ROM contents

*CD-ROM will include full text of print report in English, French, and Spanish (in PDF format), with additional material as listed below. Text will have links to relevant PINs, reports, etc., that are on CD-ROM.*

### **Chapter 1. Overview: Refocusing the IMF**

- Reports of the MD to the IMFC on the IMF's Policy Agenda (Oct. 2007 and April 2008)
- Board calendar for FY2008
- IMF Work Program Focuses on Key Aspects of Reform Agenda, PR 07/122
- IMF Interim Work Program Builds on Reform Progress, Focuses on Global Financial Stability, PR 07/295
- MD Statement on the Interim Work Program of the Executive Board, available via the Internet: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/121407.pdf>
- MD Statement on the Work Program of the Executive Board, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/053007.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/053007.pdf)
- CD-Box 1.1: Box on progress toward strategic objectives

### **Chapter 3. Fostering macroeconomic and financial stability and growth through surveillance**

#### **Bilateral surveillance**

- IMF Executive Board Adopts New Decision on Bilateral Surveillance Over Members' Policies, PIN 07/69
- Bilateral Surveillance Over Members' Policies—Executive Board Decision, June 15, 2007, available via the Internet: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm#decision>
- IMF Executive Board Holds Seminar on Globalization, Financial Markets, and Fiscal Policy, PIN 08/28
- CD-Table 3.1: Article IV consultations completed during FY2008

#### **Multilateral surveillance**

- WEO, summings-up of Board discussions, September 2007 and March 2008
- GFSR, summings-up of Board discussions, September 2007 and March 2008

#### **Multilateral consultation**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses Multilateral Consultation on Global Imbalances, PIN 07/97

- Staff Report on the Multilateral Consultation on Global Imbalances with China, the Euro Area, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, available via the Internet: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/062907.pdf>

### **Regional surveillance and outreach**

- CEMAC, PIN 07/81
- ECCU, PIN 08/12
- Euro area, PIN 07/89
- Transcripts of press briefings by APD on REOs, October 2007 and April 2008, [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2007/tr071019.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2007/tr071019.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080411a.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080411a.htm), respectively
- IMF Regional Economic Outlook for Europe Sees Need for Financial Sector, Fiscal, and Structural Reforms to Tackle Financial Turbulence and Sustain Growth, PR 07/252
- IMF Regional Economic Outlook for Europe Sees Slower Growth; Explores Challenges Policymakers Face in Seeking to Limit the Impact of Financial Turbulence, PR No. 08/89
- IMF Sees Continued Strong Growth, but also Heightened Policy Challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008, PR 07/249
- IMF Sees Latin America and the Caribbean Region Resilient So Far, But Risks Ahead,” PR 08/83, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0883.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0883.htm)
- IMF’s Regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia Sees Continued Positive Near-Term Economic Outlook, but the Region Faces Challenges to Sustain Ongoing Transformation and Reduce Unemployment, PR 07/241
- IMF Regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia Sees Sustained Growth, Highlights the Need to Contain Inflationary Pressures, PR 08/104
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Regional Economic Outlook, PR 07/237
- Sub-Saharan Africa Spring 2008 Regional Economic Outlook: Growth Expected to Remain Robust but Global Developments Cloud Prospects, PR 08/86, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0886.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0886.htm).
- IMF Executive Board Discusses Selected Regional Issues in the Caribbean, PIN 07/124

### **Financial sector surveillance**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses a Work Agenda on Sovereign Wealth Funds, PIN 08/41

- Sovereign Wealth Funds—A Work Agenda, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/022908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/022908.pdf)
- IMF Executive Board Concludes Financial Soundness Indicators—Experience with Coordinated Compilation Exercise and Next Steps, PIN 07/135
- The Recent Financial Turmoil—Initial Assessment, Policy Lessons, and Implications for Fund Surveillance, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf)
- Transcript of joint IMF-Brookings Institution seminar, “Global Downturn? The World Economy in 2008,” available via the Internet: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080131.htm>

#### **Framework of data provision for surveillance and other data initiatives**

- IMF Launches Revised Fiscal Transparency Code and Manual, PR 07/95
- IMF and World Bank Expand Databases on External Debt Statistics, PR 08/37
- CD-Box 3.1: ROSCs and Data Standards Initiatives

### **Chapter 4. Program support and capacity building**

#### **Financial assistance and policy advice**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses the Fund’s Role in the PRS Process and Its Collaboration with Donors, PIN 07/130
- IMF Executive Board Discusses HIPC Initiative and MDRI: Status of Implementation and the Financing of the Fund’s Concessional Assistance and Debt Relief to Low-Income Member Countries, PIN 07/122
- IMF Executive Board Modifies HIPC Initiative, PIN 08/03
- IMF Executive Board Discusses Operational Implications of Aid Inflows for IMF Policy Advice and Program Design in Low-Income Countries, PIN 07/83
- Food and Fuel Price Increases in Sub-Saharan Africa: Background Note for WAEMU Meeting on April 23, 2008, in Abidjan
- Progress Toward Nutrition, Health, Education, and Other Development Goals Off Track, Global Monitoring Report Finds, PR 08/75
- IMF Executive Board Discusses Aid for Trade, PIN 08/14
- IMF Executive Board Fully Restores Liberia’s IMF Status, Approves Financial Support Amounting to US\$952 Million and HIPC Decision Point Designation, PR 08/52
- CD-Table 4.1: Subsidy contributions for emergency assistance
- CD-Table 4.2: Subsidy contributions for the Exogenous Shock Facility

- CD-Table 4.3: Debt relief following implementation of the MDRI
- CD-Table 4.4: Implementation of the HIPC Initiative

#### **Program design**

- IMF Executive Board Concludes Review of Access Policy in the Credit Tranches and Under the EFF and the PRGF, and Exceptional Access Policy, PIN 08/30
- IMF Executive Board Discusses the Fund's Engagement in Fragile States and Post-Conflict Countries—A Review of Experience, PIN 08/43

#### **Building institutions and capacity**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses Strengthening Debt Management Practices: Lessons from Country Experiences and Issues Going Forward, PIN 07/60
- CD-Table 4.5: IMF Institute training programs, FY2006–08
- CD-Table 4.6: IMF Institute regional training programs

### **Chapter 5. Governance, organization, and finances**

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- IMF Executive Board Recommends Reforms to Overhaul Quota and Voice—Key Elements of a Potential Package of Reforms, PR 08/64
- Report of the Managing Director to the IMFC on IMF Quota and Voice Reform, [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4242](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4242)
- IMF Board of Governors Adopts Quota and Voice Reforms by Large Margin, PR 08/93
- Resolution 63-2

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- IMF Managing Director Strauss-Kahn Applauds Executive Board's Landmark Agreement on Fund's New Income and Expenditure Framework, PR 08/74
- Report of the Managing Director to the IMFC on a New Income and Expenditure Framework for the IMF, [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4245](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4245)
- IMF Board of Governors Approves Key Element of IMF's New Income Model, PR 08/101
- IMF Executive Board Approves Renewal of Standing Borrowing Arrangements, PR No. 07/270

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**International Monetary Fund**

**Annual Report  
2008**

**June 24, 2008**



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The unit of account of the IMF is the SDR; conversions of IMF financial data to U.S. dollars are approximate and provided for convenience. On April 30, 2008, the SDR/U.S. dollar exchange rate was US\$1 = SDR [ ], and the U.S. dollar/SDR exchange rate was SDR 1 = US\$[ ]. The year-earlier rates (April 30, 2007) were US\$1 = SDR 0.65609 and SDR 1 = US\$1.52418.

“Billion” means a thousand million; “trillion” means a thousand billion; minor discrepancies between constituent figures and totals are due to rounding.

As used in this *Annual Report*, the term “country” does not in all cases refer to a territorial entity that is a state as understood by international law and practice. As used here, the term also covers some territorial entities that are not states but for which statistical data are maintained on a separate and independent basis.

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## 1. Overview: refocusing the IMF

The global economy faced a number of challenges during FY2008. As problems in the U.S. subprime mortgage market spilled over into other credit markets, growth prospects slowed in a number of the advanced economies; at the same time, prices for food and oil surged, adding to inflationary pressures worldwide and creating severe hardships for many low-income countries.<sup>1</sup> The IMF's Executive Board—in accordance with the Fund's core mandate of safeguarding global macroeconomic and financial stability—responded to these developments immediately, strengthening the Fund's analysis of financial sector issues; recommending policies that could help member countries mitigate the impact of turmoil in financial markets on their economies; and offering policy advice to low-income countries on macroeconomic management in the face of rising costs for food and fuel as well as financial assistance to members in this group experiencing balance of payments problems triggered by the higher cost of imports.<sup>2</sup>

FY2008 was also a year of reform in the IMF, as the Executive Board moved ahead with measures that will enable the IMF to better meet the evolving needs of its member countries, keep pace with changes in the global economy and financial markets, and adjust to a reduced budgetary envelope. The Board adopted a new, comprehensive framework for bilateral surveillance focused on identifying exchange rate policies that could jeopardize macroeconomic and financial stability at both the national and the global levels.<sup>3</sup> In response to the turmoil in financial markets, it concentrated on analyzing the spillovers between individual economies and the global economy, and the linkages between financial markets and the real economy. It also took steps to improve the Fund's governance structure, agreeing on a significant package of quota and voice reforms designed to realign the quota shares of member countries with their relative weight in the global economy and to enhance the voice and participation of low-income countries in the Fund's decision making. Another landmark

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<sup>1</sup>Chapter 2 describes developments in the global economy and financial markets in FY2008.

<sup>2</sup>As set out in the its Articles of Agreement, the Fund is charged with, among other things, safeguarding the stability of the international monetary system and promoting sustainable economic growth. The Articles of Agreement can be found on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm).

<sup>3</sup>For an update on the progress made toward the Fund's key strategic objectives, see CD-Box 1.1 on the CD-ROM.

1 achievement of FY2008 was the Board's agreement on a new income and expenditure  
2 framework that will enable the Fund to put its finances in order.

3         These and other activities of the Board are described in greater detail in this chapter  
4 and the chapters that follow.

## 5 **SURVEILLANCE**

6 The IMF's surveillance activities are anchored in bilateral surveillance—the oversight of  
7 economic policies in member countries to ensure that members comply with their obligations  
8 under the Articles of Agreement and that their policies contribute to the stability of the  
9 international monetary and financial system. In early FY2008, after a year-long review of the  
10 1977 Decision on Surveillance over Exchange Rate Policies, the Executive Board adopted a  
11 new framework for bilateral surveillance. The 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance  
12 provides more complete guidance both to the Fund in the conduct of surveillance and to  
13 member countries in the conduct of exchange rate policies, but without creating new  
14 obligations for members. An important innovation is the 2007 Decision's introduction of the  
15 concept of external stability as an organizing principle of surveillance. While the 1977  
16 Decision enjoined members to avoid exchange rate manipulation for specific purposes, the  
17 2007 Decision recommends that members avoid exchange rate policies that result in external  
18 instability, regardless of their original purpose. It thus captures exchange rate policies that  
19 have proven over time to be a major source of instability. The Board viewed the adoption of  
20 the Decision as an important starting point in the Fund's efforts to discharge its surveillance  
21 responsibilities effectively and in an evenhanded manner.<sup>4</sup>

22         During FY2008, the Board devoted considerable attention to the turmoil in  
23 international financial markets, as reflected in its discussions of the *World Economic Outlook*  
24 (WEO) and the *Global Financial Stability Report* (GFSR), the IMF's primary vehicles for  
25 multilateral surveillance (see Chapter 3). The impact of the turmoil on global stability and  
26 growth was a central topic of the April 2008 WEO, while the April 2008 GFSR analyzed the  
27 impact on the international financial system and assessed the potential for spillovers,  
28 examining real and financial transmission channels and providing advice on short-term

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<sup>4</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Adopts New Decision on Bilateral Surveillance Over Members' Policies," PIN 07/69, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm).

1 measures member countries could take to mitigate the impact of the turmoil on their  
2 economies.

3 Executive Directors also reviewed, in April 2008, the IMF staff's initial assessment of  
4 the events in financial markets, broadly supporting its preliminary findings and  
5 recommendations. The Board's discussion of the assessment covered risk-management  
6 practices related to structured finance products; the valuation of such products and the role  
7 and design of credit ratings for them, as well as accounting and disclosure practices; crisis  
8 and emergency liquidity management, including by central banks; and the regulation and  
9 prudential oversight of banks and other financial entities.<sup>5</sup> While recognizing that events  
10 were still evolving at the time of the discussion, Executive Directors underlined the  
11 importance for Fund surveillance of analyzing the causes of the turmoil and drawing lessons  
12 from it, and encouraged staff to continue to work closely with national authorities,  
13 international bodies, and market participants. In addition, a new methodology for  
14 distinguishing between vulnerabilities and crisis risk in emerging market economies was  
15 developed during the year, and the Spring 2008 Vulnerability Exercise focused on the impact  
16 of the financial market turmoil on these economies.

17 Given the increasingly important role played by sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) in  
18 the international monetary and financial system, the Executive Board, in its March 2008  
19 discussion of such funds, considered that the IMF was well placed to facilitate and coordinate  
20 the development of voluntary principles and practices for SWFs, in collaboration with other  
21 organizations. The IMF is providing the secretariat for an international working group  
22 composed of representatives of 25 member countries that is tasked with developing a  
23 common set of voluntary principles for SWFs by the 2008 Annual Meetings of the IMF and  
24 the World Bank. This initiative was welcomed by the International Monetary and Financial  
25 Committee, the main advisory body of the IMF's Board of Governors, in its Communiqué of  
26 April 12, 2008.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>See "The Recent Financial Turmoil—Initial Assessment, Policy Lessons, and Implications for Fund Surveillance," the paper discussed by the Board, which can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF's Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf).

<sup>6</sup>The Communiqué, PR 08/78, can be found in Appendix III on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2008/041208.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2008/041208.htm).

1 To further strengthen the framework within which the IMF conducts surveillance, the  
2 Executive Board began discussing the design of the Triennial Surveillance Review in April  
3 2008. The Review is expected to include a Statement of Surveillance Priorities.

4 The Fund's surveillance activities during FY2008 are described in detail in Chapter 3.

#### 5 **PROGRAM SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

6 The Executive Board continually reviews the IMF's financing facilities, capacity-building  
7 activities, and the other programs and instruments through which the IMF provides assistance  
8 to member countries and adjusts them as the latter's needs change. The *emerging market*  
9 *economies'* demand for IMF lending has declined sharply over the past few years, as they  
10 reaped the benefits of their own improved policies, which have resulted in stronger economic  
11 fundamentals, and benign market conditions. These economies, as a group, continued to  
12 grow strongly in FY2008, despite the slowdown in the advanced countries, and appeared  
13 resilient to the turmoil in financial markets. However, vulnerabilities remain, particularly in  
14 emerging market countries heavily dependent on large capital inflows for financing current  
15 account deficits. The emphasis of the Board in these countries has thus shifted to the analysis  
16 of financial sector risks and macro-financial linkages, provision of advice and technical  
17 assistance in strengthening debt-management practices, and development of a liquidity or  
18 crisis-prevention instrument—such as a rapid access line or a financial stability line—for  
19 countries integrating into global capital markets in the event they experience a sudden  
20 reversal of capital inflows.

21 The Executive Board is also taking steps to deepen the IMF's engagement with *low-*  
22 *income countries*, which is evolving as countries' economies grow and mature. There is  
23 growing emphasis on providing advice on policy responses to capital inflows, commodity  
24 price swings (including for food and oil), financial market development, and debt  
25 sustainability, among other things. One of the most serious challenges facing policymakers in  
26 low-income countries in FY2008 was the soaring cost of food and fuel imports, which  
27 threatened poverty reduction efforts and the low-income countries' ability to achieve the  
28 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The IMF moved rapidly to help  
29 vulnerable members assess the implications of rising prices for their fiscal policy, balance of  
30 payments, and income, and convened a task force to coordinate the Fund's response to the

1 crisis. At a briefing in April 2008, Executive Directors generally approved the task force's  
2 work program, supporting the provision of policy advice to low-income members adversely  
3 affected by higher food and fuel prices, as well as financial assistance, through both existing  
4 and new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility arrangements and the Exogenous Shocks  
5 Facility, to countries suffering balance of payments problems. Executive Directors also  
6 encouraged Fund staff to cooperate with other international organizations working on  
7 measures to alleviate supply constraints.

8 Another measure to assist low-income countries in their efforts to reduce poverty and  
9 reach the MDGs was the Executive Board's approval in FY2008 of changes making the  
10 framework for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative more flexible. To  
11 reduce delays in making debt relief available to HIPCs with protracted arrears, for example,  
12 the Board determined that performance under a Staff-Monitored Program meeting certain  
13 standards could count toward the track record of sound policies countries need to establish to  
14 reach the so-called decision point, when they receive commitments of debt relief from the  
15 international community (and may start receiving interim debt relief) pending further  
16 economic reforms. Liberia was the first country to benefit from the changes to the framework  
17 (see Box 4.1). The Board also considered a new framework for providing more effective  
18 capacity-building and financial assistance to so-called fragile states (states such as post-  
19 conflict countries, whose economic and social performance is impaired by weak governance,  
20 limited administrative capacity, social tensions, and a tendency to political instability), and  
21 called on management to prepare operational proposals that reflect the Board's views and the  
22 views of potential recipients and donors for discussion in FY2009.

23 The Executive Board is taking steps to make delivery of the Fund's *capacity-building*  
24 *assistance*—technical assistance (TA) and training—to member countries more efficient and  
25 cost-effective. It is emphasizing more rigorous prioritization and greater integration of TA  
26 and training with surveillance and lending, heightened collaboration with other donors, and  
27 increased external funding to leverage the IMF's own resources. It is also considering  
28 charging graduated fees according to recipient countries' per capita income. Many  
29 improvements in the Fund's capacity-building activities have already been implemented in  
30 the past few years, including relying more heavily on the regional technical assistance and  
31 training centers, having the Fund's area departments take the lead in setting TA strategies in

1 coordination with country authorities, introducing quantitative performance indicators for  
2 TA, and mobilizing increased donor funding for training.

3 The IMF's role in, and support for, emerging market and developing countries is  
4 described in detail in Chapter 4.

#### 5 **GOVERNANCE, FINANCES, AND ORGANIZATION**

6 Following two years of extensive discussions, the Board of Governors approved on April 28,  
7 2008, an important package of reforms of the Fund's governance that will increase the voice  
8 and representation of emerging market and low-income countries.<sup>7</sup> The package, which  
9 delivered more than the Board of Governors committed to in its Resolution of September 18,  
10 2006, sets out a quota formula that is simpler and more transparent than the five-formula  
11 system it replaces and calls for ad hoc quota increases for 54 members to realign their quota  
12 shares with their relative weight and role in the global economy. The package also includes  
13 an amendment providing for a tripling of basic votes<sup>8</sup> to increase the voice of low-income  
14 countries (the first increase in basic votes since the Fund was established); creating a  
15 mechanism to ensure that the ratio of total basic votes to total voting power remains constant  
16 in the event of future quota increases; and authorizing a second Alternate Executive Director  
17 for Executive Directors elected by a large number of members, which in the current  
18 circumstances will benefit the two African chairs on the IMF's Executive Board. The Board  
19 of Governors' Resolution represents a major step forward in the modernization and  
20 restructuring of the Fund to better reflect the changing realities of the global economy. The  
21 proposed amendment on the increase in basic votes and the second Alternate Executive  
22 Director will enter into force once three-fifths of the Fund's members having 85 percent of  
23 the total voting power have accepted it. The ad hoc quota increases will become effective  
24 after the proposed amendment has entered into force and require each relevant member's  
25 consent to, and payment of, its quota increase.

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<sup>7</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Recommends Reforms to Overhaul Quota and Voice," Press Release 08/64, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm). The Report of the Managing Director to the IMFC on IMF Quota and Voice Reform can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF's Web site: [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4242](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4242).

<sup>8</sup>As set out in the IMF's Articles of Agreement, each member was originally allotted 250 basic votes plus one vote per SDR 100,000 of its quota.

1           The Board also reached agreement on a new income and expenditure framework that  
2 is expected to put the IMF's finances on a sounder footing. On the expenditure side, the  
3 Board identified approximately \$100 million in savings to be achieved over the next three  
4 fiscal years through reductions in both staff and non-staff costs, and set out how a leaner,  
5 refocused institution will better serve its membership. On the income side, the Board of  
6 Governors approved on May 5, 2008, a proposed amendment to expand the investment  
7 authority of the Fund, which, to become effective, requires the acceptance of three-fifths of  
8 the Fund's members having 85 percent of the total voting power.<sup>9</sup> As part of the new income  
9 model, the Executive Board also supported a proposal to create an endowment funded with  
10 profits from the sale of a limited part of the Fund's gold. All Executive Directors have  
11 indicated either that they are ready to vote in favor of a decision to sell a limited portion of  
12 the Fund's gold, or that they will seek legislative approval to vote in favor of such a  
13 decision.<sup>10</sup> In parallel with the changes agreed in principle to the Fund's income and  
14 expenditure framework, the Board amended the terms of reference for its Budget Committee,  
15 to enable the Committee to consider the income and the expenditure sides of the budget  
16 together, in an integrated framework.

17           The IMF's communications strategy was also reviewed by the Executive Board in  
18 FY2008. The Board welcomed the efforts being made to better integrate the Fund's  
19 operations with its communications in building support for the Board's reform agenda. As  
20 part of this strategy, the Fund is increasingly shifting to Web-based and multimedia  
21 technologies and tailoring its outreach to key audiences of opinion leaders. It is also  
22 broadening its outreach by systematically producing key materials in languages other than  
23 English that are heavily used in the Fund's work, and refocusing its publishing program.

24           The IMF's institutional transparency continues to be high. In FY2008, the Fund  
25 published its third annual update on the implementation of its transparency policy, indicating

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<sup>9</sup>See "IMF Board of Governors Approves Key Element of IMF's New Income Model," Press Release 08/101, on the CD-ROM or on the Fund's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr08101.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr08101.htm).

<sup>10</sup>See "IMF Managing Director Strauss-Kahn Applauds Executive Board's Landmark Agreement on Fund's New Income and Expenditure Framework," Press Release 08/74, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0874.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0874.htm). The Report of the Managing Director to the IMFC on a New Income and Expenditure Framework for the IMF can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF's Web site: [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4245](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4245).

1 that, even though publication is voluntary, the overwhelming majority of country documents  
2 and policy papers are published.

3 The Board also continued to strengthen the Fund's risk-management framework  
4 during FY2008. It welcomed the Advisory Committee on Risk Management's update at an  
5 informal Board briefing in January with a call for greater prioritization in the risk-  
6 management framework and more consideration of risks stemming from misreporting by  
7 members. Also in January, in a briefing to the Board, the External Audit Committee  
8 indicated satisfaction with the Fund's internal and external audit processes and encouraged  
9 the Fund to take steps to make its financial statements clearer, implement a whistleblower  
10 policy, and adopt a more formalized incident-reporting process.<sup>11</sup>

11 As part of its efforts to formalize the framework for IMF accountability, in FY2007,  
12 the Board called on Fund management to produce implementation plans for Board-endorsed  
13 recommendations in the Independent Evaluation Office's (IEO) assessments of Fund  
14 activities and, in FY2008, to issue periodic monitoring reports on the state of  
15 implementation. Three implementation plans have been produced so far; they cover the  
16 Board-endorsed recommendations in the IEO's evaluations of the IMF and aid in sub-  
17 Saharan Africa, the Fund's advice on exchange rate policies, and structural conditionality in  
18 Fund-supported programs. The first periodic monitoring report, which was issued in FY2008,  
19 covered recommendations from IEO evaluations that were discussed by the Board before the  
20 new formalized framework was put in place.

21 Turning its attention to sharpening the focus of its own work, in FY2008 the Board  
22 approved the recommendations of a working group of Executive Directors that was convened  
23 to examine the structure and mandate of Board committees and amended the terms of  
24 reference of a number of these committees accordingly. Notable among the changes  
25 approved was the broadening of the Budget Committee's mandate, as mentioned above, and  
26 the establishment of a Committee on Liaison with the World Bank and Other International  
27 Organizations, which is charged with keeping the Board informed of developments at other  
28 institutions whose work also involves promoting economic stability and growth.

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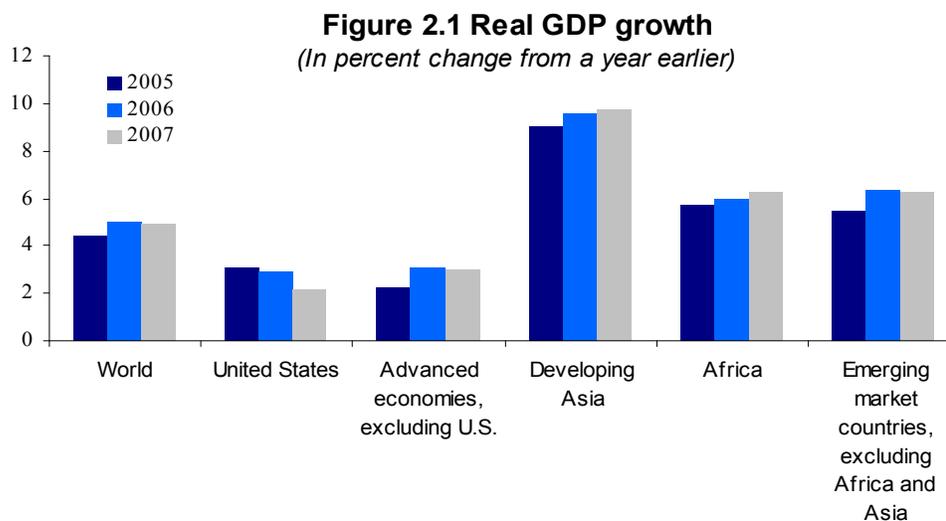
<sup>11</sup>In June 2008, the IMF launched an "integrity hotline," which will allow individuals inside and outside the Fund to raise concerns, on a confidential basis, about possible staff misconduct.

- 1 More detail about the Fund's governance, finances, and organization can be found in
- 2 Chapter 5.
- 3

## 2. Developments in the global economy and financial markets

The course of the global economy in FY2008 was shaped by the interaction of three powerful forces: an escalating financial crisis slowed growth in some of the advanced economies, growth in emerging market and developing economies continued at a brisk pace, and inflationary pressures intensified throughout the world, fueled in part by soaring commodity prices.

Overall, global GDP measured at purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates increased by 4.9 percent in 2007—well above trend for the fourth consecutive year (Figure 2.1). From the fourth quarter, however, activity decelerated in the advanced economies, particularly in the United States, where the crisis in the subprime mortgage market affected a broad range of financial markets and institutions. Although growth in emerging market and developing economies also slowed beginning in the fourth quarter of 2007, it remained robust, by historical standards, across all regions.



15

Foreign exchange markets were also affected by developments in financial markets. The real effective exchange rate of the U.S. dollar declined sharply from mid-2007, as foreign investment in U.S. securities was dampened by the weakening of U.S. growth prospects and expectations of interest rate cuts. The currencies of a number of countries that have large current account surpluses—for example, China and oil-exporting countries in the

20

1 Middle East—continued to be managed. The main counterpart of the dollar’s depreciation  
2 has been an appreciation of the euro, the yen, and other floating currencies, such as the  
3 Canadian dollar and some emerging market currencies.

4         The sharp increase in prices for primary commodities, particularly for food and oil,  
5 pushed up headline inflation in virtually all of the Fund’s member countries, with spillover  
6 effects into core inflation, especially in emerging market economies. Surging food prices  
7 have compressed real income, especially in countries for which food represents a larger share  
8 of consumption baskets. While oil exporters have benefited from record oil prices, some net  
9 oil importers have seen their trade balances deteriorate and growth prospects weaken.

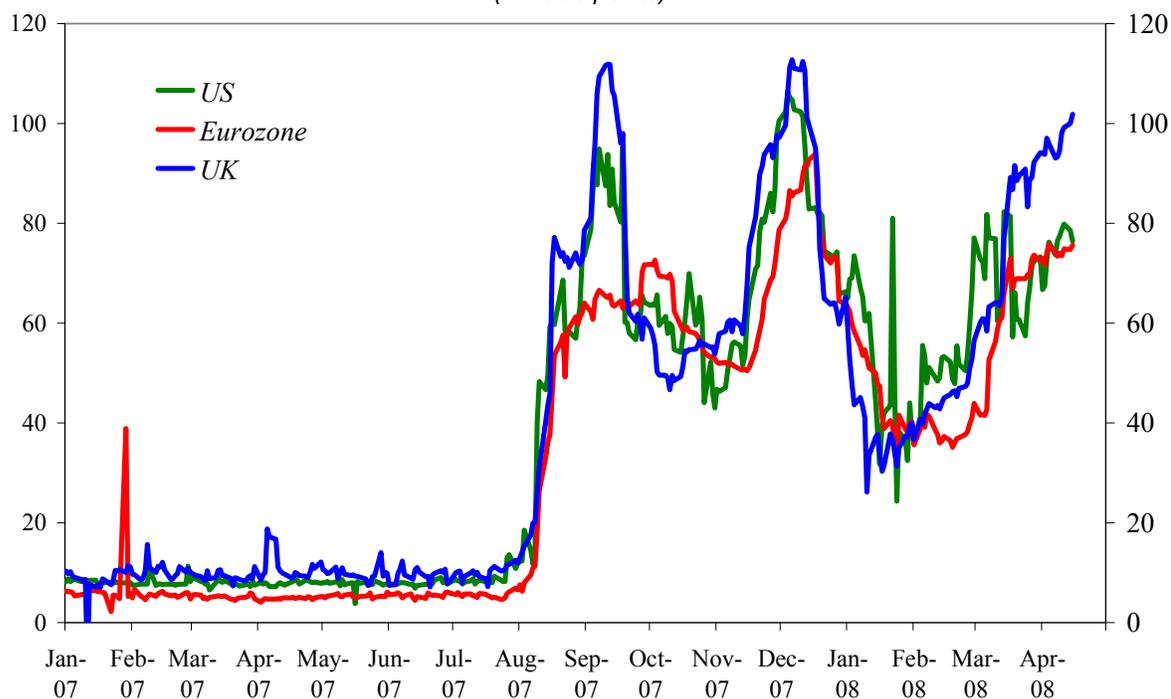
#### 10 **ADVANCED ECONOMIES**

11 Spillovers from the credit deterioration in the U.S. subprime mortgage market led to a full-  
12 blown liquidity crisis in term-funding interbank markets in August 2007. By October 2007,  
13 key central banks had begun taking aggressive policy actions, including providing liquidity  
14 to troubled institutions, that helped calm markets temporarily. However, pressures rekindled  
15 and intensified toward the end of 2007 as major financial institutions began to report  
16 substantial losses, notably from exposures to securities related to subprime mortgages.  
17 Market deterioration was compounded by signs that the U.S. economy was slowing. The  
18 crisis continued to spread as systemic concerns were exacerbated by a deterioration of asset  
19 credit quality, a drop in the valuation of structured credit products, and a lack of market  
20 liquidity accompanying a broad deleveraging in the financial system.

21         While the United States remained the epicenter of the crisis, financial institutions in  
22 other advanced economies were also affected because of exposure to structured credits and—  
23 to varying degrees—weaknesses in prudential supervision and in the risk-management  
24 systems of financial institutions. In response to unfolding events, major central banks in the  
25 United States and Europe began to play a pivotal role in containing systemic risk, providing  
26 large-scale access to short-term funding through various existing and newly created facilities  
27 as private banks retrenched from interbank markets, and becoming key counterparties in  
28 term-funding markets as nonbank financial institutions retreated. Sovereign wealth funds also  
29 played an important and timely role in containing market strains, contributing substantial  
30 amounts of capital to major financial institutions. Nonetheless, financial systems were still

1 experiencing considerable stress as the IMF's financial year came to a close, with continuing  
 2 strains in interbank markets, wide credit spreads, and leveraged investors selling assets under  
 3 illiquid market conditions (Figure 2.2).

**Figure 2.2 Three-month LIBOR spreads to OIS**  
 (In basis points)



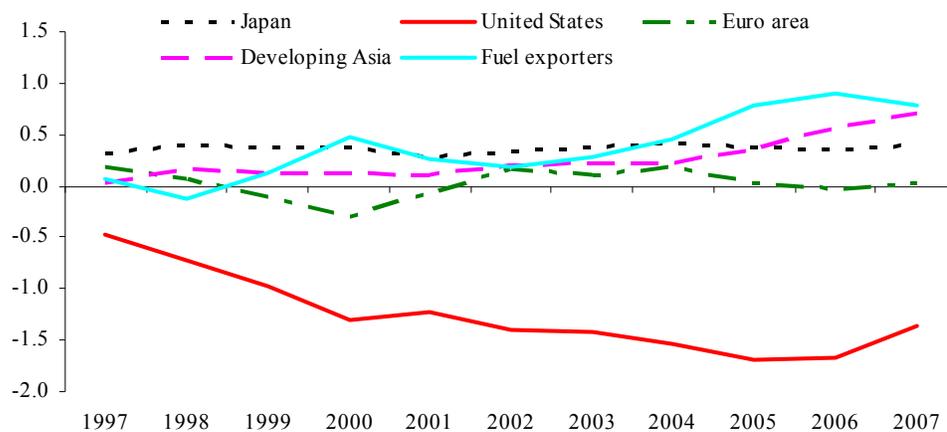
4

5 Note: OIS denotes overnight index swap.

6 Central banks in the advanced economies found themselves caught—to different  
 7 degrees—between rising inflation pressures and slower growth prospects, and striking the  
 8 right balance depended on country or regional circumstances. A number of central banks  
 9 eased monetary policy, most dramatically in the *United States*, where the U.S. Federal  
 10 Reserve lowered the federal funds rate by 300 basis points between August 2007 and April  
 11 2008. The pace of activity in the United States declined sharply in the fourth quarter of 2007,  
 12 and consumption and business investment softened markedly as sentiment soured and  
 13 lending conditions tightened. Growth in 2007 was only 2.2 percent, down from 3 percent in  
 14 2006, and fell further, to about 1 percent, in the first quarter of 2008 as the correction in the  
 15 U.S. housing market led to a contraction of residential investment and household  
 16 consumption slowed markedly. Rising oil prices contributed to the dampening of

1 consumption while boosting 12-month headline inflation to more than 4 percent in late 2007  
 2 and early 2008. The weakening of growth prospects in the United States relative to its trading  
 3 partners and expectations of interest rate cuts dampened foreign investment in U.S.  
 4 securities, putting downward pressure on the dollar. The dollar's depreciation vis-à-vis the  
 5 euro, the yen, and other floating currencies, such as the Canadian dollar and some emerging  
 6 market currencies, boosted net exports, the one area of strength in the U.S. economy, and the  
 7 current account deficit of the United States moderated somewhat, to 5.3 percent of GDP in  
 8 2007. (Figure 2.3 shows current account balances for different countries and regions as a  
 9 percentage of world GDP.)

**Figure 2.3 Current account balance**  
(In percent of world GDP)



10

11 For most of 2007 and in early 2008, activity in the *advanced European economies*  
 12 continued to expand at a robust pace. Strong domestic demand was fueled by steady  
 13 employment growth and buoyant investment. The euro area as a whole recorded annual  
 14 economic growth of 2.6 percent in 2007, close to the rapid pace achieved in 2006, while  
 15 growth in the United Kingdom registered a strong 3.1 percent increase despite strains in the  
 16 banking sector. In the first quarter of 2008, euro area growth accelerated to almost 3 percent,  
 17 notwithstanding deteriorating consumer and business sentiment in response to financial  
 18 sector dislocation, the impact of rising oil prices on real disposable income, euro  
 19 appreciation, and a weakening export market. The Bank of England responded to weaker

1 growth prospects by lowering interest rates, but the European Central Bank kept policy rates  
2 steady.

3 *Japan's* economy remained largely resilient to the global slowdown through the first  
4 quarter of 2008. GDP grew at 2.1 percent in 2007, before accelerating to 3.3 percent in the  
5 first quarter of 2008, led by robust net exports and business investment. Japan's external  
6 surplus remained large. Business activity appeared to be slowing in the second quarter of  
7 2008, however, and the Bank of Japan kept interest rates steady.

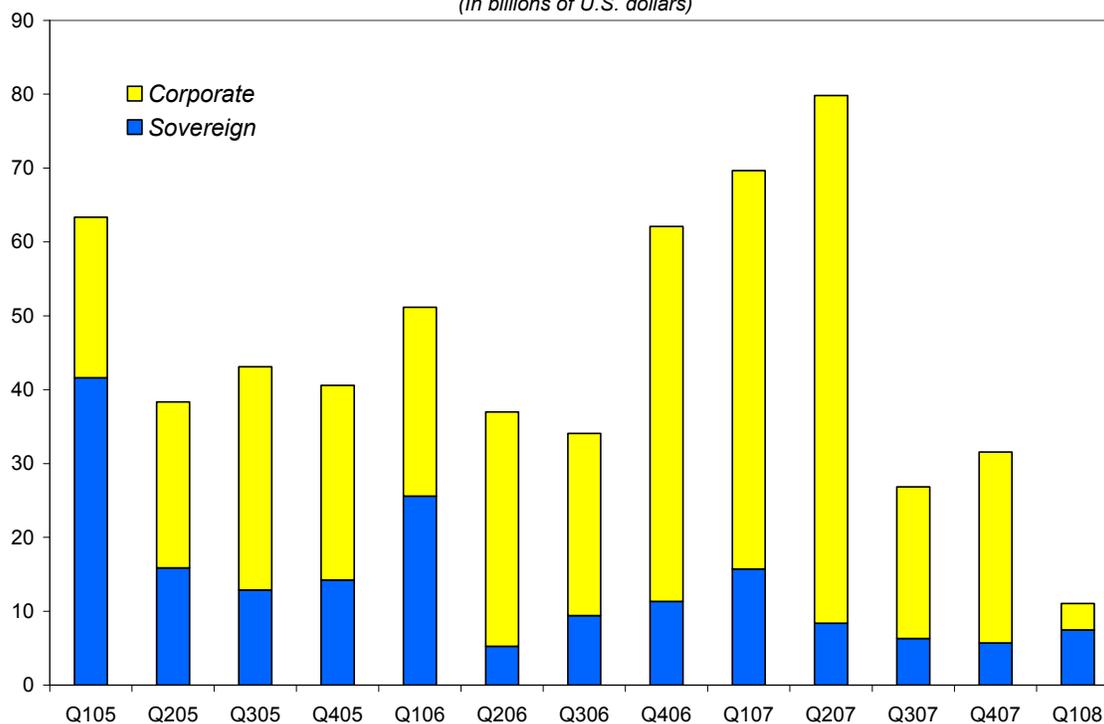
#### 8 **EMERGING MARKET AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES**

9 Throughout FY2008, financial conditions in most emerging market countries continued to  
10 benefit from those countries' improved macroeconomic fundamentals and stronger public  
11 sector balance sheets. However, some countries—notably those in emerging Europe<sup>1</sup> where  
12 domestic credit growth had been fueled by external funding and large current account deficits  
13 needed to be financed—came under market pressure. While emerging market sovereigns  
14 remained broadly resilient to the financial turbulence in mature economies, and bank lending  
15 continued to be strong through the fourth quarter of 2007, emerging market corporate bond  
16 issuance slowed sharply in the third quarter of 2007 and remained subdued in early 2008,  
17 while the cost of funding rose (Figure 2.4).

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<sup>1</sup>As used in Fund publications, this term includes Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, and Turkey.

**Figure 2.4 Emerging market external bond issuance**  
(In billions of U.S. dollars)



1

2

Growth in *emerging Europe* moderated by almost a full percentage point, to 5.7 percent, in 2007 but exceeded growth in the advanced European economies for the sixth consecutive year. In most of the emerging European countries, growth continued to be driven by buoyant domestic demand, which again substantially outpaced production in 2007. As a consequence, the region's overall current account deficit widened to 6.7 percent of GDP.

7

Demand continued to be supported by strong credit growth fueled by capital inflows and—in many countries—vigorous wage growth, as labor market conditions tightened further.

9

Inflation pressures increased, especially toward year-end, because of rising food and energy prices and increasing labor costs. Most central banks in emerging market economies

11

continued to tighten monetary policy in response to building inflationary pressures.

12

Real GDP growth was sustained at 8.5 percent in the *Commonwealth of Independent States*<sup>2</sup> in 2007, as high commodity prices, expansionary macroeconomic policies, strong

13

<sup>2</sup>The group formed in 1991 by 12 of the former Soviet republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

1 capital inflows during most of the year, rapid credit growth, and rising asset prices fueled  
2 strong growth in domestic demand.

3 Growth in *emerging Asia* remained strong throughout 2007, although with some signs  
4 of softness, especially in early 2008. External surpluses continued to be large. Growth was  
5 led by China, where output expanded by 11.4 percent (year over year) in 2007, driven by  
6 consumption, strong investment growth, and net exports. Growth in India slowed modestly,  
7 to 8.5 percent (year over year) in the second half of 2007 as consumption cooled in response  
8 to tighter monetary policy, although investment continued at a brisk pace. The strength of  
9 domestic demand in the region, combined with rising food and energy prices, contributed to a  
10 buildup of inflation pressures in a number of countries.

11 Economic activity in *Latin America and the Caribbean* grew by a robust 5.6 percent  
12 in 2007, slightly stronger than in 2006. The U.S. slowdown dampened growth in neighboring  
13 Mexico, but growth remained high in Central America and in commodity-exporting South  
14 American countries while accelerating markedly in Brazil, amid sustained declines in real  
15 interest rates and strong employment. Increased domestic demand has been the main driver  
16 of growth in the region. Current account surpluses have declined, and inflation has  
17 accelerated, driven by high capacity utilization in some countries and by rising food prices.

18 Building on the largest period of sustained economic growth since independence, the  
19 pace of economic activity in *sub-Saharan Africa* accelerated to 6.8 percent in 2007, led by  
20 very strong growth in oil-exporting countries and supported by robust expansion in the  
21 region's other economies. In non-oil-exporting countries, activity was boosted by domestic  
22 demand and investment in particular, the payoff from improvements in macroeconomic  
23 stability and the reforms undertaken in most countries.

24 Growth in the *Middle East* also remained strong, reaching 5.8 percent in 2007.  
25 Although increases in oil production were limited, high world oil prices supported greater  
26 government spending in exporting countries and strong expansion of credit to the private  
27 sector. Despite the growth of domestic spending and imports, the large current account  
28 surpluses in the oil-exporting countries narrowed only slightly—to about 22.8 percent of  
29 GDP—as higher oil prices boosted export revenues; the currencies of these countries  
30 continued to be pegged or tightly managed. Growth was even stronger in some of the non-

1 oil-exporting countries in the region, spurred by trade, financial spillovers from oil-exporting  
2 countries, and domestic reforms. Inflation pressures rose considerably in the Gulf  
3 Cooperation Council (GCC)<sup>3</sup> countries because of strong domestic demand, rising food  
4 prices, supply constraints in the real estate market leading to higher rents, and interest rate  
5 cuts (the latter to match developments in major advanced economies, as required under the  
6 GCC countries' pegged exchange rate regimes).

7

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<sup>3</sup>Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

### 3. Fostering macroeconomic and financial stability and growth through surveillance

Surveillance is at the core of the IMF's mandate. The IMF is responsible, under its Articles of Agreement, for overseeing the international monetary system to identify any vulnerabilities that could undermine its stability. It fulfills this responsibility in part by monitoring the macroeconomic policies of its 185 member countries and providing analysis and policy advice tailored to each member's specific circumstances (referred to as bilateral surveillance) and monitoring economic conditions and developments in international capital markets and assessing the global effects of major economic and financial developments, such as oil market conditions or external imbalances (multilateral surveillance). These activities are supplemented by the Fund's surveillance of regional institutions that conduct monetary and economic policy for groups of countries bound together in formal arrangements, such as currency unions (regional surveillance; see Box 3.1).

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#### **Box 3.1 How the Fund conducts surveillance**

*Bilateral surveillance.* When a country joins the IMF, it makes commitments under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement<sup>1</sup> to pursue policies conducive to orderly economic growth and price stability and to avoid manipulating exchange rates for unfair competitive advantage. It also commits to providing the IMF with accurate and timely data about its economy. The IMF is mandated by Article IV to oversee members' compliance with these obligations, which it does through ongoing surveillance over members' economic policies. In addition to maintaining contact with the national authorities from its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the IMF sends staff teams to each member country once a year, in most cases. (Informal staff visits often take place between these formal visits, known as Article IV consultations.) During an Article IV consultation, the IMF team analyzes economic and financial data and discusses with government and central bank officials economic developments since the previous consultation, as well as the country's exchange rate, monetary, fiscal, and financial sector policies, and other policies with a direct impact on domestic and external stability.<sup>2</sup> The team may also meet with legislators and nongovernmental parties, such as trade unions, academics, and financial market participants. It prepares a summary of its findings and policy advice, which it leaves with the national authorities, who have the option of publishing it. On return to IMF headquarters, the team prepares a report describing the economic situation and the talks with the authorities and evaluating the country's policies that is submitted to the Executive Board for review and discussion. The discussion formally concludes an Article IV consultation, and a summary of the Board's views is transmitted to the country's government. Through this kind of peer review, the global community

1 provides policy advice to each of its members, and the lessons of international experience are  
2 brought to bear on national policies. If the member country agrees, the full Article IV consultation  
3 report and a Public Information Notice (PIN), which summarizes the Board discussion, are published  
4 on the IMF's Web site, in line with the IMF's transparency policy (see Chapter 5).

5 Through Article IV consultations, the IMF seeks to identify policy strengths and weaknesses, as well  
6 as potential vulnerabilities, and advises countries on appropriate corrective actions if needed.

7 Supplementing these systematic and regular Board reviews of individual member countries are  
8 frequent informal sessions at which the Board discusses developments in individual countries. On a  
9 voluntary basis, countries may also choose to participate in the Financial Sector Assessment  
10 Program (FSAP) or to request Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSCs) in other  
11 areas.<sup>3</sup> Results of these assessments are an important input into surveillance.

12 *Multilateral surveillance.* Given the linkages between national economies and financial systems and  
13 the international economy and financial markets, the Fund monitors world economic and financial  
14 market developments and prospects to help ensure that the international monetary and financial  
15 system is functioning smoothly and to identify vulnerabilities that could undermine its stability.

16 Multilateral surveillance is carried out through the Board's reviews of the staff's *World Economic*  
17 *Outlook (WEO)* and *Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR)*, which are usually published twice a  
18 year. The WEO presents the staff's analysis of global economic prospects and the policies  
19 appropriate in different countries, while the GFSR focuses on developments in, and risks confronting,  
20 the international financial markets. The Board also holds informal discussions of world economic and  
21 financial market developments, and IMF staff continuously monitor developments in mature and  
22 emerging financial markets as well as economic developments globally.

23 *Regional surveillance.* Bilateral and multilateral surveillance is supplemented by regional surveillance  
24 of formal arrangements such as currency unions, whose members have devolved responsibilities  
25 over monetary and exchange rate policies to regional institutions, as well as by the preparation of  
26 regional economic outlooks that bring together key cross-cutting insights relating to countries with  
27 regional ties.

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28  
29 <sup>1</sup>The IMF's Articles of Agreement can be found at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm).

30 <sup>2</sup>The Fund's 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance over Members' Policies includes a principle  
31 recommending that members avoid exchange rate policies that result in external instability, regardless of the  
32 particular purposes of the policies; implied in this principle is that countries have an overarching commitment to  
33 pursue policies consistent with external stability.

34 <sup>3</sup>See CD-Box 3.1, "ROSCs and Data Standards Initiatives," on the CD-ROM.

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35  
36 As financial markets experienced exceptional turbulence, growth slowed dramatically  
37 in some of the advanced economies, and world prices for food and oil soared during FY2008,

1 the IMF's Executive Board intensified its efforts to further strengthen and modernize the  
2 Fund's surveillance activities.<sup>1</sup> In June 2007, the Board adopted a new, more comprehensive  
3 framework for bilateral surveillance, which replaced the framework that had been in place  
4 since 1977. In addition, the Board endorsed efforts aimed at achieving a better understanding  
5 of the linkages between national economies and the global economy and between financial  
6 markets and the real economy, which is essential to restoring confidence in, and stability to,  
7 global financial markets and to improving global economic prospects. New initiatives were  
8 launched, such as coordinating work on developing voluntary principles for sovereign wealth  
9 funds (see below).

10 The Board also sought to deepen the Fund's understanding of fiscal/financial  
11 linkages. It held a seminar in February 2008 to examine how fiscal policy can help countries  
12 realize the benefits of globalization and financial deepening (Box 3.2).<sup>2</sup>

13

#### 14 **Box 3.2 Globalization, financial markets, and fiscal policies**

15 In February 2008, the Executive Board discussed "Globalization, Financial Markets, and Fiscal  
16 Policies," a paper prepared by the Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD).<sup>1</sup> The seminar considered how  
17 fiscal policy can help countries realize the benefits of globalization and financial deepening.

18 **The impact of globalization on public finances.** Executive Directors noted that, despite the general  
19 trend toward lower tax rates—for corporate taxes—revenue has been strong until recently. While  
20 recognizing that tax competition could be healthy, they pointed out that sustained revenue buoyancy  
21 should not be taken for granted and that harmful tax competition could undermine members' revenue.  
22 On the expenditure side, globalization could create upward pressure because of demands for more  
23 social protection and more investment in human and physical capital. Executive Directors also called  
24 for more attention to financial sector contingent liabilities, noting that timely intervention strategies  
25 emphasizing preemptive restructuring of at-risk financial institutions could reduce the ultimate fiscal  
26 cost, but that such strategies should avoid creating expectations of government bail-outs for financial  
27 institutions. On balance, the Board observed that, to the extent that globalization and financial  
28 deepening create fiscal pressures, a prepositioning of fiscal policy is warranted. This would not

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<sup>1</sup>In June 2008, the G-8 called on the IMF to work with the International Energy Agency and appropriate national authorities in carrying out further analysis of the real and financial factors behind the surge in oil and commodity prices, the volatility of these prices, and the effect of rising prices on the global economy, and to report its findings at the October 2008 Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

<sup>2</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Holds Seminar on Globalization, Financial Markets, and Fiscal Policies, PIN 08/28, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0828.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0828.htm).

1 necessarily mean a tighter fiscal policy, but fiscal policy should be flexible and able to respond to  
2 pressures by maintaining room for maneuver in revenue and expenditure policies.

3 **Market access.** Greater access to external market financing could either strengthen or loosen fiscal  
4 discipline. The effect of market discipline on fiscal policy can be enhanced by increased transparency  
5 and a credible political commitment to sound fiscal policies. Globalization and financial deepening  
6 could improve the ability of countries with sound policies to borrow abroad in domestic currency, and  
7 thus increase debt tolerance.

8 **Fiscal policy with higher capital flows.** Globalization and financial deepening have both altered the  
9 effectiveness of fiscal policy and led to increased capital flows. The stabilizing role of fiscal policy in  
10 response to capital inflows depends on country-specific circumstances. If large capital inflows create  
11 aggregate demand pressure, and the scope for using monetary policy is limited, fiscal tightening  
12 could be appropriate. In some cases, however, adjustment could occur mainly through the real  
13 exchange rate or through temporary capital controls, although in these cases fiscal policy can still be  
14 useful. A few Directors, however, noted that fiscal policy may not be the best tool for dealing with  
15 significant shifts in capital flows, given the long lags in the implementation of fiscal measures.

16 **Spillovers.** Globalization magnifies fiscal policy spillovers. Some Directors agreed that these  
17 strengthen the case for enhanced international policy cooperation in certain areas, although some  
18 other Directors were reluctant to endorse a new mandate for Fund coordination efforts.

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 <sup>1</sup>The paper is available on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/111607a.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/111607a.pdf).  
21

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## 22 **BILATERAL SURVEILLANCE**

23 In FY2008, the Executive Board completed 123 Article IV consultations (see CD-Table 3.1  
24 on the CD-ROM). It also put more emphasis on strengthening the Fund's global perspective  
25 and better integrating the findings of the *World Economic Outlook* (WEO) and the *Global*  
26 *Financial Stability Report* (GFSR), the Fund's main instruments for multilateral surveillance  
27 (see below), in bilateral surveillance, and improving the analysis of linkages between the real  
28 economy and the financial sector and spillovers between national economies and the  
29 international economy. For example, the April 2008 WEO outlined three lines of defense  
30 countries could adopt against the spreading effects of market turmoil—a combination of  
31 monetary policy easing, fiscal stimulus, and public funds, as appropriate, can play a  
32 complementary role by supporting demand and limiting the negative interaction between  
33 financial markets and the real economy—while the October 2007 WEO addressed

1 appropriate policy responses to large capital inflows.<sup>3</sup> The regional dimension is also  
2 increasingly informing the Fund's bilateral policy discussions, and selected issues papers and  
3 staff reports are placing more emphasis on regional spillovers and cross-country experiences.

4 Exchange rate surveillance is one of the IMF's key responsibilities. Throughout its  
5 existence, the Fund has striven to strengthen its framework for assessing exchange rates,  
6 adapting it to underlying macroeconomic and financial developments in member countries.  
7 The Executive Board updated its surveillance framework, after a year-long review, on June  
8 15, 2007.<sup>4</sup> The 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance Over Members' Policies is much  
9 broader and more comprehensive than the 1977 Decision on Surveillance Over Exchange  
10 Rate Policies, which it replaces and which was adopted in the wake of the collapse of the  
11 Bretton Woods system.<sup>5</sup> By setting clear expectations, the new Decision should help improve  
12 the quality, evenhandedness, and effectiveness of IMF surveillance. It also brings greater  
13 clarity and specificity to the issues of which exchange rate policies countries should avoid  
14 and when these policies may be of concern to the international community. Some of the  
15 highlights of the new Decision are described in Box 3.3.

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16  
17 **Box 3.3 The 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance**

18 The new Decision expands on the 1977 Decision in a number of important ways, to clarify the  
19 framework of surveillance implied by the Articles of Agreement (and thus without creating new  
20 obligations for members):

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<sup>3</sup>The WEO is available on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2007/02/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2007/02/index.htm). Although private capital inflows can result in long-term benefits if put to good use, they may pose significant risks to macroeconomic stability. The appropriate policy response to large capital inflows depends on country-specific circumstances and the nature of the inflows. The most robust lesson to emerge from a comprehensive cross-country analysis of policy responses over the past two decades is that keeping government spending on a steady path—rather than engaging in excessive spending during periods of heavy capital inflows—can help mitigate the adverse effects of large inflows.

<sup>4</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Adopts New Decision on Bilateral Surveillance Over Members' Policies," PIN 07/69, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm). The Decision can also be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm#decision](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm#decision).

<sup>5</sup>Under the Bretton Woods system, which was established in 1944, central banks of countries other than the United States agreed to maintain fixed exchange rates between their currencies and the dollar, which was convertible into gold at the fixed price of \$35 an ounce. The Bretton Woods system collapsed in 1971 when the United States ended the trading of gold at the fixed price.

- 1 • Introducing, as an organizing principle for bilateral surveillance, the concept of external  
2 stability, which encompasses both the current and the capital accounts of the balance of  
3 payments.
- 4 • Specifying the essential modalities of effective surveillance, including its collaborative nature,  
5 the importance of dialogue and persuasion, and the need for candor and evenhandedness,  
6 and emphasizing the importance of paying due regard to country circumstances and the need  
7 for a multilateral and medium-term perspective.
- 8 • Clarifying the concept of exchange rate manipulation to gain an unfair competitive advantage  
9 over other members, which is prohibited under Article IV of the Fund's Articles of Agreement,  
10 and relating such behavior to the concept of fundamental exchange rate misalignment.
- 11 • Providing more complete guidance to members for the conduct of their exchange rate  
12 policies so as to cover all such policies that may cause external instability, regardless of their  
13 particular purpose, as well as to the Fund in its conduct of surveillance.

14 The Executive Board endorsed the staff's definition of fundamental exchange rate misalignment but  
15 underscored the need for appropriate caution in applying it, stressing that it should be used with due  
16 acknowledgment of the considerable measurement uncertainties involved, and that estimates of  
17 misalignment require the exercise of careful judgment. In practice, an exchange rate would be judged  
18 to be fundamentally misaligned only if the misalignment were found to be significant, and the benefit  
19 of any reasonable doubt would be given to the authorities in establishing whether there is  
20 fundamental misalignment. The Board also noted that any judgment on misalignment should be  
21 applied in an evenhanded manner regardless of the nature of the exchange rate regime and the size  
22 of the economy, and a number of Directors emphasized the potential market sensitivity of estimates  
23 of misalignment and the need for care in communicating them.

---

24 Key operational aspects in implementing the 2007 Decision are being clarified,  
25 including through an exchange of views among Executive Directors on the concepts and  
26 methodologies for assessing external stability, analyzing exchange rates and current account  
27 positions, and assessing exchange rate policies, and the Surveillance Guidance Note for staff  
28 is expected to be updated in FY2009.<sup>6</sup> In an informal seminar at the end of FY2008, the

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<sup>6</sup>The Surveillance Guidance Note (issued in May 2005) provides guidance to IMF staff on the conduct of bilateral surveillance, in light of its evolution over time and the conclusions of the 2004 Biennial Surveillance Review. The note covers both the content (in particular, the choice of issues to be addressed in an Article IV consultation and the quality of coverage of topics that have received particular attention in Board reviews of surveillance) and the modalities of surveillance. It also provides guidance on the treatment in Article IV consultations of matters related to Articles VIII and XIV that concern restrictions on payments and transfers for current international transactions and multiple currency practices. In addition, the note provides guidance on the

(continued)

1 Board began to review the system and methodology used to classify member countries' de  
2 facto exchange rate arrangements to clarify the definitions of the various categories and  
3 establish more operational and unambiguous criteria for their application. These discussions  
4 will inform this year's *Annual Report on Exchange Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions*  
5 (AREAER), which has been published by the Fund since 1950. Prepared in consultation with  
6 member country authorities, but reflecting the staff's independent judgment, the AREAER  
7 provides a comprehensive description of the exchange rate arrangements, exchange  
8 restrictions, controls on capital flows, and other foreign exchange measures of all IMF  
9 members.<sup>7</sup>

10         Complementing the efforts of the Executive Board and the Fund's management and  
11 staff to take stock of the effectiveness of surveillance, the IMF's Independent Evaluation  
12 Office (IEO) completed an evaluation in FY2007 of the IMF's exchange rate policy advice to  
13 member countries from 1995 to 2005. At the Board's discussion of the evaluation in May  
14 2007, Executive Directors broadly endorsed the IEO's conclusion that the Fund should aim at  
15 enhancing the effectiveness of its analysis, advice, and dialogue with member countries, as  
16 well as address any perception of asymmetry in its exchange rate surveillance. Most  
17 Executive Directors concurred with the IEO's finding that the rules of the game for exchange  
18 rate surveillance remain unclear in some important areas. Over the review period, there had  
19 been problems in implementing various aspects of existing policy guidance, and most  
20 Executive Directors agreed that there remains scope for improvement in several areas,  
21 including the quality of analysis of exchange rate levels and incorporation of the analysis of  
22 policy spillovers into regional and bilateral surveillance. They also agreed with the IEO  
23 recommendation that Fund management should ensure that exchange rate work across the  
24 Fund is organized and managed effectively, in tandem with ongoing work to integrate  
25 financial sector issues into Fund surveillance, and they encouraged further strengthening of  
26 the existing coordinating mechanisms (including the Surveillance Committee and the

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treatment of other issues that are not legally part of surveillance under Article IV but, per guidance from the Executive Board, are to be raised in the context of Article IV consultations. Members have no obligation under Article IV surveillance to provide information or to pursue specific policies in these areas.

<sup>7</sup>Appendix II, "Financial operations and transactions," to this Report contains a brief summary of members' exchange rate regimes in Table II.9, "De facto classification of exchange rate regimes and monetary policy framework." The Appendix can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ar/2008/eng/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ar/2008/eng/index.htm).

1 Consultative Group on Exchange Rate Issues (CGER; see below)). Most Executive Directors  
2 emphasized that the Fund’s management is responsible for providing the Executive Board  
3 with all the information that it needs to conduct surveillance and is accountable to the  
4 Executive Board for how it combines this duty with the need for the Fund to serve as a  
5 confidential advisor to members.

6 Based on the IEO recommendations endorsed by the Board, staff and management  
7 prepared an implementation plan, which the Board discussed in September 2007 (see Chapter  
8 5).<sup>8</sup> Executive Directors noted that the centerpiece of the implementation plan was,  
9 appropriately, the 2007 Decision on Bilateral Surveillance, and that strengthening work  
10 related to exchange rate issues would have to be carried out primarily in the context of  
11 Article IV consultations. Many Executive Directors agreed that strengthening the  
12 methodology and expanding the work of the CGER would provide important input to the  
13 Fund’s exchange rate work, although a number cautioned that significant technical  
14 limitations would continue to exist in estimating equilibrium exchange rates.

15 Since the mid-1990s the CGER has provided exchange rate assessments for a number  
16 of advanced economies from a multilateral perspective, with the aim of informing the  
17 country-specific analysis of the IMF’s Article IV staff reports and fostering multilateral  
18 consistency. These assessments are additional tools at the disposal of the IMF staff country  
19 desks, which are responsible for formulating exchange rate assessments as part of the Fund’s  
20 bilateral surveillance. The role of exchange rates in the external adjustment process is  
21 increasing as the world economy rapidly becomes more integrated. During the past 15 years,  
22 world trade and international financial integration have grown very rapidly, with the ratio of  
23 world trade to world GDP increasing by over 40 percent and the ratio of international  
24 financial cross-holdings to world GDP more than doubling. Emerging market countries have  
25 contributed significantly to these developments, as is evidenced by the increase in their share  
26 of world trade—from 27 percent in 1990 to 40 percent in 2006—as well as by their  
27 importance in international capital flows. Accordingly, the Fund has extended its CGER

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<sup>8</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Discusses Implementation Plan Following IEO Evaluation of the IMF’s Exchange Rate Policy Advice, 1999–2005,” PIN 07/119, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07119.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07119.htm).

1 methodologies, which can help gauge the consistency of current account balances and real  
2 effective exchange rates with their underlying fundamentals, to cover about 20 emerging  
3 market countries.<sup>9</sup>

#### 4 **MULTILATERAL SURVEILLANCE**

5 To assist and inform policymakers and the public, the Fund has introduced greater continuity  
6 in its multilateral surveillance work, for example, with formal quarterly updates of WEO  
7 forecasts and a quarterly financial stability note, to complement its two major vehicles for  
8 multilateral surveillance, the WEO and the GFSR, which are published twice a year. It has  
9 also deepened its analysis of macro-financial linkages, exchange rates, and spillovers,  
10 especially from advanced economies and markets.

#### 11 **World Economic Outlook**

12 In its September 2007 discussion of the *World Economic Outlook* (WEO),<sup>10</sup> the Executive  
13 Board acknowledged that after strong economic growth in the first half of 2007, the global  
14 outlook had become exceptionally uncertain and underscored the importance of sound  
15 policies and continued vigilance. In its March 2008 discussion, the Executive Board agreed  
16 that global growth prospects for 2008 had deteriorated markedly since the January 2008  
17 WEO Update. Executive Directors discussed global economic developments and prospects  
18 against the background of exceptional uncertainties about the likely duration and cost of the  
19 financial crisis that had spread far beyond the U.S. subprime mortgage market. Growth had  
20 slowed in the advanced economies in the face of tightening financial conditions but remained  
21 strong in the rapidly globalizing emerging economies. Executive Directors emphasized that  
22 the still unfolding events in financial markets posed the greatest risk to the outlook. Many  
23 Directors still saw a positive momentum driven by the potential strength of domestic demand  
24 in fast-growing emerging economies, while recognizing these economies' exposure to  
25 negative external risks through both trade and financial channels. Executive Directors also

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<sup>9</sup>In April 2008, the Fund published a paper describing these methodologies, *Exchange Rate Assessments: CGER Methodologies*, as Occasional Paper No. 261. See [www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=19582.0](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=19582.0).

<sup>10</sup>The full summings up of the Board's discussions of the October 2007 and April 2008 WEO can be found on the CD-ROM as well as in the reports themselves, which are available on the IMF's Web site. See [www.imf.org/external/ns/cs.aspx?id=29](http://www.imf.org/external/ns/cs.aspx?id=29) for links to different issues of the WEO as well as the updates.

1 cautioned that risks related to inflationary pressures and the oil market had increased as  
2 commodity prices soared in the context of continued tight supply-demand conditions as well  
3 as of growing investor interest in commodities as an asset class and other financial factors. A  
4 number of Directors also saw a continued risk of a disorderly unwinding of global  
5 imbalances despite the recent depreciation of the U.S. dollar against other flexible currencies  
6 and the narrowing of the U.S. current account deficit.

7         Against this backdrop, Directors underscored that policymakers around the world  
8 faced a fast moving set of challenges. The key priorities in the advanced economies were  
9 dealing effectively with the financial crisis and countering downside risks to growth while  
10 taking account of inflationary pressures and the need to preserve longer-term fiscal  
11 sustainability. The challenge for many emerging and developing economies was controlling  
12 inflationary pressures while ensuring that strong domestic demand did not lead to a buildup  
13 of vulnerabilities. A number of these economies were already facing a fallout from the  
14 slowdown in the advanced economies, and an intensified or prolonged global slowdown  
15 would require judicious responses from their policymakers. The Board considered that  
16 ensuring the consistency of policy approaches across countries in these difficult global  
17 conditions would be important.

18         More generally, Executive Directors welcomed the ongoing consultations among  
19 countries, especially by the monetary authorities of the advanced economies with each other  
20 and with international bodies such as the IMF and the Financial Stability Forum (FSF), in  
21 dealing with the present financial turmoil. Joint efforts could prove more effective than  
22 individual efforts in bolstering confidence and demand. Executive Directors agreed that the  
23 Fund was uniquely placed for adding a multilateral perspective to policy responses to the  
24 current crisis, providing a forum for discussion and exchanges of views, and promoting  
25 consistency of national policies and assessing their spillovers in an increasingly integrated  
26 global economy.

**1 Global Financial Stability Report**

2 At their March 2008 discussion of the *Global Financial Stability Report* (GFSR),<sup>11</sup> Executive  
3 Directors noted that global financial stability had deteriorated markedly since their discussion  
4 of the October 2007 GFSR, which had also focused on financial market turbulence, as the  
5 deterioration in the U.S. subprime mortgage market had been followed by severe dislocations  
6 in broader credit and funding markets, posing risks to the macroeconomic outlook in the  
7 United States and globally. Policymakers' immediate priorities were to reduce uncertainty,  
8 mitigate risks to the global financial system, and restore confidence. The Board underscored  
9 that, in carrying forward the recommendations in the GFSR, directed at both the public and  
10 the private sectors, careful attention should be paid to sequencing and prioritization, to  
11 country circumstances, and to coordination among the relevant international and national  
12 agencies. It emphasized the role of the Fund in contributing to these efforts, working  
13 alongside national and international institutions and bodies.

14 Executive Directors generally supported the GFSR's finding that markets and  
15 investors, the official sector, and monetary authorities had collectively failed to appreciate  
16 the extent of leverage taken on by a wide range of financial institutions, and the associated  
17 risks of a disorderly unwinding. Private sector risk management and disclosure, and financial  
18 sector supervision and regulation all lagged behind rapid financial innovation and shifts in  
19 business models, and continuing uncertainty over the size and spread of losses had elevated  
20 systemic risks. Potential losses could be sizable, and financial institutions should move  
21 quickly to repair their balance sheets by raising equity and medium-term funding.

22 The resilience demonstrated by emerging markets and developing countries could yet  
23 be tested by rising costs, tighter external funding conditions, or a reversal of the recent  
24 commodity price boom. A protracted weakening of growth in the advanced economies or a  
25 broadening of the problems in financial markets could also have an adverse impact on  
26 emerging markets, depending on country circumstances, for example, by increasing the  
27 vulnerability to potential capital outflows of those emerging economies that are particularly  
28 dependent on advanced economies' direct investments.

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<sup>11</sup>The full summings up of the Board discussions of the October 2007 and April 2008 GFSR can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF's Web site. See [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/GFSR/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/GFSR/index.htm).

1           It was recognized that a sound understanding of the valuation and accounting of  
2 structured finance products was important for comprehending the depth and extent of present  
3 financial market instability. The Board noted that there were incentives to rely heavily on  
4 short-term wholesale funding to support these longer-term, illiquid structured products. It  
5 was also suggested that the rating agencies should review the quality of their methodologies.  
6 Executive Directors generally welcomed the prompt and innovative actions of central banks  
7 to inject liquidity into the banking system to keep interbank markets functioning smoothly  
8 and agreed that the financial turmoil has highlighted the need for central banks to consider  
9 more carefully their roles regarding financial stability and monetary policy implementation,  
10 noting that these roles were becoming more intertwined. While the authorities in individual  
11 countries are moving to stem the effects of disorderly financial market conditions, the Fund  
12 should, in coordination with other multilateral bodies such as the FSF as well as with national  
13 agencies, play a larger role in international forums to influence policy.

#### 14 **Multilateral consultation**

15 In FY2007, the Fund launched a new vehicle—the multilateral consultation—for the purpose  
16 of fostering cooperation among appropriate groups of countries in addressing challenges to  
17 the global economy and individual members. The IMF’s first multilateral consultation gave  
18 its five participants—China, the euro area, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States—a  
19 forum for discussing global imbalances and how best to reduce them while sustaining robust  
20 global growth. In FY2008, the Board reviewed its experience, concluding that the  
21 multilateral consultation discussions have helped deepen agreement on a coherent medium-  
22 term approach that identified measures that should gradually reduce imbalances over time  
23 while supporting global growth; have been beneficial from a regional and international  
24 perspective; and have strong ownership. The participants’ individual statements of policy  
25 intentions, while not as ambitious as the Fund advised in the context of Article IV  
26 consultations and the WEO, still constituted significant steps forward and, once  
27 implemented, should contribute substantially toward reducing imbalances over the medium  
28 term. Moreover, the publication of these policy intentions has provided a valuable roadmap  
29 for the future. Executive Directors recommended that the Fund continue to play an active  
30 role in monitoring progress, and this has been done in individual Article IV reports on the  
31 relevant members.

1 Executive Directors considered that the multilateral consultation approach is a useful  
2 instrument for enhancing and deepening Fund multilateral surveillance. They noted that the  
3 multilateral consultation had two unique aspects: voluntary participation of a limited number  
4 of participants that were possible major contributors to a solution to imbalances, and a  
5 framework wherein the voice of the entire international community could be heard through  
6 the Executive Board and through the International Monetary and Financial Committee  
7 (IMFC).<sup>12</sup> These features, together with uncertainty as to what future problems might need to  
8 be addressed, warrant retaining flexibility with respect to the operational modalities going  
9 forward.<sup>13</sup>

## 10 REGIONAL SURVEILLANCE AND OUTREACH

11 Since members of currency unions have devolved responsibilities over monetary and  
12 exchange rate policies—two central areas of Fund surveillance—to regional institutions, the  
13 IMF holds formal discussions with representatives of these institutions in addition to its  
14 Article IV consultations with the unions' individual members. During FY2008, the IMF's  
15 Executive Board discussed developments in the Central African Monetary and Economic  
16 Union (CEMAC), the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), and the euro area.<sup>14</sup>

### 17 Currency unions

18 *CEMAC*. Macroeconomic conditions in the CEMAC were highly favorable at the time of the  
19 Board discussion, which took place in June 2007,<sup>15</sup> in large part because of sustained high oil  
20 prices. Nonetheless, in terms of growth, the region had fallen behind the rest of sub-Saharan  
21 Africa, there was little trade and financial integration, dependency on oil revenues had

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<sup>12</sup>The IMFC is an advisory body to the IMF's Board of Governors. It is composed of 24 Governors (or their alternates). See Box 5.3 for more detail on the IMFC's composition and activities.

<sup>13</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses Multilateral Consultation on Global Imbalances," PIN 07/97, and "Staff Report on the Multilateral Consultation on Global Imbalances with China, the Euro Area, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States," on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0797.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0797.htm). and [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/062907.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/062907.pdf), respectively.

<sup>14</sup>It discussed developments in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) early in FY2009.

<sup>15</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Concludes 2007 Discussion on Common Policies of Member Countries with CEMAC," PIN 07/81, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0781.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0781.htm). The members of CEMAC are Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.

1 increased, and deep-seated structural impediments to economic diversification remained.  
2 These problems need to be addressed urgently if the region is to achieve the Millennium  
3 Development Goals (see Chapter 4). The Board thus welcomed the recent reform package  
4 adopted by the CEMAC Heads of State, which is intended to strengthen regional institutions  
5 and advance the integration process.

6 *ECCU.* In its February 2008 discussion, the Executive Board welcomed the ECCU's  
7 strong economic performance, characterized by robust growth and generally low inflation.  
8 Observing that the region continues to face significant challenges nonetheless, it supported  
9 the focus on policies aimed at sustaining growth and building resilience by enhancing  
10 competitiveness and economic diversification. The Board also underscored the need to  
11 accelerate fiscal consolidation, avoid distortions in tax systems, and control spending. It  
12 commended the progress made in enhancing the regulatory framework for the banking  
13 system and the financial sector more broadly, and recommended continued efforts to  
14 strengthen the risk-based supervisory framework. Executive Directors supported the renewed  
15 momentum toward economic integration and noted that liberalizing capital and labor flows  
16 should play an important role in allowing the region to benefit more fully from globalization.  
17 Since data weaknesses remain a key constraint on effective policymaking and surveillance,  
18 Executive Directors encouraged the national and regional authorities to bolster statistical  
19 practices and data management.<sup>16</sup>

20 *Euro area.* In their discussion of euro area policies in July 2007,<sup>17</sup> Executive  
21 Directors welcomed the euro economy's move from recovery to upswing. They expected real  
22 GDP growth to remain above potential for the near term and employment gains to stay  
23 healthy thanks, in part, to reforms of labor markets and welfare systems. However, with  
24 rising resource utilization, inflationary pressures could be expected to build gradually and  
25 some further monetary policy tightening might be required. Executive Directors considered  
26 the external position of the euro area to be roughly in balance and the real effective exchange

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<sup>16</sup>The ECCU's members are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. See "IMF Executive Board Concludes 2007 Discussion on Common Policies of Members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union," PIN 08/12, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0812.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0812.htm).

<sup>17</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses Euro Area Policies," PIN 07/89, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0789.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0789.htm).

1 rate of the euro to be trading within range of the medium-term equilibrium. They welcomed  
2 the broad-based structural reforms under way and underscored that their continued  
3 implementation, in line with the authorities' commitments under the multilateral consultation  
4 (see above), would help strengthen prospects for an orderly resolution of global current  
5 account imbalances. Looking forward, population aging was likely to prompt a significant  
6 slowing of potential growth; thus, the fundamental challenge in the region is achieving a joint  
7 structural acceleration of productivity and labor force participation. Executive Directors  
8 emphasized the need for prompt implementation of the Markets in Financial Instruments  
9 Directive and welcomed steps to integrate national payments and securities clearing and  
10 settlement systems as well as ongoing work to facilitate cross-border bank mergers and  
11 acquisitions.

## 12 **Other regional surveillance initiatives and outreach**

13 The Fund has taken steps in the past few years to expand and strengthen its regional work.  
14 Some area departments have created units dedicated to regional issues as well as department-  
15 wide working groups on cross-cutting issues. For example, working groups in the African  
16 Department are studying such issues as the scaling up of aid, natural resource management,  
17 and the development of domestic debt markets; in the European Department, large cross-  
18 border capital flows, rapid credit growth, the implications of financial integration for growth  
19 and supervision, the use of EU funds by new member states, the competitiveness of the  
20 Mediterranean countries, and vulnerabilities in southeastern Europe; and in the Western  
21 Hemisphere Department, issues related to the financial sector, monetary and exchange rate  
22 policy, pensions, and oil and natural resources. The Fund's Regional Office for Asia and the  
23 Pacific, which is located in Tokyo, contributes to research and outreach on regional  
24 surveillance.

25 In addition, the IMF's five area departments now produce *Regional Economic*  
26 *Outlooks* (REOs) twice a year. Publication of the REOs is followed by extensive outreach  
27 events—such as seminars for government officials and academics, media briefings, and  
28 interviews of IMF officials—in several countries in each region. Press releases summarizing  
29 REO findings are posted on the IMF's Web site along with the full text of the REOs

1 themselves, as well as transcripts and webcasts of press conferences held upon publication of  
2 the REOs.<sup>18</sup>

3         The IMF also organizes and participates in various regional forums. In June 2007, for  
4 example, the IMF participated in the Sixth Annual Regional Conference for Central America,  
5 which brought together ministers of finance, central bank governors, and financial sector  
6 superintendents from Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic to discuss two  
7 major regional projects—the consolidation of supervision of regional financial  
8 conglomerates and fiscal coordination, including the establishment of a customs union for  
9 Central America—as well as the development of equity and private debt markets and fiscal  
10 policies to support economic and social stability. In October 2007, IMF staff and the  
11 Honduran authorities held a regional workshop on medium-term expenditure frameworks.  
12 The workshop was attended by budget officials from Central America, the Dominican  
13 Republic, and Panama, and speakers from the IMF, the World Bank, the Inter-American  
14 Development Bank, Colombia, and Spain. In November 2007, the IMF’s Western  
15 Hemisphere Department organized a conference on economic and financial linkages in the  
16 Western Hemisphere. A regional seminar on globalization and taxation, involving finance  
17 ministers and senior officials from 13 African countries, was held in February 2008 in  
18 Nigeria; a high-level seminar on African finance was held in Tunis in March 2008 (see

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<sup>18</sup>The REOs can be accessed at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/reorepts.aspx](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/reorepts.aspx). Materials related to the REOs published in FY2008 can be found on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site. See, for example, the transcripts of the press briefings following the publication of the October 2007 and April 2008 REOs for Asia and the Pacific, at [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2007/tr071019.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2007/tr071019.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080411a.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080411a.htm), respectively; and the following press releases: “IMF Regional Economic Outlook for Europe Sees Need for Financial Sector, Fiscal, and Structural Reforms to Tackle Financial Turbulence and Sustain Growth,” PR 07/252, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07252.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07252.htm); “IMF Regional Economic Outlook for Europe Sees Slower Growth; Explores Challenges Policymakers Face in Seeking to Limit the Impact of Financial Turbulence,” PR No. 08/89; “IMF Sees Continued Strong Growth, but also Heightened Policy Challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008,” PR 07/249, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07249.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07249.htm); “IMF Sees Latin America and the Caribbean Region Resilient So Far, But Risks Ahead,” PR 08/83, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0883.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0883.htm); “IMF’s Regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia Sees Continued Positive Near-Term Economic Outlook, but the Region Faces Challenges to Sustain Ongoing Transformation and Reduce Unemployment,” PR 07/241, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07241.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07241.htm); “IMF Regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia Sees Sustained Growth, Highlights the Need to Contain Inflationary Pressures,” PR 08/104; “Sub-Saharan Africa: Regional Economic Outlook,” PR 07/237, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07237.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07237.htm); and “Sub-Saharan Africa Spring 2008 Regional Economic Outlook: Growth Expected to Remain Robust but Global Developments Cloud Prospects,” PR 08/86, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0886.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0886.htm).

1 Chapter 4). The IMF also participated in the April and September 2007 meetings of the Trade  
2 Policy Coordination Committee of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation  
3 program, held in Manila; the annual meeting of the finance ministers and central bank  
4 governors of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Jeddah in October 2007; and a  
5 conference on the role of the private sector in economic development and regional  
6 integration in the Maghreb, held in Tunis in November 2007.

7 In June 2007, the IMF held a policy seminar on financial integration in the Nordic-  
8 Baltic region, at which IMF staff and Executive Directors, the European Central Bank  
9 representative to the IMF, and academics discussed an IMF study of the arrangements for  
10 cross-border oversight and crisis management. The study highlights gaps that may have  
11 arisen as a result of growing financial integration in the region. Since financial integration is  
12 also increasing in Europe as a whole, and most countries in the Nordic-Baltic region are  
13 bound by the European regulatory framework, addressing these challenges may need to be  
14 considered in this broader European-wide context.<sup>19</sup>

15 As part of its initiative to hold periodic seminars on economic developments and  
16 prospects in the Caribbean, the Board held its first such seminar in September 2007.<sup>20</sup>  
17 Executive Directors noted that the historically open nature of the Caribbean economies had  
18 served them well, enabling them to achieve relatively high per capita income levels. The  
19 macroeconomic performance of the region had been favorable in recent years, and its  
20 commitment to social development and equitable growth has contributed to notable progress  
21 in health care, education, and poverty eradication. Nonetheless, the region is vulnerable  
22 because of its limited economic diversification; persistent, large current account deficits;  
23 large public debt; and exposure to natural disasters—hurricanes, in particular. Executive  
24 Directors welcomed the initiative to establish the Caribbean Single Market and Economy,  
25 increased regional cooperation being key to enabling the Caribbean countries to make the  
26 most of globalization, and considered that closer integration of the Caribbean’s still largely

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<sup>19</sup>The paper, “Financial Integration in the Nordic-Baltic Region: Challenges for Financial Policies,” is available on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2007/nordbal/pdf/0607.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2007/nordbal/pdf/0607.pdf).

<sup>20</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Discusses Selected Regional Issues in the Caribbean,” PIN 07/124, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07124.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07124.htm).

1 segmented financial markets could boost growth. They noted that the Caribbean countries'  
2 heavy reliance on tax incentives to attract investors was costly in terms of forgone revenues  
3 and recognized that the erosion of preferential access to European markets for bananas and  
4 sugar would entail significant losses for several countries in the region. Directors also  
5 emphasized the importance of timely disbursement of aid and concessional assistance in  
6 support of countries' adjustment and restructuring efforts.

#### 7 **FINANCIAL SECTOR SURVEILLANCE**

8 The Fund has been strengthening its financial sector surveillance work at the bilateral,  
9 multilateral, and regional levels, on an ongoing basis, working on the development of  
10 analytical tools for assessing financial sector stability, both at the institutional level and  
11 system-wide, and quantitative analytical methodologies for identifying, measuring, and  
12 assessing the impact of financial sector credit and liquidity risks and improving stress testing.  
13 These tools have already been applied in the Fund's work, in particular in the context of  
14 financial sector assessment programs (FSAPs). Initiatives in FY2008 included analytical and  
15 policy-related work on the impact of the financial crisis that began in mid-2007 on economic  
16 activity; more emphasis on macro-financial linkages in the conjunctural sections of the  
17 WEO; greater focus on financial sector analysis in Article IV consultations and continued  
18 emphasis on FSAPs; internal training on financial sector issues; data collection initiatives  
19 that focus on the position of financial institutions vis-à-vis other sectors and the associated  
20 risks; and analytical and empirical work on how financial and real sector reforms  
21 complement each other. Fund staff continued to collaborate with the FSF and its working  
22 groups, as well as to consult with the private sector, regulators and national authorities,  
23 standard setters, and other bodies.

#### 24 **Assessment of financial crisis and recommendations**

25 In its October 2007 Communiqué, the IMFC asked the Fund to reflect on the underlying  
26 causes of, and policy lessons from, the turmoil that erupted in financial markets in August  
27 2007. In response, five working groups in the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets  
28 Department, in close cooperation with the relevant FSF working groups and other  
29 stakeholders, studied the structural causes of the ongoing crisis and drew up a set of  
30 recommendations of a medium-term nature. Their findings were discussed by the Board in

1 April 2008 and are summarized in Box 3.4.<sup>21</sup> The shorter-term policy responses that may be  
2 required to help manage and mitigate the crisis are discussed in the April 2008 GFSR (see  
3 above).

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4 **Box 3.4 Summary of MCM working group policy recommendations**

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7 **Findings**

**Lessons and recommendations**

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9 **Risk-management practices**

10 Risk management practices in many  
11 financial institutions reflected  
12 shortcomings of both judgment and  
13 governance. Institutions relied too  
14 heavily on model-based strategies  
15 that were based on limited historical  
16 data, without due regard for their  
17 limitations. Hedging strategies were  
18 overly concentrated and, especially  
19 in the case of structured financial  
20 products, inadequate attention was  
21 paid to tail and liquidity risks.

Risk managers should challenge aggressively the  
assumptions underlying risk-management and pricing  
models and scrutinize their firms' risk profile, including  
hedging strategies, counterparty risk, and possible  
second-round effects from market shocks.

Senior managers need to ensure that internal governance  
structures are robust and that information and decision-  
making responsibilities are well defined and appropriate.

Supervisors need to take a more active role in monitoring  
risk management and encourage more rigorous stress  
testing, especially during good times.

Regulators may wish to consider whether the opacity and  
complexity of structured credit products such as ABS  
CDOs (collateralized debt obligations consisting of  
portfolios of bonds of asset-backed securities) undermine  
market discipline and require prudential or other  
measures, while guarding against the risk of  
overregulation.

31 **Valuation, disclosure, and accounting**

32 The accounting treatment of structured

Supervisors should ensure that financial institutions

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<sup>21</sup>See "The Recent Financial Turmoil—Initial Assessment, Policy Lessons, and Implications for Fund Surveillance," the paper discussed by the Board, which can be found on the CD-ROM as well as on the IMF's Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf).

1 products and shortcomings in valuation  
2 models and financial reporting  
3 contributed to the depth and duration  
4 of the crisis.

develop robust pricing, risk-management, and stress-  
testing models. Consideration should be given to raising  
prudential norms (for example, capital buffers) for  
structured financial products.

Supervisors should promote better internal processes  
within regulated entities for managing valuation-modeling  
risk.

Cross-border convergence of accounting and regulatory  
standards, as well as of bank disclosure requirements,  
should be sought, especially where global financial  
institutions are involved. Disclosure of off-balance-sheet  
holdings, SIVs (structured investment vehicles), and  
conduits should be enhanced.

Steps could be taken to improve price discovery and  
liquidity of hard-to-value securitized instruments—for  
example, greater standardization and development of a  
centralized registry.

### **Credit-rating-agency practices**

21 Credit-rating methodologies failed to  
22 capture the risks embodied in structured  
23 products. Investors in structured  
24 products relied too heavily on ratings  
25 and did not appreciate the products'  
26 vulnerability to sharp price changes and  
27 multiple-notch downgrades.

Credit rating agencies should improve rating methods and  
practices. At a minimum, they should introduce  
differentiated ratings for structured products, disseminate  
information on the susceptibility of the ratings of such  
products to downgrades, and disclose more information  
about rating methodologies.

Approval and licensing procedures could be used to  
reduce potential conflicts of interest in the credit-rating  
industry and spur improvements in transparency and the  
disclosure of rating methodologies.

National authorities and the major international standard  
setters should review the use and effectiveness of credit  
ratings in prudential regulation, especially in light of

possible changes to the ratings scales applied to structured products.

### **Supervision and crisis management**

Consolidated supervision was inadequate, and supervisors did not adequately account for the risks associated with new financial instruments, nor did they address deterioration in underwriting standards. Gaps in crisis-management and bank-resolution frameworks were also exposed.

The Basel II framework will permit a more risk-sensitive approach to supervision, and countries with internationally active banks will need to adopt it quickly. But the transition to Basel II will need to be carefully managed since partial or incomplete implementation would pose risks; the application of capital floors may need to be extended; and particular attention should be paid to the impact analysis from the parallel run period.

Supervisory practices, such as the frequency of on-site supervision and the use of external auditors, need to be strengthened, and supervisors need to be given adequate resources to perform their duties effectively.

Consolidated supervision and prudential reporting should be applied to off-balance-sheet entities, with more attention to reputational risks and contingent liabilities.

Bank-resolution and deposit-insurance frameworks need to be strengthened, and interagency coordination needs to be more effective. Central banks should remain well informed and involved.

Minimum underwriting and consumer-protection standards should apply to all financial intermediaries to limit excessive risk taking and regulatory arbitrage.

### **Central bank liquidity**

Shortcomings in existing emergency-liquidity frameworks led to disruptions in interbank markets and exacerbated the turmoil.

Central banks need to be able to lend to a sufficiently broad set of counterparties and accept a sufficiently broad range of collateral while avoiding excessive counterparty/credit risk.

*Fostering macroeconomic and financial stability  
and growth through surveillance*

Care is needed to avoid unduly stigmatizing the use of central bank liquidity.

There would be merit in improving collaboration among central banks, including by establishing a more permanent set of emergency swap lines to address problems of liquidity in foreign currency, and in seeking greater convergence in operational frameworks.

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Even though the turmoil in financial markets was still evolving at the close of FY2008, and consensus on the appropriate policy responses was still emerging, the Fund's surveillance has already responded. Recent developments suggest there is scope to sharpen surveillance and policy advice in the following areas:

- In its dialogue with supervisors and regulators, the Fund should seek to ensure that risk-management practices in financial institutions are adequate, especially with regard to complex structured finance products, and that stress testing by both private sector institutions and supervisors is robust.
- Many of these issues are also relevant to the Fund's dialogue with central banks. In countries where central banks do not have supervisory functions, it is particularly important to assess the degree of cooperation with banking supervisors and arrangements for coordinated action and early intervention in the event of financial sector stress.
- The Fund should pay special attention to the authorities' stress-testing and bank-resolution frameworks in emerging market countries, especially those that have either large current account deficits financed by debt-creating flows or financial sectors dominated by banks from mature markets or both. Although emerging market countries have thus far proved resilient to the turmoil in financial markets, the risk of contagion is significant in countries with these characteristics.

**Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP)**

Assessments under the FSAP, a joint initiative of the IMF and the World Bank, are an important input into surveillance, and the Fund continues to carry them out selectively. The

1 FSAP was introduced in 1999 to provide member countries, on a voluntary basis, with a  
2 comprehensive evaluation of their financial systems and provides the basis for the IMF's  
3 Financial System Stability Assessments (FSSAs)—assessments of risks to macroeconomic  
4 stability stemming from the financial sector, including the latter's ability to withstand  
5 macroeconomic shocks. Regional FSAPs are also undertaken for currency unions, notably  
6 where significant regulatory and supervisory structures are at the regional level. Regional  
7 FSAPs have been completed for CEMAC and ECCU, and an FSAP for WAEMU was under  
8 way at the end of the Fund's financial year.

9         With a total of 121 initial assessments now completed or under way, the IMF and the  
10 World Bank are increasingly focusing on FSAP updates. The core elements of updates  
11 include financial stability analysis, factual updates of the observance of standards and codes  
12 included in the initial assessment,<sup>22</sup> and a reassessment of key issues raised in the initial  
13 assessment.

14         In FY2008, 17 FSAPs were completed, of which 12 were updates;<sup>23</sup> another 45 (of  
15 which 24 are updates) are either under way or agreed and being planned.

#### 16 **Collaboration with other institutions**

17 The Fund also works closely with other organizations on financial sector issues. It has  
18 increased its collaboration with the World Bank in this area in the context of the Joint Bank-  
19 Fund Management Action Plan (see Chapter 5). It has strengthened its analysis of  
20 vulnerabilities in advanced economies and collaboration with standard setters (such as the  
21 Basel Committee on Banking Supervision), central banks, and finance ministries in  
22 conjunction with the FSF and the G-20. It prepared a Global Financial Stability Note for the  
23 FSF's March 2008 meeting and has sponsored or cosponsored a number of conferences and  
24 seminars on financial sector issues (Box 3.5).

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<sup>22</sup>Factual updates describe developments that are relevant to compliance with standards and codes but do not reassess the ratings in the initial FSAP.

<sup>23</sup>These numbers refer to FSSAs discussed by the Board during FY2008.

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**Box 3.5 Collaboration and outreach on financial sector issues**

During FY2008, the IMF sponsored or cosponsored a number of conferences and seminars on financial globalization and financial stability.

In December 2007, the IMF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP), the 21 COE-Market Quality Project of Keio University, and the Financial Research and Training Center of Japan's Financial Services Agency hosted the conference "Financial Stability and Financial Sector Supervision: Lessons from the Past Decade and Way Forward," in Tokyo. The conference brought together a select group of senior officials from the Asia-Pacific region, international financial institutions, academics, private sector representatives, and other stakeholders to review the progress that had been made in banking reform and financial sector supervision and examination over the last 10 years. Discussions focused on the readiness of financial systems in developing countries in the region to cope with ongoing changes in the global financial landscape, including through an effective implementation of the Basel II standards.

The Fund also cosponsored seminars and conferences with member countries and think tanks. In September 2007, it cohosted with the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago the "Tenth Annual International Banking Conference: Globalization and Systemic Risk," which provided a forum where policymakers from advanced and emerging market countries and academics could discuss the current landscape of cross-border banking activity; how systemic risk may be enhanced or contained by globalization; the potential sources of systemic risk (particularly banks, insurance companies, pension funds, hedge funds, and other capital market participants); regulatory efforts to address systemic concerns; and policy alternatives that need to be considered. In January 2008, the Fund cohosted a seminar with the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., "Global Downturn? The World Economy in 2008."<sup>1</sup> In April 2008, it cosponsored the Conference on International Macro-Finance in Washington, D.C., in collaboration with the World Economy and Finance Research Programme of the U.K. Economic and Social Research Council. Participants included, in addition to IMF staff, representatives from central banks of several member countries and leading academics. The conference served as a forum where participants could present recent theoretical and empirical research narrowing the gap between "open-economy macro" and "finance" approaches to international financial issues.

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<sup>1</sup>The transcript of the seminar is available on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080131.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080131.htm).

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**1 Vulnerability Exercise**

2 The Vulnerability Exercise established in 2001 provides regular cross-country assessments of  
3 vulnerabilities and crisis risks in emerging market economies. The Fund developed a new  
4 methodology in FY2008 that enables it to distinguish between underlying vulnerabilities and  
5 crisis risks in emerging market countries, thereby facilitating the identification of underlying  
6 weaknesses in a benign environment when crisis risk is low. It intends to extend this exercise  
7 to mature markets. The Spring 2008 Vulnerability Exercise focused on the impact of global  
8 turmoil on emerging market economies, and the risks that asset price booms could end in  
9 sharp corrections and that a decline in capital inflows could precipitate a further downward  
10 spiral of asset prices, loan quality, and growth prospects.

**11 Sovereign Wealth Funds**

12 Sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) are becoming increasingly important players in the  
13 international monetary and financial system, and their assets have increased to an estimated  
14 \$1.9–\$2.8 trillion—this is in addition to the dramatic growth of international reserve  
15 holdings, which reached \$6 trillion at the end of 2007. SWFs offer various economic and  
16 financial benefits—in the home country, they facilitate the intergenerational transfer of  
17 wealth, help prevent boom-bust cycles, contribute to fiscal stability, and allow for better  
18 portfolio diversification of sovereign assets, while they can have a stabilizing influence in  
19 global financial markets and enhance liquidity, as evidenced by SWFs' recent injections of  
20 capital into several large banks (see Chapter 2)—but they also pose challenges for  
21 policymakers.

22 At the 2007 Annual Meetings, while recognizing the positive role of SWFs in  
23 enhancing market liquidity and financial resource allocation, the IMFC in its Communiqué  
24 welcomed the IMF's analysis of issues for investors and recipients of flows from SWFs,  
25 including a dialogue on identifying best practices.<sup>24</sup> In November 2007, the Fund convened  
26 the first annual roundtable of sovereign asset and reserve managers in Washington, D.C., to  
27 facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences in the management of reserves and other  
28 sovereign assets. The roundtable was attended by high-level delegations from central banks,

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<sup>24</sup>The Communiqué can be found in Appendix III on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2007/102007a.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2007/102007a.htm).

1 finance ministries, and sovereign asset managers from 28 countries. Discussions covered  
2 trends in reserve accumulation and their implications for central bank balance sheets.

3         At the Executive Board's discussion of SWFs in March 2008,<sup>25</sup> most Executive  
4 Directors considered that the Fund was well placed to facilitate and coordinate the  
5 development of generally agreed principles and practices for SWFs and stressed that this  
6 work should go hand in hand with work being undertaken at the Organization for Economic  
7 Cooperation and Development (OECD) and elsewhere. Executive Directors supported an  
8 inclusive, collaborative approach with SWFs that would involve relevant members and  
9 stakeholders, and agreed that these principles and practices would be adopted on a voluntary  
10 basis.

11         In its April 2008 Communiqué,<sup>26</sup> the IMFC welcomed the IMF's initiative to work as  
12 a facilitator and coordinator with SWFs in developing a set of best practices and stated that it  
13 looked forward to reviewing the progress made at its next meeting.

14         On April 30–May 1, 2008, representatives of SWFs met at IMF headquarters in  
15 Washington, D.C., with representatives from the countries in which they invest, the  
16 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the European Commission.  
17 The SWFs formally established an international working group that is tasked with developing  
18 by October 2008 a common set of voluntary principles for SWFs, drawing on the existing  
19 body of principles and practices, that properly reflect their investment practices and  
20 objectives.<sup>27</sup> The IMF will provide the secretariat for the working group, which is composed  
21 of representatives from 25 IMF member countries. The working group is cochaired by a

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<sup>25</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses a Work Agenda on Sovereign Wealth Funds," PIN 08/41, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0841.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0841.htm). The background paper prepared by the staff can also be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/022908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/022908.pdf).

<sup>26</sup>The Communiqué is available in Appendix III on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2008/041208.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/cm/2008/041208.htm).

<sup>27</sup>The international working group's Web site, [www.iwg-swf.org/](http://www.iwg-swf.org/), which was launched in June 2008, provides group members with access to confidential working documents. It also makes available to interested parties public information issued by the group and links to SWF Web sites. Inquiries can be sent to the IMF through the site.

1 senior representative of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and the Director of the IMF's  
2 Monetary and Capital Markets Department, who were selected by the participating SWFs.

### 3 **AML/CFT**

4 The Fund remains firmly engaged in AML/CFT work but is concentrating on those areas  
5 where it has the greatest comparative advantage, that is, assessments of countries that are  
6 systemically important or that present serious money laundering or terrorist financing risk—  
7 for example, emerging economies and middle-income countries whose financial systems  
8 have developed faster than their AML/CFT safeguards. This work has strong synergies  
9 with the Fund's other financial sector assessment work, and the Fund is continuing  
10 to integrate AML/CFT issues into its broader surveillance mandate, exploring the  
11 relationships between money laundering, informal sectors, and the mainstream economy.  
12 The Fund's AML/CFT technical assistance work supports its assessment work. Going  
13 forward, it will be more demand-driven and will rely primarily on external funding.

### 14 **Financial soundness indicators**

15 Financial soundness indicators are a relatively new body of economic statistics that are used,  
16 along with other economic and financial indicators, to assess the financial strength and  
17 vulnerabilities of a country's financial sector. The IMF worked closely with national  
18 agencies and regional and international institutions to develop a set of core and encouraged  
19 FSIs. The Executive Board endorsed the FSIs in 2001 and a work program in 2003 aimed at  
20 increasing the capacity of member countries to compile FSIs and expanding reporting and  
21 analysis of FSIs in the work of the Fund. As part of this work program, the IMF produced the  
22 *Financial Soundness Indicators Compilation Guide* and launched a voluntary Coordinated  
23 Compilation Exercise (CCE) in 2004. The 62 participants in the CCE undertook to compile  
24 the 12 core FSIs and as many of the 28 encouraged FSIs as possible and to provide them, the  
25 underlying data series, and related metadata to the IMF for dissemination. FSIs are routinely  
26 monitored by the IMF as part of its enhanced surveillance of financial systems and are  
27 frequently included in staff reports and FSAP reports.

1 In November 2007, the Executive Board reviewed the experience with the work  
2 program and discussed proposals for taking the work on FSIs forward.<sup>28</sup> Executive Directors  
3 were of the view that FSIs represented an important starting point for analysis of financial  
4 stability and a key element of the IMF's financial soundness assessment toolkit. They urged  
5 that FSIs continue to be a standard part of surveillance, FSAP reports, and the IMF's  
6 Vulnerability Exercise, and welcomed the reporting of FSIs in staff reports. Noting that FSIs  
7 need to be interpreted with caution, given the diversity of the accounting, regulatory, and  
8 legal systems that underpin them, the Board called for further progress on improving cross-  
9 country comparability and encouraged continued efforts by the IMF and other international  
10 agencies to harmonize data compilation methodologies and reporting. Executive Directors  
11 saw clear value in the regular collection and dissemination of FSIs by the IMF, with the  
12 creation of a centralized public FSI database that would be available to member countries,  
13 international institutions, and markets. They agreed that countries should be encouraged—but  
14 not required—to report FSIs to the IMF.

## 15 **FRAMEWORK OF DATA PROVISION FOR SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER DATA INITIATIVES**

### 16 **Data provision to the Fund for surveillance purposes**

17 A review by IMF staff of the policy framework for data provision for surveillance, submitted  
18 to the Executive Board at the end of FY2008 and discussed in early FY2009, considered that  
19 the overall framework remained appropriate, but suggested efforts to clarify staff's  
20 assessments of data adequacy, strengthen data reporting for assessments of external stability,  
21 improve country participation and coverage for financial sector data initiatives, and take  
22 appropriate action in cases where members, despite adequate capacity, fail to provide data.

### 23 **Fiscal and data transparency**

24 The need for monetary and financial statistics that are accurate, comprehensive, comparable  
25 across countries, and widely available on a timely basis has been underscored by modern  
26 episodes of instability in financial markets, including the recent stresses in the loan and  
27 securities markets. During FY2008, the Fund undertook several initiatives to enhance the

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<sup>28</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Concludes Financial Soundness Indicators—Experience with the Coordinated Compilation Exercise and Next Steps," PIN 07/135, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/07135.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/07135.pdf).

1 transparency and quality of financial sector data in its member countries (Box 3.6). It  
2 reconvened the Working Group on Securities Databases and hosted a workshop organized by  
3 the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics. It published *Monetary and Financial*  
4 *Statistics: A Compilation Guide*, a companion to the *Monetary and Financial Statistics*  
5 *Manual*. The new Guide is intended to help countries compile high-quality data in  
6 accordance with current best practices. During FY2008, the number of economies reporting  
7 international investment position data for the Fund's statistical publications continued to  
8 increase, reaching 113 at end-2007.

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9  
10 **Box 3.6 Initiatives on financial sector data**

11 Well-functioning local-currency bond markets can contribute to strong and sustainable economic  
12 growth and financial stability in emerging market and developing countries, but internationally  
13 comparable data on bond markets are limited. Information about these markets is typically spread  
14 across different organizations that use different classifications and data exchange formats. In 2007,  
15 the finance ministers of the Group of Eight (G-8) countries called on the IMF and other international  
16 organizations to improve the quality, comparability, and consistency of these data.

17 In response, the IMF reconvened the Working Group on Securities Databases, which it chairs, to  
18 discuss the development of a global securities database. The other members of the Working Group  
19 when it was established by the IMF in 1999 were the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the  
20 European Central Bank (ECB). Its work was put on hold in 2001 until the ECB's development of a  
21 Centralized Securities Database was more advanced. In September 2007, representatives from the  
22 BIS, the ECB, the World Bank, the Deutsche Bundesbank, the Bank of Mexico, and the U.S. Federal  
23 Reserve met at IMF headquarters in Washington, D.C., to take stock of the available data on local  
24 debt markets in emerging market and developing countries and to identify any gaps. Participants  
25 established that the BIS and the ECB both had databases on domestic and international debt  
26 securities that could be developed to meet the requirements of users of statistics. Following up on this  
27 meeting, in March 2008 the IMF hosted a workshop organized by the Irving Fisher Committee on  
28 Central Bank Statistics. Participants in the workshop, who included representatives from international  
29 and regional organizations as well as from central banks and statistical offices in a wide range of  
30 countries, came together to discuss the challenges of compiling securities statistics as well as specific  
31 methodological issues. They agreed on the need for a guide on compiling securities statistics, since  
32 there is as yet no international standard in this area. The guide will focus initially on statistics on debt  
33 securities but will eventually be expanded to cover other securities and securities holdings.

34 In addition, in April 2008, the IMF published the *Monetary and Financial Statistics: Compilation Guide*,  
35 which is aimed at providing direct assistance to data compilers at the national level who are

1 responsible for implementing the methodological and statistical frameworks contained in the IMF's  
2 Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual, which was published in 2000. By including the compilation  
3 of flow data, the Guide and the Manual represent a major advance in the guidance the IMF has been  
4 providing to countries since 1948 on monetary statistics; the focus had previously been on the  
5 compilation and reporting of balance-sheet data (end-of-month stocks) for the central bank and other  
6 depository corporations. The Guide focuses on the cross-country harmonization of source data and  
7 methodology for the compilation and presentation of the statistics. It also describes the unified  
8 framework for countries' reporting of monetary data to the IMF. In 2004, the Fund introduced the  
9 Standardized Report Forms (SRF) for countries' reporting of balance-sheet data for depository  
10 corporations, insurance corporations, pension funds, and other institutional types of financial  
11 corporations. Thus far, more than 100 countries/territories have established monthly reporting of SRF  
12 data, and time series from these data are published in the IMF's quarterly *International Financial  
13 Statistics: Supplement on Monetary and Financial Statistics*. The Guide also introduces illustrative  
14 supplementary data, disaggregated by maturity, currency denomination, and type of interest rate, of  
15 sectoral balance-sheet accounts of central banks, other depository corporations, and other financial  
16 corporations. The supplementary data include subcategories—by type of contract—for financial  
17 derivatives. The financial statistics described in the Guide, which record the distribution and  
18 redistribution of financial assets and liabilities among the sectors of an economy on a quarterly basis,  
19 are an important input to the IMF's balance-sheet approach to analyzing a country's vulnerability to  
20 external or internal shocks.

21 Finally, in FY2009, the Fund will also initiate regular collection and dissemination of financial  
22 soundness indicators (FSIs) and will create a publicly available database. Countries will be  
23 encouraged—but not required—to report FSIs to the Fund.

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24 The Executive Board approved in May 2007 the Fund's revised *Code of Good  
25 Practices on Fiscal Transparency*, a central element in IMF actions to promote transparency  
26 and good governance. The revisions reflected a broad consultative process, in which country  
27 authorities, civil society organizations, international institutions, academia, and the private  
28 sector took part. Revised versions of the *Manual on Fiscal Transparency* and the *Guide on  
29 Resource Revenue Transparency* were also published. Assessments of practices under the  
30 *Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency* have so far been published for 86 countries  
31 as part of the voluntary Standards and Codes Initiative, which was launched in 1999.<sup>29</sup> Fiscal  
32 transparency is one of 12 topics covered by the Initiative, under which the IMF and the

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<sup>29</sup>Further information on the Standards and Codes Initiative and copies of country assessments can be found on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp](http://www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp).

1 World Bank respond to member countries' requests for summaries of their observance of  
2 good practice standards in three broad areas—transparent government operations and  
3 policymaking, financial sector standards, and market integrity standards for the corporate  
4 sector. The assessments are designed to help countries strengthen their economic institutions,  
5 to inform the work of the IMF and the Bank, and to inform market participants (see CD-Box  
6 3.1 on the CD-ROM).<sup>30</sup>

7 In February 2008, the IMF and the World Bank released new, enhanced versions of  
8 the Quarterly External Debt Statistics (QEDS) database and the Joint External Debt Hub  
9 (JEDH). The QEDS database, which was initially launched in 2004, brings together external  
10 debt statistics that are normally published individually by countries that subscribe to the  
11 IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). To further enhance the availability of  
12 external debt data, the World Bank and the IMF invited a group of low-income countries that  
13 participate in the IMF's General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) to report a simplified  
14 quarterly set of data focusing on the external debt of the public sector. Fourteen countries  
15 have accepted the invitation, and 12 of them have already started providing the requested  
16 data. The intention is to expand the number of reporting countries over time.<sup>31</sup> The JEDH is a  
17 joint undertaking of the BIS, the IMF, the OECD, and the World Bank. It represents a further  
18 step by the institutions involved to facilitate and encourage worldwide dissemination of  
19 external debt data by as many countries as possible.<sup>32</sup>

## 20 **Coordinated Direct Investment Survey**

21 In 2007, the IMF decided to undertake a Coordinated Direct Investment Survey in  
22 collaboration with its Inter-Agency Task Force partners, including the OECD, the Statistical

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<sup>30</sup>See "IMF Launches Revised Fiscal Transparency Code and Manual," PR 07/95, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr0795.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr0795.htm). The Code and the Manual are also available on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4175](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4175) and [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4177](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4177), respectively.

<sup>31</sup>The SDDS was established in 1996 to guide countries that have or seek access to international capital markets and that already meet high standards for the quality of their statistical data. The GDDS was established in 1997 to help countries improve their statistical systems and is open to all IMF members. Both are voluntary, but once a country subscribes to the SDDS, observance of the standard is mandatory. See CD-Box 3.1 on the CD-ROM and *The IMF's Data Dissemination Initiative After 10 Years*, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/books/2008/datadiss/dissemination.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/books/2008/datadiss/dissemination.pdf).

<sup>32</sup>See "IMF and World Bank Expand Databases on External Debt Statistics," PR 08/37, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0837.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0837.htm).

1 Office of the European Communities, the ECB, and the United Nations Conference on Trade  
2 and Development. All Fund member countries and a few non-members were invited to  
3 participate. As of April 2008, 135 countries had indicated a willingness to participate in the  
4 survey. The survey will collect information on outstanding direct investment positions,  
5 broken down by equity and debt, and then by debt assets and liabilities, by counterpart  
6 country as of the end of 2009. The survey will also capture world totals and the geographic  
7 distribution of positions, thereby contributing to improved understanding of globalization.  
8 The first results are expected to be available by the end of 2010 or early in 2011 and to be  
9 published by the IMF. A task force was formed in 2007 to assist the IMF in preparing a guide  
10 for countries responding to the survey.<sup>33</sup> The survey is the first such undertaking by the IMF  
11 in a coordinated manner on direct investment data. It is, to a large extent, modeled on the  
12 very successful Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS), which has been conducted  
13 under the auspices of the IMF on an annual basis since 2001.<sup>34</sup>

#### 14 **The Data Standards Initiatives**

15 Data standards continue to play an important role in strengthening Fund surveillance.  
16 Implementation of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives is progressing, with 64 SDDS  
17 subscribers and 92 GDDS participants, together representing about 85 percent of the Fund's  
18 membership. In February 2008, in an informal seminar, the Executive Board discussed a  
19 paper reviewing 10 years of experience with the GDDS, which points to possible future  
20 directions and emphasizes data dissemination and plans for improvement that focus on the  
21 periodicity and timeliness of data. An outreach program with member countries is in progress  
22 (two consultations were held in April 2008, one in South Africa and the other in Thailand). A  
23 Seventh Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives will be discussed by the Executive  
24 Board in the fall of 2008.

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<sup>33</sup>The Guide can be found at [www.imf.org/external/np/sta/cdis/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/cdis/index.htm).

<sup>34</sup>The data on the CPIS can be found at [www.imf.org/external/np/sta/pi/cpis.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/pi/cpis.htm).

1 **THE TRIENNIAL SURVEILLANCE REVIEW**

2 Over the past 30 years, the Executive Board has reviewed the IMF's surveillance work at  
3 regular intervals.<sup>35</sup> At a Board briefing in April 2008 based on an Issues Note prepared by  
4 staff, Executive Directors began discussing the design of the Triennial Surveillance Review,  
5 which will provide them with an opportunity to discuss strategic issues related to refocusing  
6 the Fund's surveillance, including focus, quality of analysis in key areas—macro-financial  
7 linkages and a multilateral perspective in bilateral surveillance—candor and consistency in  
8 assessing external stability, and effectiveness of surveillance communication. The Review is  
9 to include a Statement of Surveillance Priorities, which is expected to help focus surveillance  
10 across the Fund, underpin policy dialogue with members, and enhance accountability.

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<sup>35</sup>Under the 1977 Surveillance Decision, reviews of the surveillance procedures and the implementation of surveillance were conducted biennially from 1988 to 2004. In accordance with the Medium-Term Strategy's call for streamlining IMF procedures, the new 2007 Decision provides for triennial reviews.

## 1 4. Program support and capacity building

2 The IMF provides support to its member countries through a variety of instruments,  
3 depending on their needs. It has a number of different lending facilities (Table 4.1) as well as  
4 mechanisms for providing policy support without financing, and also provides, at the request  
5 of members, technical assistance (TA) and training that are consistent with the purposes of  
6 the Fund. The IMF's Executive Board regularly reviews these instruments to ensure that they  
7 continue to meet the evolving needs of member countries.

8 Consideration and approval of members' requests for financial assistance and  
9 program support are core responsibilities of the Board, alongside surveillance. Under its  
10 lending facilities, the IMF makes temporary financing available to member countries to give  
11 them time to adjust their policies so as to overcome short-term balance of payments  
12 problems, such as insufficient foreign exchange to purchase needed imports or make  
13 payments on external obligations; stabilize their economies; and avoid similar problems in  
14 the future. IMF financing is provided in support of economic reform programs developed by  
15 member countries themselves in collaboration with the IMF, and is expected to have a  
16 catalytic effect, enabling a country to restore confidence in its policies and attract additional  
17 financing from other sources. The Executive Board regularly evaluates members'  
18 performance under their programs, and, in most cases, funds are disbursed as program targets  
19 are met.

20 TA and training help member countries fulfill the commitments they make when they  
21 join the IMF—to pursue policies that foster financial and macroeconomic stability,  
22 sustainable economic growth, and orderly exchange rate arrangements, and to provide the  
23 IMF with timely, accurate, and high-quality data about their economies. TA and training are  
24 also vehicles for helping member countries implement the recommendations that come out of  
25 the IMF's Article IV consultations (see Chapter 3). Hence, aligning and integrating capacity  
26 building with surveillance and program work have become key objectives of the IMF's  
27 Executive Board. The IMF offers TA and training mainly in its core areas of expertise,  
28 including macroeconomic policy, tax and revenue administration, public expenditure  
29 management, monetary policy, exchange systems, financial sector reforms, debt  
30 management, and macroeconomic and financial statistics. In recent years, member countries

1 have increasingly requested assistance in addressing issues related to globalization and  
 2 investment, such as preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism;  
 3 strengthening public investment, public-private partnerships, and management of fiscal risks;  
 4 adopting international standards and codes for data and financial and fiscal management;  
 5 correcting weaknesses identified under the joint IMF–World Bank Financial Sector  
 6 Assessment Program; and carrying out debt sustainability analyses.

#### 7 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND POLICY ADVICE

8 Financing under the IMF’s main credit facilities is subject to charges (interest) and in some  
 9 cases may be subject to surcharges, depending on the type and duration of financing and the  
 10 amount of IMF credit outstanding. The bulk of such financing is provided through Stand-By  
 11 Arrangements, which address short-term balance of payments difficulties, and Extended  
 12 Arrangements, which focus on external payments difficulties caused by longer-term  
 13 structural problems. In FY2008, the Fund’s Executive Board approved SDR 934.2 million in  
 14 the use of Fund resources under these facilities (Table 4.2), which included three  
 15 precautionary Stand-By Arrangements—for Gabon (36 months, SDR 77.2 million),  
 16 Honduras (12 months, SDR 38.9 million), and Iraq (15 months, SDR 475.4 million)—and a  
 17 36-month Extended Arrangement for Liberia (SDR 342.8 million), extended as a blend with  
 18 concessional financing under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF), the  
 19 principal instrument for providing IMF financial support to low-income countries (see  
 20 below). In addition, the Board approved a decrease in the amount of SDR 35 million of an  
 21 existing Stand-By Arrangement for Paraguay.

22 **Table 4.2 Arrangements under main facilities approved in FY2008**

23 *(In millions of SDRs)*

24 Member	25 Type of arrangement	26 Effective date	27 Amount approved
28 Gabon	36-month Stand-By	May 7, 2007	77.2
29 Honduras	12-month Stand-By	April 7, 2008	38.9
30 Iraq	15-month Stand-By	December 19, 2007	475.4
31 Liberia	36-month Extended Fund Facility	March 14, 2008	342.8
32 <b>Subtotal</b>			<b>934.2</b>
33 Paraguay (decrease) <sup>1</sup>	27-month Stand-By	October 15, 2007	(35.0)
34 <b>Total</b>			<b>899.2</b>

35 Source: IMF Finance Department.

36 <sup>1</sup>Only the amount of the decrease is shown.

1 The IMF provides subsidized loans through the PRGF, which focuses on poverty  
 2 reduction in the context of a growth-oriented economic strategy, and debt relief under the  
 3 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative  
 4 (MDRI). A low-income country seeking a PRGF arrangement or debt relief must prepare a  
 5 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in a participatory process involving domestic  
 6 stakeholders, including civil society, based on the strategy developed and owned by the  
 7 country; the PRSP is issued to the Boards of the IMF and the World Bank. During FY2008,  
 8 the Executive Board approved four new PRGF arrangements (for Guinea, Liberia, Nicaragua,  
 9 and Togo), with commitments totaling SDR 424.8 million (Table 4.3). In addition, it  
 10 approved the augmentation, in the amount of SDR 9.0 million, of an existing PRGF  
 11 arrangement for Burkina Faso. As of April 30, 2008, the reform programs of 25 member  
 12 countries were supported by PRGF arrangements, with commitments totaling SDR 1.1  
 13 billion and undrawn balances of SDR 0.5 billion. Total concessional loans outstanding  
 14 amounted to SDR 3.9 billion at April 30, 2008 (Figure 4.1).

15

16 **Table 4.3 PRGF arrangements approved in FY2008**  
 17 *(In millions of SDRs)*

18 Member	19 Effective date	20 Amount approved
21 <b>New Arrangements</b>		
22 Guinea	December 21, 2007	48.2
23 Liberia	March 14, 2008	239.0
24 Nicaragua	October 5, 2007	71.5
25 Togo	April 21, 2008	66.1
26 <b>Subtotal</b>		<b>424.8</b>
27 <b>Augmentation<sup>1</sup></b>		
28 Burkina Faso	January 9, 2008	9.0
29 <b>Subtotal</b>		<b>9.0</b>
30 <b>Total</b>		<b>433.8</b>

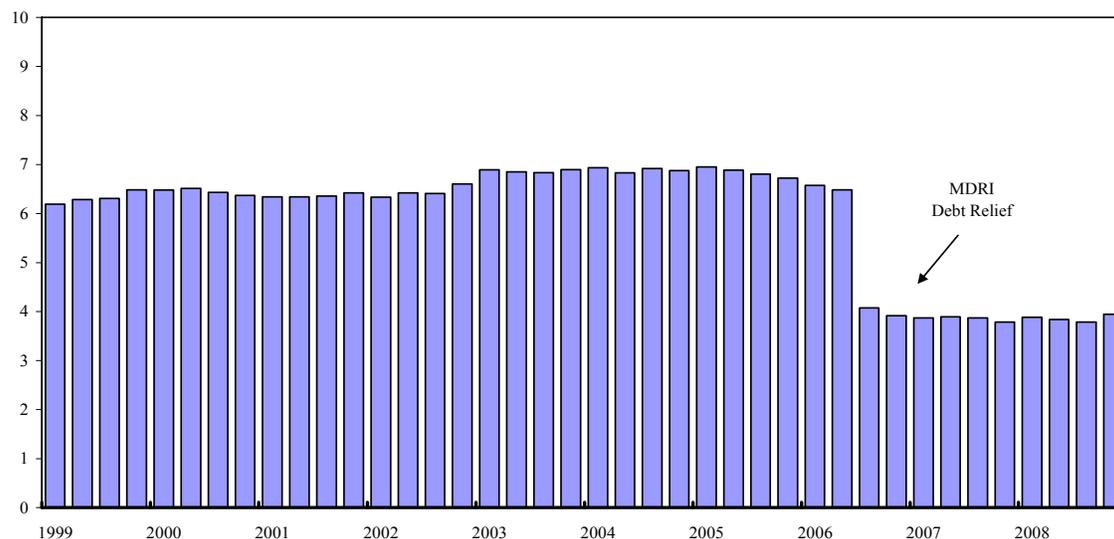
31

32 Source: IMF Finance Department.

33 <sup>1</sup>For the augmentation, only the amount of the increase is shown.

34

**Figure 4.1 Concessional loans outstanding FY1999–FY2008**  
(In billions of SDRs)



Source: IMF Finance Department.

1

2       The IMF provides emergency financial assistance to member countries recovering  
 3 from conflicts (Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance, or EPCA) and natural disasters  
 4 (Emergency Natural Disaster Assistance, or ENDA). Countries that are eligible for  
 5 concessional lending under the PRGF can make use of financing under the Exogenous  
 6 Shocks Facility (ESF) and are also eligible for emergency assistance at subsidized interest  
 7 rates.<sup>1</sup> During FY2008, the Executive Board approved emergency assistance totaling SDR  
 8 218.5 million. Of this amount, two requests were approved under ENDA (SDR 133.3 million  
 9 for Bangladesh and SDR 2.1 million for Dominica), and three under EPCA (two requests,  
 10 each in the amount of SDR 40.7 million, were approved for Côte d'Ivoire, and one of SDR  
 11 1.8 million for Guinea-Bissau). As of April 30, 2008, three countries—Côte d'Ivoire,

<sup>1</sup>Since 2001, bilateral contributions have allowed the IMF to provide EPCA to low-income countries at a reduced rate of 0.5 percent per year, from which 16 low-income countries have benefited to date. In early 2005, when subsidization was extended to cover ENDA, the Executive Board set an initial goal of raising additional contributions of SDR 45–65 million to cover the estimated needs for the five-year period through 2009. Since 2005, 17 countries have committed SDR 29 million, prompting the IMF to intensify its resource mobilization efforts. The aim now is to secure SDR 100 million in contributions to cover projected subsidization costs through 2014. See CD-Tables 4.1. and 4.2 on the CD-ROM for the lists of countries that have pledged contributions, or contributed to, the Exogenous Shock Facility and Emergency Assistance.

1 Guinea-Bissau, and Lebanon—had outstanding EPCA credit, which amounted to  
2 SDR 133.8 million, and five—Bangladesh, Dominica, Grenada, Maldives, and Sri Lanka—  
3 had outstanding ENDA credit, for a total of SDR 245.4 million.

4 In recent years, a number of countries have chosen to repay their outstanding credit to  
5 the Fund ahead of schedule. For example, in FY2008, Bolivia, Iraq, and the former Yugoslav  
6 Republic of Macedonia completed advance repayment of their outstanding obligations to the  
7 IMF, for a total of SDR 330.9 million.

8 More generally, a number of Fund members have transitioned from a financial and  
9 surveillance relationship with the Fund to one that is principally a surveillance relationship,  
10 thanks to their improved macroeconomic conditions and ready access to private capital  
11 following five years of exceptional broad-based global growth and buoyant financial market  
12 conditions. The need for Fund financing has been especially modest over the past few years  
13 for middle-income member countries, which traditionally have been the major users of Fund  
14 resources in the credit tranches, and approvals of Stand-By and Extended Arrangements have  
15 declined. Many low-income countries have also benefited from improved macroeconomic  
16 policies, the favorable global environment, and strong demand for commodities. Although  
17 demand for financing under the PRGF remains strong, fewer PRGF arrangements were  
18 approved in FY2008 than in previous years, reflecting, in part, a shift to use of the Fund's  
19 Policy Support Instrument (PSI; see below).

## 20 **Emerging market economies**

21 In recent years, emerging market economies as a group have become a source of strength for  
22 the global economy, and their demand for traditional Fund financial support has decreased.  
23 Many have built sizable reserves for self-insurance purposes and have shown resilience in the  
24 face of recent financial market turbulence. More flexible exchange rates and increased  
25 reliance on local currency-denominated debt have reduced two sources of vulnerability. The  
26 Board has underscored the importance of strengthening debt management in these  
27 economies, and several major emerging markets, with the Fund's engagement, have  
28 implemented policies to strengthen economic fundamentals. However, continued market  
29 turbulence could increase risks for those dependent on short-term capital inflows to finance  
30 large current account deficits and rapid domestic credit growth.

**1** *New instruments for emerging market economies*

2 In the context of decreasing demand for traditional Fund support, the Fund continues to  
3 explore whether its financial instruments meet the needs of emerging market economies.  
4 There has been some encouraging support for a proposed rapid access line (RAL).<sup>2</sup> Members  
5 continue to have mixed views, however, about some elements of the design, and a consensus  
6 on the type of instrument that would be most useful to member countries has not been  
7 reached. Nevertheless, in view of recent global financial turbulence, the Fund is pushing  
8 forward its work on the modalities of a new liquidity instrument and is also considering  
9 suggestions made by some Executive Directors for a financial stability line for countries  
10 integrating into global capital markets and pursuing financial sector reforms.

**11** **Low-income countries**

12 The Fund remains closely engaged with low-income countries, while refocusing its role by  
13 concentrating on its core areas of expertise—macroeconomic policies and institutions that  
14 support the stability necessary for sustained growth and poverty reduction—and doing less  
15 on noncore structural issues. While the policy advice, financing, and capacity-building  
16 assistance (see below) it provides are tailored to each country’s needs, it also draws on its  
17 cross-country experience and perspective. To improve the focus and increase the coherence  
18 of the Fund’s policy work on low-income countries, and to promote the exchange of  
19 information and the Fund’s engagement with donors, the Fund’s interdepartmental Low-  
20 Income Committee is being revamped. As some low-income countries grow and mature, the  
21 Fund is likely to place additional emphasis on issues such as the policy response to capital  
22 inflows, commodity price booms and busts, and financial market development, while growth,  
23 poverty reduction, and debt sustainability will remain top priorities. The Board is scheduled  
24 to examine in depth the Fund’s role in low-income countries early in FY2009.

**25** *Clarifying the Fund’s role in low-income countries*

26 To clarify the Fund’s role in, and reinforce its engagement with, low-income countries, the  
27 IMF’s Managing Director traveled to Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania in  
28 February 2008 for discussions with African leaders and representatives of the private sector

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<sup>2</sup>The proposed instrument’s name has been changed from a “reserve augmentation line” to a “rapid access line” to better reflect its purpose.

1 and civil society about the challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa and the IMF's role in the  
2 region, as well as to hear first-hand how the IMF can best support its members' efforts to  
3 enhance growth and reduce poverty. The IMF's Executive Directors also visited a number of  
4 African countries in February, meeting with heads of state and high-ranking officials as well  
5 as a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of the public and private sectors,  
6 civil society, and development partners.

7 In June 2007, the Executive Board also discussed the implementation plan for Board-  
8 endorsed recommendations in the Independent Evaluation Office's report on the IMF and aid  
9 to sub-Saharan Africa (see Chapter 5). While confirming the improvement in the region's  
10 macroeconomic performance during 1999–2005, which it attributed in part to the advice and  
11 actions of the IMF, the Board identified areas where further improvements were needed,  
12 including the IMF's role in poverty reduction efforts, the mobilization of aid, the preparation  
13 of alternative scenarios for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the  
14 application of poverty and social impact analysis.<sup>3</sup>

15 The Fund's financial support for low-income countries continues to be important in  
16 itself as well as in catalyzing support from other donors. In October 2007, the Executive  
17 Board discussed the IMF's role in the poverty reduction strategy (PRS) process and its  
18 collaboration with donors, reiterating that the primary focus of the IMF's work in low-  
19 income countries in the context of the PRS process should be to provide policy advice on,  
20 and technical support for, the design of appropriate macroeconomic frameworks and  
21 macroeconomically critical structural reforms.<sup>4</sup> Noting that PRSPs have become the accepted  
22 operational framework for countries' poverty reduction efforts and for the coordination of  
23 external support for their efforts to achieve the MDGs, Executive Directors concurred that  
24 the IMF's principal contribution to the MDG effort lies in helping countries maintain  
25 macroeconomic stability, debt sustainability, and appropriate fiscal frameworks, observing  
26 that the Fund should also continue to press for more predictable and more effective aid.

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<sup>3</sup>See *IMF Annual Report 2007*, pages 42–43, and the Web site of the Independent Evaluation Office for more information: [www.ieo-imf.org](http://www.ieo-imf.org).

<sup>4</sup>The summing up of the Board discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site: "IMF Executive Board Discusses the Fund's Role in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Process and Its Collaboration with Donors," PIN 07/130, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07130.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07130.htm).

1 Executive Directors agreed that close collaboration with other development partners  
2 is essential for effective IMF engagement with its low-income members and a successful  
3 refocusing of the Fund's role and called for a deepening of this collaboration, with greater  
4 emphasis on delineating areas of competence and the division of labor. At the same time,  
5 Executive Directors stressed that country ownership of the aid process is essential to  
6 successful donor coordination, emphasizing the country-level understandings between the  
7 authorities, the IMF, the World Bank, and other development partners as a critical element of  
8 the collaboration with donors. In FY2008, the Fund strengthened its collaboration with the  
9 World Bank with the implementation of the Joint Management Action Plan and pilot projects  
10 in the areas of public financial management, the financial sector, and natural resource  
11 management in a number of African countries (see Chapter 5).

### 12 *Debt relief and debt management*

13 Additional countries benefited from debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and MDRI in  
14 FY2008, and changes were introduced into the HIPC framework to add Staff-Monitored  
15 Programs (SMPs) that meet certain standards to the instruments that HIPCs may use in  
16 building a track record to reach the decision point under the HIPC Initiative (see below).  
17 Liberia, one of three HIPC-eligible countries with protracted arrears to the Fund, was the first  
18 to benefit from the change, reaching its decision point in March (see Box 4.1).<sup>5</sup>

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#### 20 **Box 4.1 Liberia: Clearance of IMF arrears**

21 After having been in continuous arrears to the IMF since 1984, on March 14, 2008, Liberia  
22 regularized its relations with the Fund through the clearance of SDR 543 million of arrears. Improved  
23 cooperation with the Fund, including satisfactory performance under a Staff-Monitored Program,  
24 paved the way for Liberia's arrears clearance. The clearance of Liberia's arrears and subsequent

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<sup>5</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Fully Restores Liberia's IMF Status, Approves Financial Support Amounting to US\$952 Million and HIPC Decision Point Designation," PR 08/52, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0852.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0852.htm). To qualify for HIPC assistance, a country must pursue strong economic policies supported by the IMF and the World Bank. After establishing a track record of good performance and developing a PRSP or an interim PRSP, the country is said to have reached its decision point, at which time the IMF and the World Bank formally decide on the country's eligibility and the international community commits itself to reducing the country's debt to a sustainable level. The country must then continue its good track record with the support of the international community, implementing key policy reforms, maintaining macroeconomic stability, and adopting and implementing a PRSP. Paris Club and other bilateral and commercial creditors reschedule obligations coming due. A country reaches its completion point once it has met the objectives set at the decision point. It then receives the balance of the debt relief committed.

1 quota increase under the Eleventh General Review was facilitated by intraday bridge loans provided  
2 by the United States. In addition, a large number of IMF member countries contributed to the  
3 financing package required to provide debt relief to Liberia.<sup>1</sup> These bilateral contributions were  
4 facilitated by the partial distribution of the balance in the Fund's first Special Contingency Account  
5 (SCA-1), accumulated as reserves to guard against possible credit losses, and the proceeds of  
6 deferred-charges-adjustments that had been used to offset the impact on Fund income from Liberia's  
7 arrears (see Chapter 5).

8 Following clearance of Liberia's arrears, the Executive Board restored the country's voting and  
9 related rights and its eligibility to use the general resources of the Fund and lifted the suspension of  
10 its rights to use SDRs. On this basis, and in light of the existence of satisfactory assurances as to the  
11 availability of resources to finance the Fund's debt relief for Liberia, in FY2008 the Board approved  
12 Liberia's request for arrangements totaling SDR 582 million under the PRGF and Extended Fund  
13 Facility (EFF), decided that Liberia had reached the decision point under the enhanced HIPC  
14 Initiative, and approved Liberia's request for interim HIPC assistance.

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15  
16 <sup>1</sup>Liberia cleared its arrears to the Fund in April 2008, following its clearance of arrears to the  
17 World Bank and the African Development Bank in December 2007. Further steps are being taken to  
18 regularize relations with other creditors, including Paris Club members.

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19  
20 As of April 30, 2008, 33 countries had reached the decision point under the enhanced  
21 HIPC Initiative; of these, 23 had reached their completion points. In total, the IMF has  
22 committed SDR 2.3 billion under the HIPC Initiative and disbursed SDR 1.7 billion. During  
23 FY2008, three member countries (Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, and Liberia)  
24 reached their decision points, and one additional country (The Gambia) reached its  
25 completion point. In addition, the Executive Board approved disbursement of HIPC topping-  
26 up assistance to São Tomé and Príncipe.

27 The MDRI was launched in early 2006 to further reduce the debts of qualifying low-  
28 income countries and free up resources that they could use to meet the MDGs. Under the  
29 established financing framework for the MDRI, qualifying members can receive 100 percent  
30 debt relief on the full stock of debt owed to the IMF at end-December 2004 that remains

1 outstanding at the time the member qualifies for such debt relief and is not covered by  
2 assistance under the HIPC Initiative.<sup>6</sup> (See CD-Tables 4.3 and 4.4 on the CD-ROM.)

3 In September 2007, the Executive Board considered the status of implementation of  
4 the HIPC Initiative and the MDRI and discussed the financing of the Fund's concessional  
5 assistance and debt relief to low-income member countries.<sup>7</sup> Executive Directors expressed  
6 concern that, in spite of the delivery of debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and the MDRI  
7 and the resulting declines in debt ratios, long-term debt sustainability remains a key  
8 challenge for most HIPCs. They emphasized that HIPCs need to increase domestic revenue  
9 mobilization, diversify their production and export bases, and strengthen their public  
10 institutions to address their underlying vulnerabilities and ensure long-term debt  
11 sustainability. They also strongly underscored the importance of strengthening public debt  
12 management and encouraged HIPCs to follow responsible financing strategies based on their  
13 debt sustainability analyses. In addition, they emphasized that staff should continue to  
14 provide TA to HIPCs to improve their debt management capabilities and help them develop  
15 medium-term debt strategies. They called on all creditors to ensure that lending to HIPCs  
16 does not result in a rapid reaccumulation of debt and is provided in a transparent manner.

17 In January 2008, the Executive Board amended the PRGF-HIPC Trust Instrument to  
18 add Staff-Monitored Programs (SMPs) meeting policy standards associated with programs  
19 supported by arrangements in the upper credit tranches or under the PRGF to the instruments  
20 HIPCs may use to build a track record toward reaching the decision point under the HIPC

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<sup>6</sup>When the MDRI was established, the cost to the IMF of providing MDRI debt relief was estimated at SDR 2.6 billion.

<sup>7</sup>The summing up of this Board discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site: "IMF Executive Board Discusses Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)—Status of Implementation and the Financing of the Fund's Concessional Assistance and Debt Relief to Low-Income Member Countries," PIN 07/122, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07122.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07122.htm). The Board's discussion was based on a joint IMF–World Bank paper, "Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)—Status of Implementation," which is available on the Fund's Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/082807.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/082807.pdf), along with a joint IMF–International Development Association paper, "Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative—Status of Non-Paris Club Official Bilateral Creditor Participation," [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/091007.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/091007.pdf), which served as a background to the Board's discussion.

1 Initiative.<sup>8</sup> The amendment is aimed at giving these countries credit, in appropriate  
2 circumstances, for their record in implementing strong programs of macroeconomic  
3 stabilization and structural reform during the period when the Fund and other international  
4 institutions are securing the financing assurances needed for the clearance of arrears and  
5 provision of debt relief.

6 A project aimed at enhancing low-income countries' debt management capabilities  
7 has been initiated with the World Bank, and training is being provided to country officials to  
8 enable them to use the Debt Sustainability Framework as a policy tool (see "Building  
9 Institutions and Capacity" below). In FY2008, Fund staff worked closely with the export  
10 credit group in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to  
11 define the sustainable lending principles agreed in January 2008. The principles commit  
12 OECD export credit agencies to observe IMF and World Bank concessionality requirements  
13 in low-income countries where they exist and to take into account the results of debt  
14 sustainability analyses for other low-income countries. The Fund and the World Bank have  
15 also established dedicated Web pages to make information on country-specific debt  
16 sustainability analyses and concessionality issues more accessible to donors and creditors.<sup>9</sup>

### 17 *Nonfinancial support*

18 The Fund provides nonfinancial program support to low-income countries through Policy  
19 Support Instruments (PSIs). Two PSIs were approved in FY2008 (for Mozambique and  
20 Senegal), bringing to six the number of countries for which PSIs have been approved to date.  
21 (PSIs were approved for Nigeria in FY2006 and for Cape Verde, Tanzania, and Uganda in  
22 FY2007.) The Executive Board established the framework for PSIs in FY2006 to address the  
23 needs of low-income countries that no longer need or want IMF financial assistance but that  
24 still seek IMF advice on, and monitoring and endorsement of, their economic policies. PSIs  
25 also perform a "signaling" function—that is, they indirectly provide information about  
26 countries' economic performance and prospects that can be used to inform the decisions of

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<sup>8</sup>The summing up of this Board discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF Web site:  
"IMF Executive Board Modifies HIPC Initiative," PIN 08/03,  
[www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0803.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0803.htm).

<sup>9</sup>See *The Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries*, which is available on the IMF's  
Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/lic.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/lic.htm).

1 outsiders (for example, private creditors, donors, and the general public). PSIs mirror the  
2 design of and achieve many of the same purposes as PRGF arrangements and, like PRGF  
3 arrangements and debt relief, are based on development of a poverty reduction strategy. In  
4 the event of an exogenous shock, on-track PSIs can provide the basis for rapid access to ESF  
5 resources.

### 6 *Scaling up of aid*

7 The international community has committed to scaling up aid and improving aid delivery to  
8 low-income countries to help them meet the MDGs (Box 4.2). Through its policy advice,  
9 financial support (including debt relief), and TA, the IMF has worked to help countries  
10 establish a macroeconomic environment that will enable them to use aid effectively. In July  
11 2007, the Executive Board discussed the implications of the planned scaling up of aid to low-  
12 income countries for the role of the Fund and the design of Fund-supported policy  
13 programs—in particular, design of fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate policies (Box 4.3).<sup>10</sup>

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#### 14 **Box 4.2 Global Monitoring Report finds progress toward MDGs off track**

15 The IMF and the World Bank track the progress made by low-income countries toward the  
16 achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), jointly publishing their findings annually  
17 in the *Global Monitoring Report* (GMR). The fifth GMR, issued in April 2008 and titled *Global*  
18 *Monitoring Report: MDGs and the Environment—Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Development*,  
19 found that although much of the world is set to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015, poor countries are  
20 unlikely to achieve the goals of reducing child and maternal mortality. Serious shortfalls are also likely  
21 with respect to primary school completion, nutrition, and sanitation goals.

22 The report stressed the link between the environment and development and called for urgent action  
23 on climate change, warning that developing countries stand to suffer the most from climate change  
24

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<sup>10</sup>The discussion took place in the context of a review of two staff papers and several other background papers synthesizing recent IMF work on accommodating scaled-up aid flows. These papers are available on the IMF's Web site: "Aid Inflows—The Role of the Fund and Operational Issues for Program Design," [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/061407.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/061407.pdf), along with a background paper, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/061407a.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/061407a.pdf); and "Fiscal Policy Response to Scaled-Up Aid," [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507.pdf), along with two background papers, "Macro-Fiscal and Expenditure Policy Challenges," [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507a.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507a.pdf), and "Strengthening Public Financial Management," [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507b.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/060507b.pdf). The summing up of the Board's discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site, "IMF Executive Board Discusses Operational Implications of Aid Inflows for IMF Advice and Program Design in Low-Income Countries," PIN 07/83, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0783.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0783.htm).

1 and the degradation of natural resources. To build on hard-won gains, developing countries need  
2 support to address the links between growth, development, and environmental sustainability.

3 Progress toward the MDGs differs dramatically across countries, regions, and income groups. Sub-  
4 Saharan Africa lags on all counts, including the goal for poverty reduction, although many countries in  
5 the region are now experiencing improved growth performance. However, with stronger efforts by  
6 both the countries themselves and their development partners, most MDGs remain achievable for  
7 most countries. The report lays out an integrated six-point agenda, with strong, inclusive growth at the  
8 top, and calls for more effective aid; a successful outcome to the Doha Round of trade talks; more  
9 emphasis on strengthening programs in health care, education, and nutrition; and financing and  
10 technology transfers to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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11  
12 <sup>1</sup>See "Progress Toward Nutrition, Health, Education, and Other Development Goals Off Track, *Global*  
13 *Monitoring Report Finds*," PR 08/75. The GMR can be found on the IMF's Web site, at  
14 [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gmr/2008/eng/gmr.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gmr/2008/eng/gmr.pdf).  
15

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#### 16 17 **Box 4.3 Scaled-up aid to low-income countries: Operational implications**

18 In July 2007, the Executive Board discussed the operational implications of scaled-up aid for IMF  
19 advice and program design. Noting that scaling up of aid had not yet been widely observed,  
20 Executive Directors reiterated that IMF engagement in low-income countries should continue to be  
21 focused on the Fund's core areas. They welcomed the finding that Fund-supported programs had  
22 become more accommodating of the use of aid and more supportive of pro-poor spending.

23 Executive Directors supported a focus on identifying best practices for the design of macroeconomic  
24 policies in IMF-supported programs in the context of scaled-up but volatile and uncertain aid flows,  
25 stressing that, in an environment of scaled-up aid, macroeconomic policy formulation should be  
26 based on a longer-term view of spending plans and potential resource availability, with medium-term  
27 frameworks the appropriate policy tools for this purpose. Observing that aid disbursements are often  
28 volatile, they saw merit in smoothing expenditures over time so that programs are adequately funded,  
29 and underscored the need for careful monitoring of spending to ensure debt sustainability, noting that  
30 inefficient spending would simply add to debt burdens without improving economic and social  
31 outcomes.

32 Executive Directors underscored the importance of coordinating fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate  
33 policies in managing aid inflows, and many noted that scaling up strengthened the case for exchange  
34 rate flexibility, while a regime of managed floating could pose difficult challenges for policy and  
35 program design. They saw a continuing critical role for the Fund in advising member countries on  
36 exchange rate policies and recommended that monetary programs should seek to reconcile the

1 absorption of aid with price stability and reserve adequacy, while avoiding the crowding out of private  
2 investment.

3 Executive Directors considered that measures for eventually reducing reliance on aid should be an  
4 integral component of macroeconomic policy for managing scaled-up aid. They emphasized that  
5 strengthening fiscal institutions and public financial management (PFM) systems is critical for  
6 effective use of scaled-up aid and called upon low-income countries to prepare appropriately  
7 sequenced and prioritized action plans for strengthening their PFM systems, based on a diagnostic  
8 assessment of existing systems. These plans should prioritize reform measures consistent with local  
9 capacity to undertake such reforms. With the growing trend toward decentralization, Executive  
10 Directors emphasized the need for effective PFM systems at subnational levels, where much social  
11 spending takes place. Executive Directors stressed the need for continued donor support, including  
12 TA, to low-income countries for developing and implementing PFM action plans.

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### 13 *Food and fuel prices*

14 In FY2008, the Fund set up an interdepartmental task force on food and fuel prices, which  
15 presented its work program to the Executive Board at a briefing in April 2008. The Board  
16 had a wide-ranging discussion on the appropriate response to the food and fuel crisis, use of  
17 Fund facilities, and provision of policy advice. The Board approved the work program, and  
18 the work of the task force is proceeding on three fronts: diagnosing the problem;  
19 collaborating with other institutions, including UN agencies such as the Food and Agriculture  
20 Organization and the World Food Program, and the World Bank, to ensure that the Fund's  
21 contribution (including financial support) is coordinated with international efforts to address  
22 the difficulties posed by price increases; and providing policy advice to the most vulnerable  
23 countries, while ensuring that the policies put in place are sustainable over the medium and  
24 long terms.

25 The Fund has provided a comprehensive note on policy options as background for  
26 deliberations of the finance ministers of the West African Economic and Monetary Union's  
27 member countries<sup>11</sup> and is advising PRGF-eligible and other countries on possible policy  
28 responses to higher food prices, particularly measures that target the poor. In April 2008,  
29 Fund staff went to Haiti, a large net importer of food, to assess the impact of rising food  
30 prices on the government's economic program and to discuss the kind of support that would

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<sup>11</sup>“Food and Fuel Price Increases in Sub-Saharan Africa: Background Note for WAEMU Meeting on April 23, 2008” can be found on the CD-ROM.

1 best serve Haiti's needs. A number of countries, mostly in Africa, have asked for extra  
2 financial support (through their PRGF arrangements) to cover higher food import costs, and  
3 in early FY2009 the Executive Board approved financial support through the PRGF for  
4 several countries, including the Kyrgyz Republic and Mali, whose balance of payments will  
5 be severely affected by the rising costs of food imports. The Board is also considering ways  
6 to modify the Exogenous Shocks Facility to enhance its usefulness.

7 In April 2008, the African Consultative Group met at IMF headquarters in  
8 Washington, D.C.,<sup>12</sup> to discuss the impact of high world food and fuel prices and the  
9 challenges they present for policymakers in sub-Saharan Africa and globally. The Group  
10 agreed that policies should aim at helping those least able to cope with high prices, while not  
11 jeopardizing hard-won gains on economic stabilization, and observed that although  
12 temporary, targeted subsidies can help protect the most vulnerable from the effect of shocks,  
13 it is necessary to ensure that subsidies do not become permanent. Although countries should  
14 aim to put in place an efficient social safety net, the Group noted that this is not always easy,  
15 and some second-best solutions may be appropriate.

16 The Group agreed that countries that have a comparative advantage in food  
17 production should remove impediments to domestic agricultural production (noting that  
18 several were already doing so) and that countries should avoid distortionary policies such as  
19 untargeted subsidies. The Managing Director reiterated the IMF's readiness to support  
20 countries in designing macroeconomic policies to deal with shocks, including the creation of  
21 fiscal space for safety nets. The Group supported the call for bilateral and multilateral donors  
22 to substantially increase food aid.

### 23 *Aid for trade*

24 In September 2007, the Executive Board discussed a joint IMF–World Bank paper on efforts  
25 by the multilateral community to support the integration of developing countries into the

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<sup>12</sup>This was the third meeting of the Group, which was formed one year ago to enhance the IMF's policy dialogue with the African Caucus. It comprises members of the African Caucus and the IMF's Managing Director.

1 global economy.<sup>13</sup> Executive Directors welcomed initiatives by the World Trade  
2 Organization (WTO) and other institutions to enhance aid for trade and improve its  
3 coordination and delivery. While regretting that trade in products of interest to the poorest  
4 countries continues to be subject to many obstacles in both developed and developing  
5 economies, Executive Directors pointed out that many existing trade opportunities remain  
6 unexploited because of infrastructural and other domestic supply constraints as well as policy  
7 weaknesses and governance issues, and that aid for trade could help low-income countries  
8 take greater advantage of existing and new trade opportunities. They also noted that benefits  
9 from aid for trade could be magnified if accompanied by strengthened policy frameworks,  
10 including further trade reforms.

11 Executive Directors agreed that individual countries' priorities for trade-related  
12 reforms and for strengthening competitiveness need to be properly identified with support  
13 from trade diagnostic studies under the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and integrated  
14 in national development and poverty reduction strategies. Executive Directors also stressed  
15 the importance of securing increased financing for the EIF and urged donors to fulfill their  
16 pledges on all trade-related aid.

### 17 **Program design**

18 In FY2008, the Executive Board concluded a review of the Fund's access policy in the credit  
19 tranches and under the EFF and PRGF, and the Fund's exceptional access policy; discussed  
20 an IEO report on structural conditionality in IMF-supported programs; and considered a new  
21 approach for fragile states under a two-phase Economic Recovery Assistance Program  
22 (ERAP).

### 23 *Access policy*

24 The Executive Board periodically reviews the Fund's access policy—that is, the limits and  
25 guidelines that govern the amount of financing the Fund makes available to its members in  
26 support of their economic programs. Reviews include consideration of the normal limits  
27 applying to the use of resources in the credit tranches (normally under Stand-By

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<sup>13</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses Aid for Trade," PIN 08/14, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0814.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0814.htm). The paper is available on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/080107.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/080107.pdf).

1 Arrangements) and under the EFF, as well as the framework for exceptional access, which  
2 guides decisions on financing beyond the normal limits. Reviews also consider the policies  
3 for lending under the PRGF. At the conclusion in February 2008 of the Board's latest review,  
4 most Executive Directors agreed that the guidelines and limits underlying the Fund's access  
5 policy remain appropriate and supported maintaining the current limits, although some  
6 Executive Directors saw a need for increasing access limits, as the resources available to  
7 some dynamic members have not kept pace with trade and capital flows. Executive Directors  
8 also reaffirmed that access decisions should continue to be guided by a member's need for  
9 financing; its capacity to repay its obligations to the Fund, including the strength of its  
10 adjustment program; and the amount of its outstanding financial obligations to the Fund.  
11 Most Executive Directors considered that the exceptional access framework and the current  
12 access limits and norms for lending under PRGF remain broadly appropriate and that no  
13 changes are needed at this time.<sup>14</sup>

#### 14 ***Structural conditionality in IMF-supported programs***

15 In December 2007, the Board discussed an IEO evaluation of structural conditionality in  
16 IMF-supported programs. Executive Directors broadly agreed with the IEO's findings and  
17 noted that the IEO assessment gives useful impetus to efforts to make the Fund more focused  
18 and relevant. It commended the shift the IEO found in the composition of structural  
19 conditionality toward the Fund's core areas, but most Executive Directors expressed concern  
20 about the IEO finding that the number of structural conditions had not declined significantly,  
21 and that some structural conditionality might have covered areas not critical to program  
22 goals. The Board broadly supported strengthened efforts to streamline conditionality, with  
23 parsimony as the guiding principle and a focus on measures critical to achieving program  
24 objectives. Another area of concern was the IEO's finding that compliance rates on structural  
25 conditionality had been low in many cases, and that, often, structural conditionality had not  
26 spurred further reforms. To enhance broad national ownership of reforms, the Board called  
27 for greater reliance on the authorities' views in setting conditions. The Executive Board

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<sup>14</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Concludes Review of Access Policy in the Credit Tranches and Under the EFF and the PRGF, and Exceptional Access Policy," PIN 08/30, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0830.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0830.htm).

1 considered management’s implementation plan for Board-endorsed recommendations in  
2 early FY2009.

### 3 *Fragile states*

4 In March 2008, the Executive Board considered a new approach—a two-phase Economic  
5 Recovery Assistance Program (ERAP)—for helping fragile states.<sup>15</sup> Under the first phase of  
6 the proposed ERAP, the IMF would provide TA but no financing. The second phase would  
7 allow for financing with limited but well-focused conditionality with a view to further  
8 strengthening economic performance and policy implementation to enable recipients to meet  
9 the standards of upper-credit-tranche financing as quickly as possible.

10 Executive Directors generally agreed that there was scope to improve the Fund’s  
11 capacity to assist low-income fragile states, with many seeing merit in a graduated, flexible,  
12 medium-term programmatic approach. They stressed that the Fund should focus on helping  
13 fragile states rebuild their institutional capacity to implement macroeconomic policy advice  
14 and basic economic reforms. There was agreement that the Fund’s engagement could help  
15 catalyze international financial support for the country and lay the groundwork for debt  
16 relief. Many Executive Directors also saw merit in the proposed approach, while a number of  
17 others considered that the necessary improvements in the Fund’s engagement with low-  
18 income fragile states could be achieved in the context of the Fund’s existing toolkit of TA,  
19 surveillance, assessment letters, Staff-Monitored Programs, and EPCA. Management will  
20 return to the Board with operational proposals that reflect the Board’s views; the results of  
21 outreach to member countries conducted during the IMF–World Bank spring meetings in  
22 April 2008; and further planned outreach to donors and other stakeholders.

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<sup>15</sup>The Fund roughly defines fragile states as countries (including post-conflict countries) whose economic and social performance is substantially impaired by weak governance, limited administrative capacity, persistent social tensions, and a tendency to conflict and political instability. The summing up of the Board discussion can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF’s Web site: “IMF Executive Board Discusses the Fund’s Engagement in Fragile States and Post-Conflict Countries—A Review of Experience,” PIN 08/43, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0843.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0843.htm). The Board’s discussion was based on a staff paper, “The Fund’s Engagement in Fragile States and Post-Conflict Countries—A Review of Experience—Issues and Options,” which can also be found on the IMF’s Web site, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/030308.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/030308.pdf).

**1 BUILDING INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY**

2 The Fund's TA and training are critical instruments in helping member countries design and  
3 implement good policies, thereby contributing to the stability of the global economy. In some  
4 areas, such as the development of sound fiscal and monetary institutions, the Fund may be  
5 the best—or the only—source of advice and training for members. However, in an  
6 environment of resource constraints, the Fund needs to prioritize and to adopt a more  
7 strategic approach, and therefore reforms have been undertaken as part of the refocusing of  
8 the Fund's work to enhance the impact of its capacity-building activities.

**9 Strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of TA**

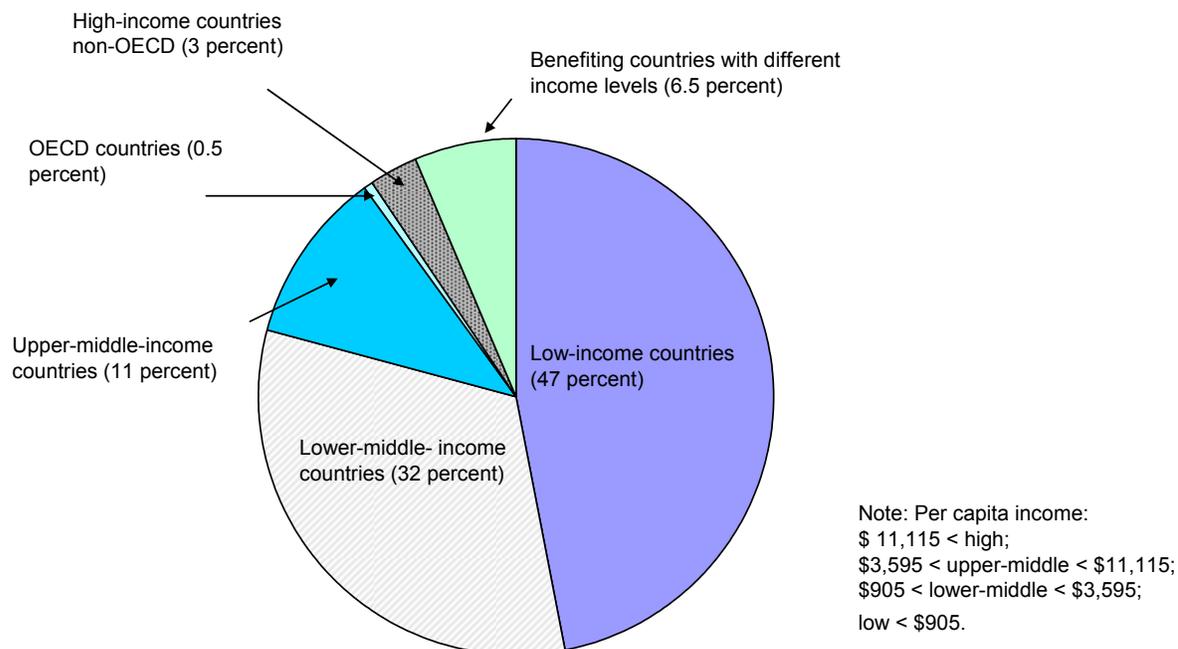
10 The IMF provides TA in its core areas of expertise—namely, macroeconomic, monetary,  
11 exchange rate, and tax policy; revenue administration; expenditure management; financial  
12 sector stability; legislative frameworks; and macroeconomic and financial statistics. About  
13 80 percent of the Fund's TA is provided to low- and lower-middle-income countries (Figure  
14 4.2). The substantial changes being made to Fund TA have a number of objectives,  
15 including<sup>16</sup>

- 16 • enhancing the integration of TA with Fund surveillance and lending;
- 17 • improving prioritization of TA by better aligning it with the strategic objectives of  
18 recipient countries and the Fund;
- 19 • better integrating TA into the Fund's medium-term budget to make it easier to set  
20 priorities and to allow TA to be more responsive to changes in priorities;
- 21 • widening the dissemination of TA findings to increase sharing of lessons learned  
22 and facilitate coordination with donors and other TA providers;
- 23 • making TA evaluations more systematic through the introduction of performance  
24 indicators; and
- 25 • enhancing budgeting, costing, and financing of TA.

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<sup>16</sup>A paper on TA reforms was prepared by the Fund's Office of Technical Assistance Management, in collaboration with other departments, and submitted to the Executive Board in FY2008. At a meeting in early FY2009, the Board broadly supported the reforms put forward by the staff. See "IMF Executive Board Discusses Reforms to Enhance the Impact of Fund Technical Assistance," PIN 08/58, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0858.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0858.htm).

**Figure 4.2 Fund TA is focused on low-income and lower-middle-income countries<sup>1</sup>**  
(TA field delivery in person-years; average over FY2003–08)



1 <sup>1</sup>Excludes the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center.

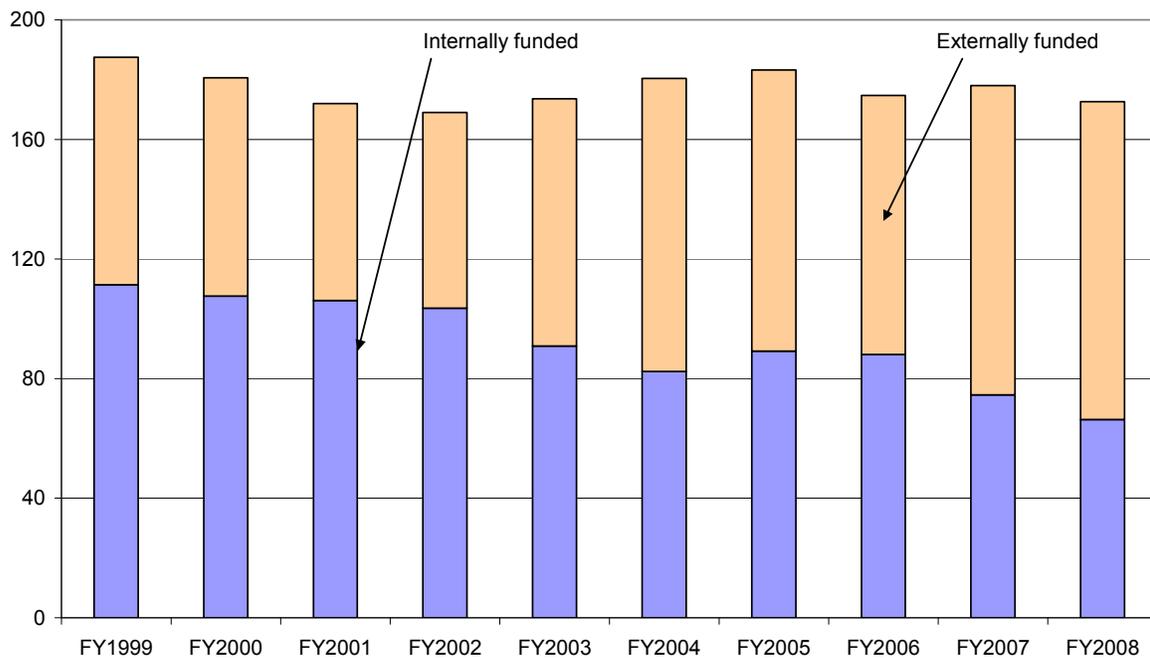
2 As the primary link between the institution and member countries, Fund area  
 3 departments have assumed lead responsibility for setting TA strategies in coordination with  
 4 country authorities. Presented in Regional Strategy Notes (RSNs), TA plans articulate the  
 5 priorities shared by the Fund and country authorities. They are portrayed in a medium-term  
 6 setting to ensure an appropriate balance between short-term policy needs and medium-term  
 7 capacity-building requirements. The medium-term approach also facilitates full integration of  
 8 TA plans with the Fund's operating budget and donor timing. Experience with RSNs as a  
 9 new initiative will be reviewed in FY2009, and refinements made as necessary.

10 Measuring the performance of Fund TA is a critical aspect of institutional  
 11 accountability and governance. Plans to strengthen TA governance and performance  
 12 measurement include (1) introducing quantitative performance indicators Fund-wide to help  
 13 make the assessment of TA delivery more transparent and accountable; (2) clearly specifying  
 14 objectives and deliverables against which results can be measured; (3) evaluating TA more  
 15 systematically; (4) costing TA more accurately and transparently; and (5) considering a

1 broader charging scheme for TA, which could further improve efficiency and accountability  
2 in resource use by subjecting TA to a “value-for-money” market test.

3 Pressures on Fund finances will continue to dictate that resource use be even better  
4 planned and more transparently managed than before, and the Fund is exploring ways to  
5 harness new external resources for TA and increasing its engagement with donor partners  
6 (Figure 4.3). At the same time, however, financing options need to take into account the  
7 unique nature of Fund TA, which not only contains elements of a public good benefiting the  
8 international economy, but also enhances the effectiveness of aid flows generally.

**Figure 4.3 External funds have increasingly financed TA field delivery**  
(Person-years)



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10 The Fund’s six regional TA centers (RTACs)—in the Pacific; the Caribbean; East,  
11 West, and Central Africa; and the Middle East—provide a particularly vivid illustration of  
12 successful Fund-donor collaboration. The RTACs receive the bulk of their funding from  
13 donor countries, international agencies, and regional development banks, many of which  
14 have singled out the RTACs’ governance structure for special praise. Under this framework,  
15 strategic guidance for each center’s work program is provided by a steering committee  
16 comprising representatives from beneficiary countries, donors, and the Fund, an arrangement

1 that has ensured strong ownership of each center's activities by all stakeholders. In light of  
2 the positive experience with RTACs, plans are being pursued to establish new centers,  
3 including in Central America, [Central Asia, ]West Africa, and southern Africa. Because  
4 RTACs have a more hands-on approach, they complement topical trust funds, which could  
5 support more specialized TA on specific issues. Donor interest and participation in both  
6 initiatives are expected to be strong.

7 ***Selected TA activities in FY2008***

8 TA is provided by a number of Fund departments; the largest providers include Fiscal Affairs  
9 (FAD), Monetary and Capital Markets (MCM), and Statistics (STA).

10 FAD helps IMF member countries improve fiscal policies and institutions, including  
11 by strengthening their macro-fiscal frameworks, reforming tax and expenditure policies, and  
12 modernizing public financial management (PFM) and revenue administration. In FY2008,  
13 demand was particularly strong for TA in PFM, expenditure policy, natural resource taxation,  
14 and VAT implementation. In addition to providing advice on a range of matters related to the  
15 budgetary process, the department launched a blog on PFM on the IMF's Web site to share  
16 its experience and expertise with practitioners and the public, and organized two seminars on  
17 performance budgeting. It also provided TA related to the financial oversight of public-  
18 private partnerships, and advised countries on how to address the distributional implications  
19 of macro-critical reforms with respect to subsidies, domestic pricing mechanisms, and tariffs  
20 and taxes, among other things. TA related to tax policy and revenue administration covered  
21 such areas as fiscal regimes for natural resource-rich countries; design, reform, and  
22 implementation of VAT systems; regional tax coordination; and customs modernization.  
23 Regional courses and workshops are an important component of TA on tax policy. In post-  
24 conflict countries, FAD provided TA on performance budgeting, PFM, and the rebuilding of  
25 revenue administration capacity. FAD also arranged the International Tax Dialogue  
26 Conference, Taxation of Small and Medium-Size Enterprises in Buenos Aires in October  
27 2007, jointly with the World Bank, the OECD, the Inter-American Development Bank, and  
28 CIAT (Centro Americano de Administraciones Tributarias).

29 MCM focuses on the development and integration of capital and financial markets as  
30 well as on monetary policy and operations. It has been working to help Central American

1 countries harmonize their capital markets, providing diagnostic and strategic TA to seven  
2 countries; publishing studies on public debt, equity, and private debt markets in the region;  
3 and organizing regional seminars and participating in other forums organized by regional  
4 organizations. It has also organized, with the support of regional and host-country authorities,  
5 a series of regional workshops in emerging Asia, emerging Europe, and Latin America on the  
6 development of derivatives markets. In connection with the deepening of domestic bond  
7 markets in emerging market economies, MCM staff have organized, in collaboration with the  
8 World Bank and the Group of 8 (G-8), conferences and dialogues for policymakers, market  
9 participants, and foreign investors. MCM also collaborated with the World Bank and the  
10 OECD on the organization of a global conference on pension funds and participated in  
11 similar regional outreach events organized by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC),  
12 OECD, and global and regional pension fund associations.

13 STA's TA is focused on helping member countries meet internationally accepted data  
14 standards. STA works to develop new data series and improve the accuracy and reliability of  
15 existing data series in such areas as national accounts and price statistics, government  
16 finance, monetary and financial statistics, financial soundness indicators, and balance of  
17 payments, international investment positions, and external debt statistics. During FY2008,  
18 STA undertook 383 short-term TA missions, 160 of them to sub-Saharan Africa, and placed  
19 14 long-term statistics advisors, 6 of them in the RTACs. (See Chapter 3 for more  
20 information about the Fund's work on data and statistics.) It also conducted 40 training  
21 courses in macroeconomic statistics through the IMF Institute and the IMF Regional Training  
22 Centers (see below) in collaboration with various organizations.

23 Additionally, the Fund has launched new initiatives to build capacity for public debt  
24 and fiscal risk management. A joint IMF–World Bank technical working group is developing  
25 a methodological framework for medium-term strategies for the management of public debt  
26 in low-income countries, building on the Debt Sustainability Framework. This work was  
27 endorsed by the Executive Board at a formal seminar in May 2007 at which it discussed a  
28 paper written jointly by IMF and World Bank staff on strengthening public debt management

1 in developing countries.<sup>17</sup> Despite progress made by several countries in strengthening public  
2 debt management and the supporting governance framework and in deepening domestic  
3 public debt markets, many developing countries—including a number of HIPCs—continue to  
4 face policy, institutional, and operational challenges in developing effective frameworks for  
5 managing public debt. Underscoring the importance of avoiding a reaccumulation of  
6 unsustainable debt, Executive Directors supported a four-year pilot project for providing TA  
7 to low-income countries, with preference given to requests from countries that have received  
8 debt relief under the MDRI, with a view to helping them build the capacity to develop and  
9 implement an effective medium-term debt strategy. To complement TA, Executive Directors  
10 broadly supported the Fund’s participation in the World Bank’s initiative of developing debt  
11 management performance indicators, and emphasized the need for coordination between the  
12 Fund and the Bank and other providers of TA in the international donor community. The  
13 Bank and Fund are also cooperating on improving debt management systems in middle-  
14 income countries in the context of a broader asset-liability management framework.

#### 15 **Training by the IMF Institute**

16 The IMF Institute (INS), in collaboration with other IMF departments, trains officials from  
17 member countries in four core areas—macroeconomic management, financial sector policies,  
18 government budgeting, and the balance of payments—including how to strengthen the  
19 statistical, legal, and administrative frameworks in these areas. About three-fourths of the  
20 training provided by the Institute benefits low- and lower-middle-income countries, and the  
21 Institute’s training program accounts for about three-fourths of all IMF training for officials,  
22 including training at the regional technical assistance centers (RTACs).

23 In FY2008, the IMF Institute delivered 303 course-weeks, producing over 9,800  
24 participant-weeks of training (see CD-Table 4.5 on the CD-ROM), an increase of about 16  
25 percent since FY2004. The seven IMF regional training centers (RTCs; see CD-Table 4.6 on  
26 the CD-ROM) account for most of this increase. With substantial cofinancing from local  
27 cosponsors and other donors, the RTCs have provided a very cost-effective way of expanding

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<sup>17</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Discusses Strengthening Debt Management Practices: Lessons from Country Experiences and Issues Going Forward,” PIN 07/60, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0760.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0760.htm). The staff paper can be found on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4189](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4189).

1 training and now account for over half of all Institute training. Training at the RTCs has other  
2 advantages: courses can be better attuned to regional needs and foster collaboration within  
3 regions. The Institute's distance learning program, which has also benefited from an infusion  
4 of donor funds, accounts for much of the remainder of the increase in training. Training at  
5 IMF headquarters, which accounts for about one-third of participant-weeks in FY2008,  
6 focuses mainly on longer courses, which are less amenable to regional delivery because of  
7 the number of IMF staff involved. The remainder of the training in FY2008 took place at  
8 overseas locations outside the regional network, largely as part of ongoing collaboration  
9 between the IMF Institute and regional institutions. In the tight IMF budget environment, the  
10 expansion of training has been greatly facilitated by increased donor funding.

11       Considerable efforts are being made to deepen the coverage and broaden the content  
12 of the INS curriculum, with a view to addressing the needs of member countries and  
13 supporting IMF strategic priorities, in a changing global environment. These efforts—which  
14 have been guided by extensive input from member countries, discussion with IMF  
15 management and other IMF departments, and reviews within INS—have resulted in several  
16 new or significantly upgraded courses in recent years. In FY2008, the Institute offered an  
17 overhauled version of the headquarters course on financial programming and policies, which  
18 provides much more extensive treatment of balance sheet vulnerabilities and capital account  
19 crises; another new variant of this course, placing the design of macroeconomic policy more  
20 specifically in the context of a formal or informal inflation targeting regime; and a two-week  
21 version for delivery outside of Washington of the four-week course at headquarters on  
22 macroeconomic diagnostics.

23       The Institute also continues to deliver a small number of short seminars for high-level  
24 officials, including ministers and central bank governors, with a view to generating a  
25 constructive dialogue on policy issues of global or regional importance between member  
26 country officials and experts in the international financial institutions, academia, and  
27 financial markets. Seminars in FY2008 included the Market and Policy Implications of the  
28 Crisis in Asset-Backed Commercial Paper, African Finance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and  
29 Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations in Latin American Countries.

Table 4.1 IMF lending facilities

	Credit facility (year established)	Purpose	Conditions	Phasing and monitoring	Access limits <sup>1</sup>	Charges <sup>2</sup>	Repurchase (repayment) terms <sup>3</sup>		
							Obligation schedule (Years)	Expectation schedule (Years)	Installments
7	<b>Credit tranches and Extended Fund Facility<sup>4</sup></b>								
8	Stand-By Arrangements (1952)	Medium-term assistance for countries with balance of payments difficulties of a short-term character.	Adopt policies that provide confidence that the member's balance of payments difficulties will be resolved within a reasonable period.	Quarterly purchases (disbursements) contingent on observance of performance criteria and other conditions.	Annual: 100% of quota; cumulative: 300% of quota.	Rate of charge plus surcharge (100 basis points on amounts above 200% of quota; 200 basis points on amounts above 300% of quota). <sup>5</sup>	3 1/4-5	2 1/4-4	Quarterly
22	Extended Fund Facility (1974) (Extended Arrangements)	Longer-term assistance to support members' structural reforms to address balance of payments difficulties of a long-term character.	Adopt 3-year program, with structural agenda, with annual detailed statement of policies for the next 12 months.	Quarterly or semiannual purchases (disbursements) contingent on observance of performance criteria and other conditions.	Annual: 100% of quota; cumulative: 300% of quota.	Rate of charge plus surcharge (100 basis points on amounts above 200% of quota; 200 basis points on amounts above 300% of quota).	4 1/2-10	4 1/2-7	Semiannual

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Table 4.1 (continued)

	Credit facility (year established)	Purpose	Conditions	Phasing and monitoring	Access limits <sup>1</sup>	Charges <sup>2</sup>	Repurchase (repayment) terms <sup>3</sup>		
							Obligation schedule (Years)	Expectation schedule (Years)	Installments
7	<b>Special facilities</b>								
8	Supplemental Reserve Facility (1997)	Short-term assistance for balance of payments difficulties related to crises of market confidence.	Available only in context of Stand-By or Extended Arrangements with associated program and with strengthened policies to address loss of market confidence.	Facility available for one year; frontloaded access with two or more purchases (disbursements).	No access limits; access under the facility only when access under associated regular arrangement would otherwise exceed either annual or cumulative limit.	Rate of charge plus surcharge (300 basis points, rising by 50 basis points a year after first disbursement and every 6 months thereafter to a maximum of 500 basis points).	2 1/2-3	2-2 1/2	Semiannual
22	Compensatory Financing Facility (1963)	Medium-term assistance for temporary export shortfalls or cereal import excesses.	Available only when the shortfall/excess is largely beyond the control of the authorities and a member has an arrangement with upper credit tranche conditionality, or when its balance of payments position excluding the shortfall/excess is satisfactory.	Typically disbursed over a minimum of six months in accordance with the phasing provisions of the arrangement.	45% of quota each for export and cereal components. Combined limit of 55% of quota for both components.	Rate of charge.	3 1/4-5	2 1/4-4	Quarterly

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Table 4.1 (concluded)

<sup>1</sup>Except for PRGF, the IMF's lending is financed from the capital subscribed by member countries; each country is assigned a *quota* that represents its financial commitment. A member provides a portion of its quota in foreign currencies acceptable to the IMF—or SDRs (see Box 5.2)—and the remainder in its own currency. An IMF loan is disbursed or drawn by the borrower *purchasing* foreign currency assets from the IMF with its own currency. Repayment of the loan is achieved by the borrower *repurchasing* its currency from the IMF with foreign currency. PRGF lending is financed by a separate PRGF Trust.

<sup>2</sup>The *rate of charge* on funds disbursed from the General Resources Account (GRA) is set at a margin over the weekly interest rate on SDRs. The rate of charge is applied to the daily balance of all outstanding GRA drawings during each IMF financial quarter. In addition, a one-time service charge of 0.5 percent is levied on each drawing of IMF resources in the GRA, other than reserve tranche drawings. An up-front commitment fee (25 basis points on committed amounts up to 100 percent of quota, 10 basis points thereafter) applies to the amount that may be drawn during each (annual) period under a Stand-By or Extended Arrangement; this fee is refunded on a proportionate basis as subsequent drawings are made under the arrangement.

<sup>3</sup>For purchases made after November 28, 2000, members are expected to make repurchases (repayments) in accordance with the schedule of expectation; the IMF may, upon request by a member, amend the schedule of repurchase expectations if the Executive Board agrees that the member's external position has not improved sufficiently for repurchases to be made.

<sup>4</sup>*Credit tranches* refer to the size of purchases (disbursements) in terms of proportions of the member's quota in the IMF; for example, disbursements up to 25 percent of a member's quota are disbursements under the *first* credit tranche and require members to demonstrate reasonable efforts to overcome their balance of payments problems. Requests for disbursements above 25 percent are referred to as *upper* credit tranche drawings; they are made in installments as the borrower meets certain established performance targets. Such disbursements are normally associated with a Stand-By or Extended Arrangement. Access to IMF resources outside an arrangement is rare and expected to remain so.

<sup>5</sup>Surcharge introduced in November 2000.

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## 5. Governance, organization, and finances

The financial year that ended on April 30, 2008, was a pivotal one of reform and change in the governance, organization, and finances of the Fund.

Efforts over the past few years to enhance the IMF's governance reached a milestone in April 2008 with the approval by the Board of Governors of a dynamic and forward-looking package of quota and voice reforms proposed by the Executive Board. The approved reforms are a significant achievement for the membership, which is seeking to rebalance quotas to reflect the many changes that have occurred in the world economy in recent years—especially the growing economic importance of some of the emerging market countries—and to increase the voice of low-income countries in the Fund's deliberations.

The Executive Board also made considerable progress in placing the Fund's finances on a sound footing. It reached agreement on a new income model, which was approved by the Board of Governors in early FY2009, and approved a medium-term budget that will achieve substantial savings in administrative expenditures.

Other reforms undertaken during FY2008, which were aimed at ensuring the Fund's ability to meet its members' needs despite tightened budget constraints, include increased collaboration with the World Bank and other organizations; a more focused and effective communications strategy; and mechanisms for improving accountability and risk management.

### **QUOTA AND VOICE REFORM**

Following a broad and intensive consultation among the IMF's member countries, on April 28, 2008, the Board of Governors approved by a large margin a Resolution overhauling the Fund's governance structure.<sup>1</sup> The quota and voice reform package

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<sup>1</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Recommends Reforms to Overhaul Quota and Voice," PR 08/64, and "IMF Board of Governors Adopts Quota and Voice Reforms by Large Margin," PR 08/93, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0864.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0893.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0893.htm), respectively. See also Resolution 63-2 on the CD-ROM and also "Reform of Quota and Voice in the International Monetary Fund—Report of the Executive Board to the Board of Governors," on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/032108.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/032108.pdf).

1 approved by the Board of Governors as Resolution 63-2 achieves two key objectives set out  
2 in the Resolution on Quota and Voice Reform in the IMF (Resolution 61-5), which it  
3 adopted in September 2006 at the time of the IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings in  
4 Singapore: (1) to make significant progress in realigning quota shares with members’  
5 relative weight and role in the global economy and to make quota and voting shares more  
6 responsive to changes in global economic realities in the future, and, equally important, (2)  
7 to enhance the voice and participation of low-income countries, in which the Fund plays an  
8 important advisory and financing role.<sup>2</sup> (See Box 5.1.) Resolution 61-5 also included a first  
9 round of ad hoc quota increases<sup>3</sup> for four of the Fund’s most clearly underrepresented  
10 member countries—China, Korea, Mexico, and Turkey.

11 The reform package approved in FY2008 includes a new formula for calculating  
12 quotas that is simpler and more transparent than the five-formula system previously used by  
13 the Fund<sup>4</sup> and a second round of ad hoc quota increases. It also calls for an amendment to  
14 the Articles of Agreement that will increase the voice of low-income countries by tripling  
15 basic votes—the first such increase since the Fund’s inception—and, equally important,  
16 establishing a mechanism to preserve the share of basic votes in total votes in the event of  
17 future quota increases. In addition, the proposed amendment will allow Executive Directors  
18 elected by a large number of members to appoint an additional Alternate Executive  
19 Director, which, in the current circumstances, will benefit the two African constituencies on  
20 the IMF’s Executive Board.

21 The new quota formula is based on four variables—GDP, openness, variability, and  
22 reserves—with weights of 50 percent, 30 percent, 15 percent, and 5 percent, respectively.

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<sup>2</sup>See “IMF Board of Governors Approves Quota and Related Governance Reforms,” Press Release No. 06/205, which can be found on the CD-ROM or on the IMF Web site at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2006/pr06205.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2006/pr06205.htm). See also “Report of the Executive Board to the Board of Governors: Quota and Voice Reform in the International Monetary Fund,” on the IMF Web site at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/083106.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/083106.pdf).

<sup>3</sup>Ad hoc quota increases for specified members can be approved either during or outside a general review of quotas by the Executive Board.

<sup>4</sup>The new and old quota formulas, detailed information about changes in quota and voting shares for individual members, and the proposed quotas for members eligible for ad hoc quota increases can be found in IMF Issues Brief 08/01, “Reform of IMF Quotas and Voice: Responding to Changes in the Global Economy,” on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2008/040108.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2008/040108.htm).

1 The GDP variable is a blend of 60 percent of GDP at market exchange rates and 40 percent  
2 of GDP at purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates. All members that are  
3 underrepresented under the new quota formula are eligible for quota increases based  
4 primarily on achieving a uniform proportional reduction in the gap between their actual  
5 quota shares prior to the reform and their quota shares calculated under the new formula.

6 The reform package provides for an overall quota increase of 11.5 percent, which  
7 includes the first round of ad hoc quota increases in September 2006 and a second round of  
8 approximately 9.55 percent—thus, from SDR 217.4 billion on April 30, 2008, to SDR 242.4  
9 billion. A total of 54 countries are eligible for ad hoc quota increases. For individual  
10 members, the proposed increases from both rounds range from 11.7 to 106.1 percent of their  
11 pre-reform quotas. Consistent with the objectives of the reform, some of the largest  
12 increases will go to dynamic emerging market countries. In terms of share of total quotas,  
13 the aggregate shift to this group will be 4.9 percentage points.

14 The package also includes the following elements:

- 15 • An agreement by a number of advanced countries that are underrepresented—  
16 Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, and the United States—to forgo  
17 part of the quota increases for which they are eligible.
- 18 • A minimum nominal quota increase of 40 percent for four underrepresented  
19 emerging market and developing economies whose shares in global PPP-based  
20 GDP are more than 75 percent greater than their actual quota shares prior to the  
21 reform.
- 22 • A minimum nominal second-round increase of 15 percent for the four  
23 members—China, Korea, Mexico, and Turkey—that received quota increases in  
24 the first round of ad hoc increases at the Singapore Annual Meetings in 2006 but  
25 still remained substantially underrepresented.

26 As a result of the quota increases and tripling of basic votes, 135 countries will see  
27 increases in their voting power. The aggregate shift of voting shares from other member  
28 countries to this group of countries comes to 5.4 percentage points.

1           The proposed amendment of the Fund's Articles of Agreement on basic votes and  
2 Alternate Executive Directors will enter into force when the Fund certifies, by a formal  
3 communication to all members, that three-fifths of IMF members representing 85 percent of  
4 the total voting power have accepted it. Increases in quotas will not become effective until  
5 the proposed amendment enters into force. In addition, to become effective, these increases  
6 will require consent and payment on the part of eligible member countries. Consents for the  
7 proposed quota increases are to be received by October 31, 2008; the Executive Board may  
8 extend this period, taking into account, in particular, the need of members to obtain domestic  
9 legislative approval. Payment is to be received within 30 days of the later of (1) notification  
10 of consent or (2) entry into force of the amendment to the Articles on basic votes and  
11 Alternate Executive Directors.

12           The approved quota and voice reform marks an important first step in what will be  
13 an ongoing process. Looking ahead, the Resolution calls on the Executive Board to  
14 recommend further realignments in the course of future general reviews of quotas if it deems  
15 that they are necessary (see below).

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17 **Box 5.1. The role of quotas and basic votes**

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20 The quota assigned to each of the IMF's member countries is based broadly on the size and other  
21 key characteristics of its economy, and it plays an important role in the country's relationship with the  
22 Fund. Quotas determine member countries' contribution to the Fund's financial resources, the  
23 amount of financial assistance they are eligible to receive from the Fund, their share of Special  
24 Drawing Right (SDR) allocations (see Box 5.2), and, in combination with "basic votes," their voting  
25 power.

26 Under the Fund's Articles of Agreement, each member was originally allotted 250 basic votes plus  
27 one vote per SDR 100,000 of its quota.<sup>1</sup> Article XII, Section 5(a) was adopted as a balance between  
28 two alternative bases for determining voting power. On the one hand, given the Fund's role as a  
29 financial institution, it was recognized that a member's voting power should reflect the size of its  
30 financial contribution to the Fund. On the other hand, it was considered necessary that the Fund, as  
31 an intergovernmental organization constituted through a multilateral treaty, pay due regard to the  
32 equality of states under international law. The role of basic votes is to enhance the relative voting  
33 power of members whose quotas are below the average for the membership as a whole; many of  
34 these members are low-income countries.

1 Total quotas have increased significantly since the Fund was established, with the growth of its  
2 membership; ad hoc quota increases; and quota increases in the course of general reviews, which  
3 are conducted at least once every five years. At the same time, the Articles have never been  
4 amended to increase basic votes; thus, the share of basic votes in total voting power has declined to  
5 2.1 percent. The tripling of basic votes will raise this ratio to 5.5 percent. A key objective of the  
6 amendment is to ensure that this new ratio, by being expressly provided for in the Articles, will not  
7 decline as a result of any quota increases that may take place after the amendment becomes  
8 effective.

9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 <sup>1</sup>Upon joining the IMF, a country normally pays up to one-fourth of its quota in a widely accepted  
11 foreign currency (such as the U.S. dollar, euro, yen, or pound sterling) or in SDRs and the remaining  
12 three-fourths in its own currency.

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### 13 **ADEQUACY OF FUND RESOURCES**

14 The IMF conducts general reviews of members' quotas at least once every five years to  
15 assess the adequacy of its resource base and to adjust the quotas of individual members to  
16 reflect changes in their relative positions in the world economy. The Executive Board  
17 approved on December 28, 2007, a report to the Board of Governors recommending that the  
18 Thirteenth General Review of Quotas be concluded without an increase or any adjustments  
19 to quotas, noting in its report to the Board of Governors that while the size of the Fund has  
20 declined against a range of economic and financial indicators, the IMF's current liquidity  
21 position is at an all-time high. The Board also noted its intention to monitor closely and  
22 assess the adequacy of IMF resources during the Fourteenth General Review, which began  
23 upon completion of the Thirteenth Review. The Board of Governors adopted a Resolution  
24 concluding the Thirteenth General Review effective January 28, 2008.<sup>5</sup> Total quotas stood at  
25 SDR 217.4 billion on April 30, 2008.

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<sup>5</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Recommends to Governors Conclusion of Thirteenth General Quota Review," PR 08/02, and "IMF Board of Governors Approves Conclusion of Quota Review," PR 08/13, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0802.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0802.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0813.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0813.htm), respectively.

**1 FINANCIAL OPERATIONS AND POLICIES****2 Income, charges, remuneration, and burden sharing**

3 Since its inception, the IMF has operated based on an income model heavily reliant on  
4 income from its lending activities, which may fluctuate widely, depending on members'  
5 financing needs. In this model, the IMF earns income from interest charges and fees levied  
6 on its lending and uses that income to meet funding costs and administrative expenses and to  
7 build up precautionary balances. On April 7, 2008, the Executive Board agreed on a  
8 substantial reform of the Fund's income model; the reform will allow the IMF to establish  
9 other steady and reliable long-term sources of income in the coming years (see below).

10 The basic rate of charge (the interest rate) on regular lending under the current  
11 income model is determined at the beginning of each financial year as a margin in basis  
12 points above the SDR interest rate (see Box 5.2). For FY2008, the Board agreed to keep the  
13 margin for the rate of charge unchanged from FY2007, at 108 basis points above the SDR  
14 interest rate. For FY2009, the Board decided to lower the margin to 100 basis points, guided  
15 by the principles that the margin should cover the Fund's intermediation costs and the  
16 buildup of reserves, and that it should be broadly aligned with long-term credit market  
17 conditions. This new approach to setting the margin is expected to make the rate of charge  
18 more stable and predictable, fulfilling one of the goals of adopting a new income model.

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**20 Box 5.2. Special Drawing Rights**

21 The SDR is a reserve asset created by the IMF in 1969 in response to the threat of a shortage of  
22 international liquidity. SDRs are "allocated"—distributed—to members in proportion to their IMF  
23 quotas. Since the SDR's creation, a total of SDR 21.4 billion has been allocated to members—  
24 SDR 9.3 billion in 1970–72 and SDR 12.1 billion in 1979–81. Today, the SDR has only limited use as  
25 a reserve asset. Its main function is to serve as the unit of account of the IMF and some other  
26 international organizations and a means of payment for members in settling their IMF financial  
27 obligations. The SDR is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF. Rather, it is a potential claim on  
28 the freely usable currencies of IMF members. Holders of SDRs can obtain these currencies in  
29 exchange for their SDRs in two ways: first, through the arrangement of voluntary exchanges  
30 between members; and second, by the IMF designating members with strong external positions to  
31 purchase SDRs from members with weak external positions in exchange for freely usable  
32 currencies.

1 The value of the SDR is based on the weighted average of the values of a basket of major  
2 international currencies, and the SDR interest rate is a weighted average of interest rates on  
3 short-term instruments in the markets for the currencies in the valuation basket. The method of  
4 valuation is reviewed every five years. The latest review was completed in November 2005, and the  
5 IMF Executive Board decided on changes in the valuation basket effective January 1, 2006. The  
6 SDR interest rate is calculated weekly and provides the basis for determining the interest charges on  
7 regular IMF financing and the interest rate paid to members that are creditors of the IMF.

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8 Surcharges (level-based) are levied on large use of credit in the credit tranches and  
9 under Extended Arrangements. The IMF also levies surcharges on shorter-term financing  
10 under the Supplemental Reserve Facility (SRF) that vary according to the length of time  
11 credit is outstanding (see Table 4.1).

12 In addition to charges and surcharges, the IMF receives income from borrowers in  
13 the form of service charges, commitment fees, and special charges. A service charge of  
14 0.5 percent is levied on each credit disbursement from the General Resources Account  
15 (GRA). A refundable commitment fee on Stand-By and Extended Arrangements is charged  
16 on the amounts that may be drawn during each 12-month period under an arrangement. The  
17 fee—0.25 percent on amounts committed up to 100 percent of quota (and 0.10 percent  
18 thereafter)—is refunded as credit is used in proportion to the drawings made. The IMF also  
19 levies special charges on overdue principal and on charges that are overdue by less than six  
20 months.

21 On the expenditure side, the IMF pays interest (remuneration) to member countries  
22 based on their creditor positions with the Fund (known as reserve tranche positions). The  
23 basic rate of remuneration is currently set at the SDR interest rate. The Articles of  
24 Agreement permit the basic rate of remuneration, less any burden-sharing adjustments, to be  
25 set no lower than 80 percent of the SDR interest rate.

26 The rates of charge and remuneration are adjusted under a burden-sharing  
27 mechanism established in the mid-1980s that distributes the cost of overdue financial  
28 obligations to the Fund equally between creditor and debtor members. Loss on income from  
29 interest charges that are overdue (unpaid) for six months or more is recovered by increasing  
30 the rate of charge and reducing the rate of remuneration. The amounts thus collected are  
31 refunded when the overdue charges are settled. In FY2008, the average adjustments for

1 unpaid interest charges resulted in an increase to the basic rate of charge and a reduction in  
2 the rate of remuneration of 19 and 17 basis points, respectively. The adjusted rates of charge  
3 and remuneration averaged 4.90 percent and 3.47 percent, respectively, in FY2008.

4 The burden-sharing mechanism also contemplates adjusting the basic rates of charge  
5 and remuneration to generate resources to protect the IMF against the risk of loss resulting  
6 from arrears; those resources are kept in the Special Contingent Account (SCA-1). Effective  
7 November 2006, however, the Board decided to suspend additional contributions to the  
8 SCA-1. On March 14, 2008, a partial distribution of SDR 525 million from the SCA-1 was  
9 made following arrears clearance by Liberia and as part of a financing package to fund IMF  
10 debt relief for Liberia through bilateral contributions (see Chapter 4).

11 Income in FY2008 was SDR 55 million short of expenditures. The continued low  
12 level of IMF credit outstanding negatively affected the income situation. The lower lending  
13 income was partly offset by the strong performance of the Investment Account (IA), which  
14 was established in April 2006 and funded in June 2006. The IA earned a cumulative return  
15 of 5.31 percent, net of fees, outperforming the three-month SDR interest rate by 161 basis  
16 points. Overall, the IA benefited from movements in government bond yields, reflecting  
17 policy interest rate cuts in the United States and the United Kingdom and a flight to quality  
18 spurred by recent turmoil in financial markets.

### 19 **The IMF's new income model**

20 The Executive Board reached a landmark agreement in April 2008 to revamp the IMF's  
21 income model, which, together with a new medium-term budget (see below), is expected to  
22 put the institution's finances on a sound footing. Support from the membership was broad,  
23 with the IMFC endorsing the new income-expenditure framework in its Communiqué of  
24 April 2008. In May 2008, the Board of Governors overwhelmingly approved the related  
25 proposed amendment of the IMF's Articles of Agreement to expand its investment authority.

26 The IMF's new income model is based on the principles set out in the January 2007  
27 report of the Committee of Eminent Persons.<sup>6</sup> The Committee found that the income model

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<sup>6</sup>The report can be found at [www.imf.org/external/np/oth/2007/013107.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/oth/2007/013107.pdf).

1 under which the IMF had operated since its inception was not sustainable. Instead, the  
2 Committee recommended a set of measures that would provide the IMF with additional  
3 broad-based and predictable income sources more suitable for financing the wide range of  
4 its functions and responsibilities, which include public goods such as surveillance of  
5 members' economic policies.

6 Building on the Committee's recommendations, in late FY2008 the Executive Board  
7 agreed on the following measures:<sup>7</sup>

- 8 • **Proposing an amendment of the Articles of Agreement to expand the Fund's**  
9 **investment authority**, which would allow the Fund to broaden its investments  
10 and enable it to adapt its investment strategy as best practices evolve. It is  
11 expected that this measure will increase average returns and also diversify the  
12 sources of these returns. Given the public nature of the funds to be invested, the  
13 investment policies adopted by the Executive Board under the new authority  
14 would take into account, among other things, a careful assessment of acceptable  
15 levels of risk. For the foreseeable future, it is intended that these policies will rely  
16 on a passive investment approach that closely tracks widely used benchmark  
17 indices.
- 18 • **Establishing an endowment** to be funded by the profits from the sale of some of  
19 the IMF's gold holdings. The sale would be strictly limited to the 403 metric tons  
20 acquired after the date of the Second Amendment of the Articles of Agreement,  
21 which accounts for one-eighth of the IMF's gold holdings. The endowment  
22 would be invested with the objective of generating income while preserving the  
23 long-term real value of its resources. A decision authorizing the sale of gold has  
24 not yet been taken, but all Executive Directors have indicated either that they are  
25 ready to vote in favor of such a decision, or that they will seek approval from  
26 their domestic legislatures to enable them to vote in favor of such a decision.  
27 Gold sales would be conducted under strong safeguards to ensure that they do not

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<sup>7</sup>See "IMF Managing Director Strauss-Kahn Applauds Executive Board's Landmark Agreement on Fund's New Income and Expenditure Framework," Press Release 08/74, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0874.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0874.htm).

1 add to the announced volume of official sales to avoid causing disruptions that  
2 would adversely affect gold holders and gold producers, as well as the  
3 functioning of the gold market.

- 4 • **Resuming annual reimbursements of the General Resources Account.** The  
5 long-standing practice of recovering the expenses incurred by the Fund in  
6 administering the PRGF-ESF Trust will be restored starting from the financial  
7 year in which the Executive Board adopts a decision authorizing the sale of the  
8 current stock of post-Second Amendment gold. The Trust's capacity for  
9 concessional lending will be protected, including by temporarily suspending  
10 reimbursement if its resources are likely to be insufficient to support anticipated  
11 demand for concessional assistance.

12 The Committee had also recommended that the IMF invest an equal proportion of  
13 the quota resources subscribed by all members as a further source of income that could be  
14 varied over the medium term. This proposal, which would also require an amendment of the  
15 IMF's Articles, was discussed extensively by the Executive Board. While it received strong  
16 support from many Executive Directors, some could not back this option. Accordingly, the  
17 investment of quota resources did not have sufficient acceptance from the membership to  
18 make it a component of the new income model.

19 The adoption of all the elements of the new income model may take some time. The  
20 proposed amendment of the Articles of Agreement to expand the IMF's investment  
21 authority will come into effect when it has been accepted by three-fifths of the members  
22 having 85 percent of the total voting power, and this acceptance will require legislative  
23 action in most member countries. Gold sales can begin once they are authorized by the  
24 Executive Board with an 85 percent majority of the total voting power (some members need  
25 to seek legislative approval before they can vote in favor of gold sales), and sales on the  
26 market would also be phased over time. Hence, net income shortfalls may continue for a few  
27 years until the full benefits of the new income measures and expenditure reductions are  
28 realized; the IMF's accumulated reserves will continue to be used to cover these shortfalls.

1 **Borrowing arrangements**

2 In November 2007, the Executive Board approved a five-year renewal of standing credit  
3 arrangements—the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) and the General Arrangements to  
4 Borrow (GAB)—between the IMF and a group of members and official institutions whereby  
5 they can provide supplementary resources of up to SDR 34 billion (about \$54 billion) to the  
6 IMF to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international monetary system or to deal  
7 with an exceptional situation that poses a threat to the stability of that system.<sup>8</sup> The NAB  
8 became effective in November 1998, the GAB in 1962.

9 **Arrears to the IMF**

10 Liberia cleared its arrears to the Fund in March 2008 (see Chapter 4). As a result, overdue  
11 financial obligations to the IMF (including as Trustee) fell substantially, from SDR 1.89  
12 billion at April 30, 2007, to SDR 1.34 billion at end-April 2008 (Table 5.1). Sudan  
13 accounted for about 76 percent of remaining arrears, and Somalia and Zimbabwe for 18 and  
14 6 percent, respectively. At end-April 2008, all arrears to the IMF were protracted  
15 (outstanding for more than six months); one-third consisted of overdue principal, the  
16 remaining two-thirds of overdue charges and interest. More than four-fifths represented  
17 arrears to the General Resources Account (GRA), and the remainder to the SDR  
18 Department, the Trust Fund, and the PRGF-ESF Trust. Zimbabwe is the only country with  
19 protracted arrears to the PRGF-ESF Trust.

20 **Table 5.1 Arrears to the IMF of countries with obligations overdue by six months**  
21 **or more, by type**  
22 *(In millions of SDRs; as of April 30, 2008)*

	Total	By type			
		General Department (incl. SAF) <sup>1</sup>	SDR Department	Trust Fund	PRGF-ESF
28 Somalia	238.7	217.1	13.5	8.1	0.0
29 Sudan	1,015.7	935.6	0.0	80.0	0.0
30 Zimbabwe	87.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	87.0
31 <b>Total</b>	<b>1,341.3</b>	<b>1,152.8</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>87.0</b>

32 Source: IMF Finance Department.

33 <sup>1</sup>Structural Adjustment Facility.

<sup>8</sup>See “IMF Executive Board Approves Renewal of Standing Borrowing Arrangements,” PR 07/270, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07270.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07270.htm).

1 Under the IMF's strengthened cooperative strategy on arrears, remedial measures  
2 have been applied to address protracted arrears. As of the end of the financial year, Somalia,  
3 Sudan, and Zimbabwe remained ineligible to use GRA resources. Zimbabwe continued to be  
4 excluded from the list of PRGF-eligible countries, and a declaration of noncooperation,  
5 suspension of technical assistance, and suspension of voting and related rights remain in  
6 place.

## 7 **MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION**

8 After learning in June 2007 of Rodrigo de Rato's intention of stepping down as Managing  
9 Director after the IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings, the Executive Board, which appoints  
10 the Managing Director of the Fund (see Box 5.3), put a new selection process in place. In  
11 accordance with this process, Dominique Strauss-Kahn was appointed in September 2007,  
12 and he assumed the position on November 1, 2007.<sup>9</sup>

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13

### 14 **Box 5.3 How the IMF is run**

15 The highest decision-making body of the IMF is the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors  
16 consists of one Governor and one Alternate appointed by each member in such manner as it may  
17 determine. The Governor is usually the member's minister of finance or central bank governor. The  
18 Board of Governors normally meets once a year. The Executive Board is responsible for conducting  
19 the business of the Fund, and for this purpose exercises all the powers delegated to it by the Board  
20 of Governors. The Executive Board is currently composed of 24 Executive Directors appointed or  
21 elected by member countries.<sup>1</sup> The Managing Director of the IMF is appointed by the Executive  
22 Board and serves as its Chair.

23 There are two committees of Governors that represent the whole membership. The *International*  
24 *Monetary and Financial Committee* (IMFC) is an advisory body currently composed of 24 IMF  
25 Governors (or their alternates), who are ministers or other officials of comparable rank, and who  
26 represent the same countries or constituencies (groups of countries) as the 24 Executive Directors.  
27 The IMFC advises, and reports to, the Board of Governors on matters relating to the latter's functions  
28 in supervising the management and adaptation of the international monetary and financial system

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<sup>9</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Moves Ahead with Process of Selecting the Fund's Next Managing Director," PR 07/159, and "IMF Executive Board Selects Dominique Strauss-Kahn as IMF Managing Director," PR 07/211, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07159.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07159.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07211.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07211.htm), respectively.

1 and, in this connection, reviewing developments in global liquidity and the transfer of resources to  
2 developing countries; considering proposals by the Executive Board to amend the Articles of  
3 Agreement; and dealing with disturbances that might threaten the system. It has no decision-making  
4 powers. The IMFC normally meets twice a year, in March or April and in September or October, at  
5 the time of the Spring and Annual Meetings. The *Development Committee* (formally, the Joint  
6 Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF on the Transfer of  
7 Real Resources to Developing Countries) is a joint World Bank–IMF body composed of 24 World  
8 Bank or IMF governors or their alternates; it advises the IMF and World Bank Boards of Governors  
9 on critical development issues and on the financial resources required to promote economic  
10 development in developing countries. Like the IMFC, it also normally meets twice a year.

11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 <sup>1</sup>The Executive Board's calendar for FY2008 and a description of its main activities can be found on  
13 the CD-ROM. General information on the governance of the IMF can also be found on the CD-ROM, in the *IMF*  
14 *Handbook*.  
15 \_\_\_\_\_

16 The financial year was marked by other major changes as well, as the Executive  
17 Board continued to look for ways to curb the Fund's administrative expenditures, approving  
18 a budget that would result in significant savings, and sought to enhance the Fund's cost-  
19 effectiveness through a variety of measures, including improved collaboration with other  
20 international and regional bodies (Box 5.4) and a restructuring of the staff.

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 **Box 5.4 Liaison with intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations**

23 The IMF has a long history of collaboration with numerous international and regional organizations.  
24 The IMF's collaboration with the World Bank is especially close. Areas in which the IMF and the  
25 World Bank collaborate include the Financial Sector Assessment Program, development of  
26 standards and codes, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process, the Heavily Indebted Poor  
27 Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, and debt sustainability analyses. In  
28 March 2006, the IMF's Managing Director and the World Bank's President created the External  
29 Review Committee on Bank-Fund Collaboration. The Committee solicited views from member  
30 countries on the nature and practice of Bank-Fund collaboration, which has been guided since 1989  
31 by a formal Concordat. The Committee released its report in February 2007. Following up on this  
32 report, known as the Malan Report, the Fund and the Bank developed the Joint Bank-Fund  
33 Management Action Plan, which builds on the existing division of labor between the two institutions  
34 and identifies a series of specific measures designed to improve coordination on country issues;  
35 enhance communication between the staff of the two institutions on common issues through new

1 electronic platforms; and improve incentives and central support for collaboration on policies,  
2 reviews, and other institutional issues (see Chapter 4).<sup>1</sup>

3 The IMF also collaborates with the regional multilateral banks—the African Development Bank, the  
4 Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the European Bank for  
5 Reconstruction and Development—including in country mission work and the provision of technical  
6 assistance, and attends meetings of the heads of the multilateral development banks. The Inter-  
7 American Development Bank and the African Development Fund participate in the Multilateral Debt  
8 Relief Initiative.

9 The IMF is a member of the Financial Stability Forum, which brings together government officials  
10 responsible for financial stability in the major international financial centers, international regulatory  
11 and supervisory bodies, and committees of central bank experts. It also works with standard-setting  
12 bodies such as the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the International Association of  
13 Insurance Supervisors. In 2000, Horst Köhler, then IMF Managing Director, established the Capital  
14 Markets Consultative Group to provide a forum for informal dialogue between participants in  
15 international capital markets and the IMF; the Group is chaired by the IMF's Managing Director.

16 Through its Special Representative to the United Nations, the IMF communicates and cooperates  
17 with the United Nations and a number of UN agencies. The Fund's offices in Europe liaise with the  
18 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization  
19 (WTO), the Bank for International Settlements, the International Labor Organization, and the  
20 institutions of the European Union. Collaboration between the IMF and the WTO takes place formally  
21 as well as informally, as outlined in their Cooperation Agreement of 1996. IMF staff participate in the  
22 Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance and the Aid for Trade Task Force.  
23 IMF staff also liaise with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and several regional groups  
24 in Asia, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

25 The IMF is an active participant in the meetings and activities of the major intergovernmental groups,  
26 including the Group of Seven (G-7), Group of Eight (G-8), Group of Ten (G-10), Group of Twenty (G-  
27 20), and Group of Twenty-Four (G-24). The G-10 countries participate in the IMF's General  
28 Arrangements to Borrow, an arrangement established in 1962 that can be invoked when  
29 supplementary resources are needed to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international  
30 monetary system.

31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 <sup>1</sup> See "Enhancing Bank-Fund Collaboration: Joint Management Action Plan," PR 07/235, on the CD-  
33 ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07235.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07235.htm). The Plan itself can be  
34 found on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/092007.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/092007.pdf).

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**1 Administrative and capital budgets**

2 On April 7, 2008, the Executive Board authorized total net administrative expenditures of  
3 \$868.3 million for FY2009; a limit on gross administrative expenditures of \$966.9 million; a  
4 one-time multiyear appropriation of \$155 million to cover the costs of institutional  
5 restructuring,<sup>10</sup> and an appropriation of \$48.3 million for capital projects in FY2009, as part  
6 of a \$138 million capital plan for FY2009–11. The Executive Board also took note of the  
7 indicative net budget envelopes of \$880 million and \$895 million for FY2010 and FY2011,  
8 respectively, that constitute the medium-term administrative budget (MTB).

9 The strategic considerations underpinning the budget are set out in the Statement by  
10 the Managing Director on Strategic Directions in the Medium-Term Budget, which was  
11 submitted to the IMFC at the time of the Spring Meetings.<sup>11</sup> The central goal is to reshape  
12 the institution so that it delivers more focused outputs cost-effectively in line with its  
13 comparative advantage. The MTB will, among other things, contribute in an important way  
14 to bridging the medium-term income gap. It delivers an unprecedented 13½ percent real  
15 reduction in spending. Nonetheless, it allows for real increases in resources for such priority  
16 activities as multilateral and regional surveillance through reallocations from other areas.

17 A central priority is to put in place a sustainable budgetary framework as a basis for  
18 eliminating the income-expenditure gap in FY2013. As Figure 5.1 illustrates, together with  
19 the new income model the MTB delivers a balance between income and expenditure in  
20 FY2013.

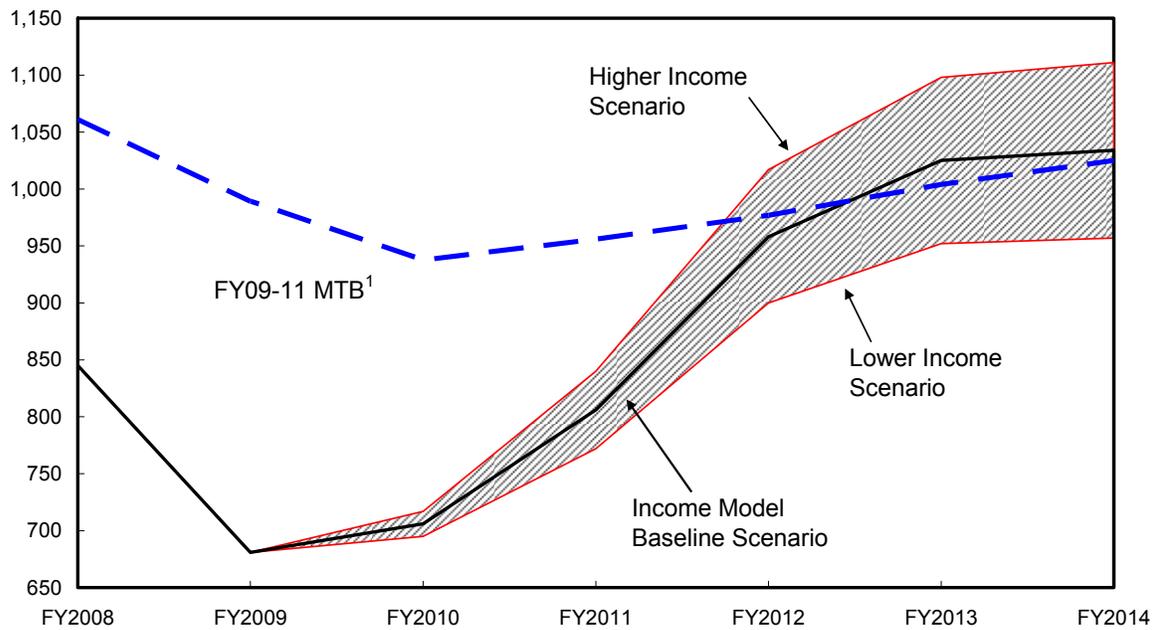
21

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<sup>10</sup>In addition, the Executive Board authorized the carry-forward and transfer of up to \$30 million of unused resources from the FY2008 administrative budget to the restructuring budget.

<sup>11</sup>The Statement by the Managing Director on Strategic Directions in the Medium-Term Budget, April 9, 2008, can be found on the CD-ROM and on the IMF's Web site at [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4243](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4243).

**Figure 5.1 Income model and medium-term budget**  
(In millions of U.S. dollars)



<sup>1</sup>Includes restructuring expenses, capital budget items expensed, and depreciation.

1

2

About \$100 million of this gap is met through expenditure reductions and the rest through income measures. The FY2008–10 MTB envisaged a real reduction of \$27 million dollars, or a cumulative 3 percent reduction in real terms. The FY 2009–11 MTB goes much further, incorporating an additional real reduction of \$100 million, or over 10½ percent. Thus, measured from the FY2008 budget, total savings amount to \$127 million, or over 13½ percent (Figure 5.2).

3

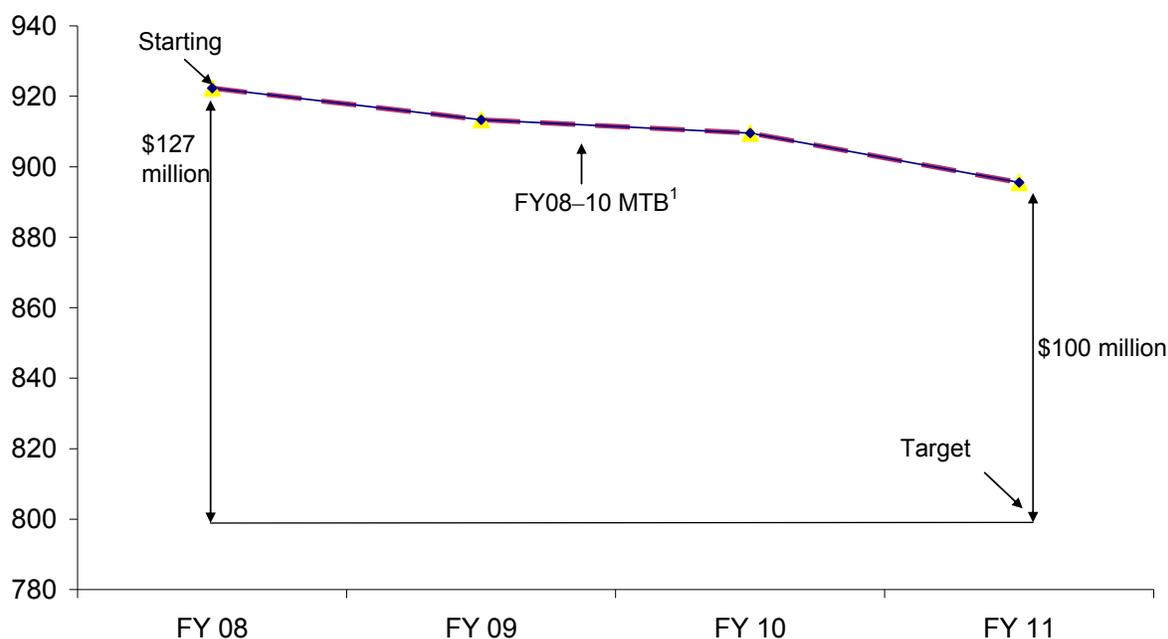
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6

7

**Figure 5.2 The FY08–10 MTB rolled forward**  
(In millions of FY08 dollars)



<sup>1</sup>FY11 figure is calculated assuming the policy stance of a one percent real reduction is continued.

The institution, therefore, has to meet its refocusing needs in the context of a shrinking budgetary envelope. The refocusing has five components:

- Strengthening multilateral surveillance through deeper analyses of macro-financial linkages, exchange rates, and spillovers originating from systemically important countries.
- Sharpening bilateral surveillance by applying cross-country perspectives to policy issues facing individual countries.
- Refocusing work in low-income countries to emphasize macro-stability, growth, and integration with the global economy.
- Streamlining capacity building by focusing on macro-critical activities and making technical assistance more demand-driven and externally funded.

- 1           • Modernizing the Fund by updating business practices and seeking efficiency  
2           gains.

3           The budgetary strategy incorporates four key considerations: providing a framework  
4 to help refocus the institution; putting in place a budget framework that will help close the  
5 income-expenditure gap in FY2013; maximizing reductions in nonpersonnel expenditure to  
6 better exploit technology and enhance organizational efficiency; and reducing personnel-  
7 related expenditures fairly, while preserving business continuity.

8           For the three-year period FY2009–11, there are \$33 million in nonpersonnel savings  
9 (FY2008 dollars). The remaining \$67 million in savings are personnel-related (Table 5.2).

10 **Table 5.2 Composition of savings**  
11 *(In millions of FY08 dollars)*

12	<b>Personnel savings</b>	<b>67</b>
13	Efficiency gains	27
14	Fewer programs, less review, fewer layers	16
15	Fewer resident representatives/overseas staff	7
16	Streamline systems and administrative processes	7
17	Refocus capacity building	5
18	Refocus low-income country work	2
19	Refocus surveillance	2
20	Eliminate policy overlaps	1
21	<b>Nonpersonnel savings</b>	<b>33</b>
22	Travel-related expenses	10
23	Less resident representative/overseas office costs	9
24	Increased leasing of headquarters-2 building	5
25	Funding investment office through	
26	the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP)	2
27	Annual Meetings' savings	2
28	IT services	2
29	Elimination of subsidies	2
30	More revenues	1
31	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

33           The shift of administrative resources across outputs and activities supports the  
34 refocusing of the Fund. It moves resources from noncore activities to the core business of  
35 the institution, and it reallocates resources within core activities toward priority areas. The  
36 MTB provides not only a larger share but also greater absolute levels of expenditure for  
37 certain key areas. The real budgetary allocations to (1) multilateral surveillance,  
38 (2) surveillance of systemically important countries, and (3) regional surveillance increase

(Table 5.3), while resource allocations to Fund-financed technical assistance and to country programs and support decline. If the Fund succeeds in raising more external financing for TA, the output loss in this area can be mitigated.

**Table 5.3 Real expenditure allocation, FY2008–11**

	In millions of FY2008 U.S. dollars		Real percent change
	FY2008	FY2011	
Surveillance			
Multilateral	28	31	9
Bilateral	158	137	-13
<i>Of which: Systemic countries</i>	44	53	20
Regional	18	22	18
Country programs	122	103	-15
Fund-financed capacity building	106	86	-19
Support	313	272	-13

Notes: Allocations are measured by the gross dollar inputs spent on each output area. Support and governance expenditures have not been allocated across outputs. Columns do not sum to the Fund total because of omitted categories.

The reduction in staffing is the principal reason for the sizable decline in expenditures since personnel outlays account for nearly three-fourths of the budget. Staff numbers will decline by 380 by FY2011, and most of the reductions are planned for FY2009. As Table 5.4 shows, personnel expenditures fall by 7½ percent in real terms in FY2009, even though average compensation costs are expected to rise 4½ percent. In the outer years, personnel expenditures are budgeted to decline modestly in real terms. Other noteworthy expenditure changes include the following:

- A 6 percent real reduction in travel for FY2009 resulting from a policy decision to reduce travel volumes, the introduction of a new travel policy, and more favorable airline pricing.
- Building and other expenditures fall 6 percent in real terms by FY2011, despite a small nominal rise, because of some necessary IT replacements and building refurbishments.

- As the Fund moves toward more external financing of TA and increased leasing of its properties, receipts are expected to rise over the MTB period, although these estimates are subject to uncertainty.

**Table 5.4 Administrative budget by major expenditure category, FY2008–11**  
(In millions of U.S. dollars, unless otherwise indicated)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY11 less FY08	
	Outturn	Budget	Outturn	Budget	Budget	Budget	
	(Nominal)						
Personnel	708	723	714	697	702	717	–6
Travel	93	100	94	98	99	99	–1
Building and other expenditures	160	161	158	163	165	170	10
Annual Meetings	5	0	0	0	5	0	...
Reserves	n.a.	10	n.a.	9	13	18	8
Gross expenditures	966	994	967	967	985	1004	10
Receipts	–69	–71	–76	–99	–105	–109	–38
Net administrative budget	897	922	891	868	880	895	–27
	(In FY2008 dollars)						
Personnel	736	723	714	670	649	637	–86
Travel	97	100	94	94	91	88	–12
Building and other expenditures	166	161	158	157	153	151	–9
Annual Meetings	6	0	0	0	5	0	...
Reserves	n.a.	10	n.a.	8	12	16	6
Gross expenditures	1,004	994	967	930	910	893	–101
Receipts	–71	–71	–76	–95	–97	–97	–26
Net administrative budget	933	922	891	835	813	796	–127

Source: Office of Budget and Planning.

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Looking at key output areas (Table 5.5), outputs that are expected to absorb greater shares of resources over the MTB are multilateral surveillance, regional surveillance, standards and codes and financial sector assessments, and technical assistance; smaller shares are expected for oversight of the international monetary system, generally available facilities, and facilities specific to low-income countries.

**Table 5.5 Estimated gross administrative budgeted expenditure shares, by key output area and constituent output, FY2008–11**  
(In percent share of total gross expenditures, excluding reserves)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Global monitoring	17.4	17.7	17.9	18.2
Oversight of the international monetary system	5.2	4.6	4.7	4.7
Multilateral surveillance	4.5	5.1	5.3	5.5
Cross-country statistical information and methodologies	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2
General research	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
General outreach	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5
Country-specific and regional monitoring	35.2	36.6	36.5	36.7
Bilateral surveillance	28.3	28.3	28.2	28.4
Regional surveillance	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.8
Standards and codes and financial sector assessments	3.8	4.6	4.6	4.5
Country programs and financial support	23.2	21.1	20.9	20.4
Generally available facilities	10.0	8.1	8.0	7.8
Facilities specific to low-income countries	13.2	13.1	12.9	12.6
Capacity building	24.2	24.6	24.7	24.7
Technical assistance	17.0	17.5	17.7	17.8
External training	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.9
Total, excluding reserves	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Memorandum items</i>				
Support	31.8	30.5	30.7	31.0
Governance	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.1

Source: Office of Budget and Planning.

Notes: Support and governance expenditures are allocated across outputs. Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

The Executive Board approved an appropriation of \$48.3 million for capital projects beginning in FY2009 and took note of the capital budget envelope of \$138 million for the following two years. The appropriation for FY2009 provides for expenditures over the next three years: over one-third is for building facility projects, and the remainder for information technology projects. In real terms, the capital budget reflects a significant downward adjustment. Over the last decade, real capital expenditures have varied because of, among other things, security enhancements for building facilities and IT expenditures, which are now complete. About one-half of the budget for FY2009 is for projects that preserve the integrity of the Fund's asset base, while most of the remainder includes new and revised projects that will help facilitate the institutional restructuring and refocusing.

**1 Human resources policies**

2 As part of the reforms undertaken by the IMF in order to refocus its activities, modernize  
3 operations, and improve cost-effectiveness and efficiency, a framework to restructure the  
4 staff was put in place in early 2008. The restructuring exercise had two main objectives: a  
5 reduction of approximately 380 positions, and a change in the staffing structure, with more  
6 reductions at the managerial and administrative support levels. Fund management was  
7 committed to meeting these objectives through a transparent and fair process centering on  
8 voluntary separations to the extent possible, recognizing that some mandatory separations  
9 would be needed in specific areas. With these objectives in mind, the restructuring  
10 framework comprised a voluntary phase and a subsequent mandatory phase, a range of  
11 financial and other incentives to encourage voluntary separations, and an independent panel  
12 of former senior IMF officials to make recommendations to management on individual  
13 separation decisions.

14 The voluntary phase of the restructuring was successful in meeting both objectives.<sup>12</sup>  
15 In implementing the restructuring exercise, measures were put in place to retain (to the  
16 extent possible) high-performing staff, and to ensure no undue impact on staff diversity.  
17 Outplacement assistance was provided to staff contemplating separation from the IMF, and  
18 significant efforts were made to identify employment opportunities in government agencies  
19 in member countries, other international financial institutions, and private sector  
20 organizations.

21 The IMF's staff is appointed by the Managing Director, and its sole responsibility is  
22 to the IMF. At April 30, 2008, the IMF had 1,950 professional and managerial staff and 636  
23 staff at other levels. The framework for human resource management in the Fund reflects  
24 evolving best practices that are consistent with the mission of the institution and the  
25 objective of maintaining the quality and diversity of its staff. The Articles of Agreement  
26 state that the efficiency and technical competence of Fund staff are expected to be of the  
27 "highest standards." In addition, all staff members are expected to observe the highest

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<sup>12</sup>See "IMF Completes Voluntary Separations Phase of Organizational Restructuring," PR 08/94, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0894.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0894.htm).

1 standards of ethical conduct, consistent with the values of integrity, impartiality, and  
2 discretion, as set out in the IMF Code of Conduct and its Rules and Regulations.

3 Recognizing that the membership must have at its service individuals who  
4 understand, through their professional experience and training, a wide range of  
5 policymaking challenges that confront country officials and who can offer policy advice  
6 appropriate to the circumstances of each of the 185 member countries, and in accordance  
7 with the requirement under the Articles of Agreement to pay due regard to the importance of  
8 recruiting personnel on a wide geographic basis, the Fund makes every effort to ensure that  
9 staff diversity reflects the institution's membership, actively seeking candidates from all  
10 over the world. It has established a Diversity Council to further its diversity agenda, building  
11 on the creation in 1995 of the position of Diversity Advisor. Progress is monitored and  
12 problems are reported in a transparent manner in various formats—including the *Diversity*  
13 *Annual Report*—on the IMF Web site.

14 Of the IMF's 185 member countries, 145 were represented on the staff at the end of  
15 April 2008. The IMF's organization chart and the list of the IMF's senior officers are on  
16 pages [00] and [00], respectively, of this Report. The organization of the IMF and the  
17 functions of its different departments are described in the *IMF Handbook*, which can be  
18 found on the CD-ROM. Also on the CD-ROM are tables showing the distribution of the  
19 IMF's staff by nationality, gender, and developing and industrial countries, and the staff  
20 salary structure. As of July 1, 2007, the salary structure for management was as follows:

21	Managing Director	\$420,930 <sup>13</sup>
22	First Deputy Managing Director	\$366,030
23	Deputy Managing Directors	\$358,600

24 The remuneration of Executive Directors was \$219,800; the remuneration of Alternate  
25 Executive Directors was \$190,140.

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<sup>13</sup>A supplemental allowance of \$75,350 is paid to cover expenses. See also "Terms of Appointment of Dominique Strauss-Kahn as Managing Director of the IMF," PR 07/245, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07245.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07245.htm).

**1 COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY**

2 Through its communication strategy and transparency policy, the IMF seeks to increase its  
3 accountability to stakeholders and build understanding of sound economic policies. With the  
4 guidance and support of the Executive Board, which regularly reviews the IMF's  
5 communication strategy and transparency policy, the IMF's efforts in these areas have  
6 increased significantly since the mid-1990s.

**7 Communication****8 *Communication strategy***

9 In June 2007, the Executive Board discussed the IMF's communication strategy, its fifth  
10 discussion on this subject since 1998.<sup>14</sup> It noted the progress made since its last review, in  
11 2005, in integrating communication activities with IMF operations and in increasing the  
12 IMF's openness and publication of information. Executive Directors broadly endorsed the  
13 overall direction of the communication strategy, which aims at building understanding and  
14 support for the role of the IMF and its reform agenda; further integrating communications  
15 with operations; and increasing the impact of the Fund's electronic and print products and its  
16 outreach activities. They agreed that communication was an important tool in promoting  
17 international economic and financial stability and helping countries address economic  
18 shocks and the challenges of globalization. They also underscored the importance of two-  
19 way communication between the Fund and its members and other stakeholders, so that the  
20 staff and the institution can benefit from, and respond appropriately to, external feedback.

21 With respect to the implementation of the strategy, the Board welcomed plans to  
22 harness new technologies and modern communication practices—such as more emphasis on  
23 Web-based technologies and better alignment of publications with institutional priorities—  
24 and to enhance the effectiveness of communication in languages other than English in a  
25 cost-effective manner. It also commended efforts to strengthen internal communication,  
26 which plays a valuable role in channeling external views, fostering dialogue, and facilitating  
27 understanding of the key issues faced by the Fund. Efforts to better disseminate such

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<sup>14</sup>See "IMF Executive Board Discusses the IMF's Communication Strategy," PIN 07/74, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0774.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0774.htm).

1 products as the *World Economic Outlook* and the *Regional Economic Outlooks*, in which the  
2 Fund presents its analysis of economic and financial developments, were acknowledged by  
3 the Board, and many Directors noted the valuable role played by press releases, press  
4 conferences, and other channels in supporting country surveillance activities.

### 5 ***Initiatives during FY2008***

6 In line with the strategy endorsed by the Executive Board, and the refocusing agenda, the  
7 IMF continued to enhance its communication and outreach during the financial year.  
8 Strengthening Web-based communication and expanding communication in languages other  
9 than English continued to be priorities. The Fund's recently revamped Web site was made  
10 more user-friendly and the search engine was upgraded. The site featured new items, such as  
11 landing pages on key policy issues, and Web sites for civil society organizations<sup>15</sup> and  
12 legislators.<sup>16</sup> Blogs were launched during the year by the Fund's Chief Economist and by its  
13 Fiscal Affairs Department, with the latter focusing on public financial management. Web  
14 sites in languages other than English that are heavily used in the Fund's work were  
15 revamped or added, and material (such as summaries of, and press releases about, the *World*  
16 *Economic Outlook* and the *Global Financial Stability Report*) for which demand is high  
17 were translated and posted on these sites. The Fund's *2007 Annual Report* was translated  
18 into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish, three more  
19 languages (Arabic, Japanese, and Russian) than in the past.

20 The Fund also sharpened the focus of its outreach, undertaking a number of outreach  
21 activities in FY2008 with parliamentarians and civil society organizations (CSOs). For  
22 example, in sub-Saharan Africa, it organized seminars for the Tanzanian Parliament's  
23 Finance and Economic Affairs Committee and CSOs in Dar es Salaam; for CSOs in  
24 Malawi;<sup>17</sup> and for parliamentarians, nongovernmental organizations, and trade unions in  
25 Liberia. Engagement with the media has deepened, as operational staff have increased their  
26 contacts, and multimedia technologies permit the IMF to reach a broader media audience.  
27 For example, a biweekly media briefing initially intended for media based in Washington,

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<sup>15</sup>See [www.imf.org/civilsociety](http://www.imf.org/civilsociety).

<sup>16</sup>See [www.imf.org/external/np/legislators/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/legislators/index.htm).

<sup>17</sup>See [www.imf.org/external/np/exr/cs/news/2008/022008.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/cs/news/2008/022008.htm).

1 D.C., has since developed into a webcast for journalists around the world. The Online Media  
2 Briefing Center, a password-protected multimedia site, allows journalists to access  
3 documents under embargo, participate in press briefings, and receive information and data  
4 tailored to their needs.<sup>18</sup>

### 5 **Transparency policy**

6 The IMF's transparency has increased dramatically in the past decade.<sup>19</sup> The current policy  
7 stems from an Executive Board decision in January 2001 to encourage the voluntary  
8 publication of country documents and more systematic publication of policy papers and  
9 associated Public Information Notices (PINs) that provide a summary of the Executive  
10 Board's assessment. The decision followed steps that had been taken since 1994 to enhance  
11 the transparency of the IMF and to increase the availability of information about its  
12 members' policies, while including safeguards to maintain the frankness of the IMF's policy  
13 discussions with members by striking the right balance between transparency and  
14 confidentiality. Members may request deletion of information not yet in the public domain  
15 that constitutes either highly market-sensitive material or premature disclosure of policy  
16 intentions.

17 Following their discussion in FY2006 of an IMF staff review of the transparency  
18 policy, Executive Directors called on the staff to produce annual updates on the policy's  
19 implementation for posting on the IMF's Web site. The third annual report on the  
20 implementation of the transparency policy, published in February 2008, presents  
21 information on documents considered by the Board between November 1, 2006, and  
22 October 31, 2007, and published by December 31, 2007, including publication rates for each  
23 type of document, lags between Executive Board discussions of documents and publication,

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<sup>18</sup>See CD-Box 5.1, "Disseminating information: the IMF's publishing operations and Web site," on the CD-ROM.

<sup>19</sup>The increased transparency of the IMF is widely recognized. In its *2006 Global Accountability Report*, One World Trust ranked the IMF third out of 10 intergovernmental organizations and fourth out of 30 intergovernmental and private transnational companies in terms of transparency. The report can be read at [www.oneworldtrust.org/?display=index\\_2006](http://www.oneworldtrust.org/?display=index_2006).

1 deletion of material from documents, and the publication behavior of member countries.<sup>20</sup>  
2 Publication rates for country staff reports remained high, at 83 percent.

### 3 **ACCOUNTABILITY**

#### 4 **The Independent Evaluation Office**

5 The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) was established in 2001 to conduct independent  
6 and objective evaluations of IMF policies and activities with a view to increasing the IMF's  
7 transparency and accountability and strengthening its learning culture. Under its terms of  
8 reference, the IEO is fully independent of IMF management and operates at arm's length  
9 from the IMF's Executive Board, to which it reports its findings.

10 After an external evaluation of the IEO in FY2006, the Executive Board established  
11 a framework in January 2007 to ensure more systematic follow-up and monitoring of the  
12 implementation of Board-endorsed recommendations in IEO reports. The framework calls  
13 for a forward-looking implementation plan to be presented to the Board soon after its  
14 discussion of an IEO evaluation, and for the state of implementation of actions set out in the  
15 plan to be monitored periodically. In FY2008, the Board discussed the first two  
16 implementation plans, which were developed for two IEO evaluations completed in  
17 FY2007: "The IMF and Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa," which was also discussed by the Board  
18 in FY2007, and "The IMF's Advice on Exchange Rate Policy," which was discussed early  
19 in FY2008 (see Chapter 3). Since not enough time had elapsed since these two  
20 implementation plans had been developed, the first periodic monitoring report, which was  
21 discussed by the Board in January 2008, covered earlier IEO recommendations that had  
22 been endorsed by the Board before the establishment of implementation plans. Executive  
23 Directors agreed that IEO recommendations have had a substantial impact on how the Fund  
24 operates, and that lessons have generally been absorbed and recommendations substantially  
25 implemented. They considered that, in the future, monitoring would benefit from greater  
26 specificity and clarity about the follow-up actions required and that periodic monitoring

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<sup>20</sup>See "IMF Releases Third Annual Report on the Implementation of the Transparency Policy," PR 08/18, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0818.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0818.htm). The report, "Key Trends in the Implementation of the Transparency Policy," can be found on the IMF's Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/013108.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/013108.pdf).

1 reports should not be produced until sufficient time—say, six months—had elapsed  
2 following Board discussion of management’s implementation plan. The Board reiterated that  
3 it was the responsibility of management and staff to prepare future monitoring reports, with  
4 periodic Board review, and reaffirmed that policy development, review, and  
5 implementation, including of Board-endorsed IEO recommendations, remained the  
6 responsibility of the Executive Board and management.<sup>21</sup>

7 During FY2008, the IEO also completed an evaluation of structural conditionality in  
8 IMF-supported programs, which the Executive Board discussed in December 2007 (see  
9 Chapter 4), and one of IMF corporate governance, including the role of the Executive  
10 Board,<sup>22</sup> and a draft issues paper on the IMF’s approach to trade policy issues was posted on  
11 the IEO’s Web site for public comment. In FY2009, the IEO will continue to work on an  
12 evaluation of the IMF’s interactions with member countries and begin an evaluation of the  
13 IMF’s research agenda. More information on the activities and reports of the IEO can be  
14 found on its  
15 Web site.<sup>23</sup>

## 16 **Risk management**

17 Since 2006, the IMF has had in place a comprehensive risk-management framework, which  
18 is overseen by the Executive Board. The Advisory Committee on Risk Management  
19 (ACRM)—which is chaired by one of the Fund’s Deputy Managing Directors and composed  
20 of six senior IMF staff members—supports the risk-management framework, meets  
21 regularly to discuss risk-management issues, and briefs management and the Executive  
22 Board on its work. The centerpiece of the ACRM’s work is the Annual Risk Management

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<sup>21</sup>See “Implementation Plan Following IEO Evaluation of the IMF and Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa,” PIN 07/93; “IMF Discusses Implementation Plan Following IEO Evaluation of the IMF’s Exchange Rate Policy Advice, 1999–2005,” PIN 07/119; and “First Periodic Monitoring Report on the Status of Board-Endorsed Recommendations of the Independent Evaluation Office,” PIN 08/25, on the CD-ROM or on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0793.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0793.htm), [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07119.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn07119.htm), and [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0825.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2008/pn0825.htm), respectively. The periodic monitoring report itself, which was produced in December 2007, is available on the IMF’s Web site, at [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/120307.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/120307.pdf).

<sup>22</sup>The Board discussed the evaluation of corporate governance as well as the implementation plan for the Board-endorsed recommendations in the evaluation of structural conditionality in early FY2009.

<sup>23</sup> See [www.ieo-imf.org](http://www.ieo-imf.org).

1 Report, which synthesizes the results of a comprehensive risk-assessment exercise covering  
2 strategic, core mission, financial, and operational risks.<sup>24</sup> During FY2008 further steps were  
3 taken to strengthen the modalities of the risk-assessment framework used.<sup>25</sup> The ACRM also  
4 played an important role in monitoring risks associated with the IMF's refocusing efforts.

### 5 **IMF audit mechanisms**

6 The IMF's audit mechanisms consist of an external audit firm, an internal audit function,  
7 and an independent External Audit Committee (EAC) that oversees the work of both.

8 The external audit firm, which is selected by the Executive Board in consultation  
9 with the EAC and appointed by the Managing Director, is responsible for performing the  
10 annual external audit and expressing an opinion on the financial statements of the IMF,  
11 accounts administered under Article V, Section 2(b), and the Staff Retirement Plan. At the  
12 conclusion of the annual audit, the EAC transmits the report issued by the external audit  
13 firm, through the Managing Director and the Executive Board, for consideration by the  
14 Board of Governors and briefs the Executive Board on the results of the audit. The external  
15 audit firm is normally appointed for five years. Deloitte & Touche LLP is the IMF's external  
16 audit firm.

17 The internal audit function is assigned to the Office of Internal Audit and Inspection  
18 (OIA), which independently examines the effectiveness of the risk-management, control,  
19 and governance processes of the IMF. OIA also serves as the secretariat for the ACRM. OIA  
20 conducts about 25 audits and reviews annually, which include financial audits, information  
21 technology audits, and operational and effectiveness audits. Financial audits examine the  
22 adequacy of controls and procedures to safeguard and administer the assets and financial  
23 accounts of the IMF. Information technology audits evaluate the adequacy of information  
24 technology management and the effectiveness of information security measures. Operational  
25 and effectiveness audits focus on processes and associated controls and the efficiency and

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<sup>24</sup>The IMF's safeguards assessments policy mitigates the risk that loans made to member countries will be misused (see CD-Box 5.2 on the CD-ROM).

<sup>25</sup>In June 2008, the Fund also launched an "integrity hotline"—a mechanism for enabling individuals inside and outside the Fund to raise concerns on a confidential basis about possible staff misconduct. The hotline is operated by an independent third party.

1 effectiveness of operations and their alignment with the overall goals of the IMF. In line  
2 with best practices, the OIA reports to IMF management and to the External Audit  
3 Committee, thus assuring its independence. In addition, OIA briefs the Executive Board  
4 annually on its work program and the major findings and recommendations of its audits and  
5 reviews. The quality of OIA's activities was assessed in early 2008 by an independent  
6 evaluation team of the Institute of Internal Auditors, which confirmed adherence to all  
7 applicable international standards.

8         The EAC is composed of three members selected by the Executive Board and  
9 appointed by the Managing Director, and oversees the IMF's accounting, financial  
10 reporting, internal control, and risk-management functions. The members serve for three-  
11 year terms on a staggered basis and are independent of the IMF. EAC members are nationals  
12 of different IMF member countries and must possess the expertise and qualifications  
13 required to carry out the oversight of the annual audit. Typically, candidates for the EAC  
14 have significant experience in international public accounting firms, the public sector, or  
15 academia.

16         The EAC selects one of its members as chair, determines its own procedures, and is  
17 independent of the IMF's management in overseeing the annual audit. However, any  
18 changes to the EAC's terms of reference are subject to Executive Board approval. The EAC  
19 typically meets in person in January, in June after the completion of the audit, and in July to  
20 report to the Executive Board. IMF staff and the external auditors consult with EAC  
21 members throughout the year. The 2008 EAC members are Mr. Satoshi Itoh, former  
22 Professor, Chuo University, Japan; Mr. Steve Anderson, Head of Risk Assessment and  
23 Assurance, Reserve Bank of New Zealand; and Mr. Thomas O'Neill, corporate director and  
24 former Chairman, PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting.

25

## Executive Directors and Alternates on April 30, 2008<sup>1</sup>

### **Appointed**

Meg Lundsager <i>Daniel Heath</i>	United States
Daisuke Kotegawa <i>Hiromi Yamaoka</i>	Japan
Klaus D. Stein <i>Stephan von Stenglin</i>	Germany
Ambroise Fayolle <i>Benoît Claveranne</i>	France
Alex Gibbs <i>Jens Larsen</i>	United Kingdom

### **Elected**

Willy Kiekens (Belgium) <i>Johann Prader</i> (Austria)	Austria Belarus Belgium Czech Republic Hungary Kazakhstan Luxembourg Slovak Republic Slovenia Turkey
Age F.P. Bakker (Netherlands) <i>Yuriy G. Yakusha</i> (Ukraine)	Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Georgia Israel Macedonia, former Yugoslav Republic of Moldova Netherlands Romania Ukraine

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<sup>1</sup>The voting power of each chair can be found in Appendix IV on the CD-ROM; changes in the Executive Board during FY2008 are listed in Appendix V on the CD-ROM.

*Elected (continued)*

José A. Rojas (Venezuela)	Costa Rica
Ramón Guzmán (Spain)	El Salvador
	Guatemala
	Honduras
	Mexico
	Nicaragua
	Spain
	República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Arrigo Sadun (Italy)	Albania
Miranda Xafa (Greece)	Greece
	Italy
	Malta
	Portugal
	San Marino
	Timor-Leste
Richard Murray (Australia)	Australia
Wilhemina C. Mañalac (Philippines)	Kiribati
	Korea
	Marshall Islands
	Micronesia, Federated States of
	Mongolia
	New Zealand
	Palau
	Papua New Guinea
	Philippines
	Samoa
	Seychelles
	Solomon Islands
	Vanuatu
GE Huayong (China)	China
HE Jianxiong (China)	
Jonathan Fried (Canada)	Antigua and Barbuda
Peter Charleton (Ireland)	Bahamas, The
	Barbados
	Belize
	Canada
	Dominica
	Grenada
	Ireland
	Jamaica
	St. Kitts and Nevis
	St. Lucia
	St. Vincent and the Grenadines

*Elected (continued)*

Jens Henriksson (Sweden)	Denmark
<i>Jarle Berge</i> (Norway)	Estonia
	Finland
	Iceland
	Latvia
	Lithuania
	Norway
	Sweden
A. Shakour Shaalan (Egypt)	Bahrain
<i>Samir El-Khouri</i> (Lebanon)	Egypt
	Iraq
	Jordan
	Kuwait
	Lebanon
	Libya
	Maldives
	Oman
	Qatar
	Syrian Arab Republic
	United Arab Emirates
	Yemen, Republic of
Abdallah S. Alazzaz (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia
<i>Ahmed Al Nassar</i> (Saudi Arabia)	
Perry Warjiyo (Indonesia)	Brunei Darussalam
<i>Chantavam Sucharitakul</i> (Thailand)	Cambodia
	Fiji
	Indonesia
	Lao People's Democratic Republic
	Malaysia
	Myanmar
	Nepal
	Singapore
	Thailand
	Tonga
	Vietnam
Peter Gakunu (Kenya)	Angola
<i>Samuel Itam</i> (Sierra Leone)	Botswana
	Burundi
	Eritrea
	Ethiopia
	Gambia, The
	Kenya
	Lesotho
	Malawi
	Mozambique

*Elected (continued)*

	Namibia
	Nigeria
	Sierra Leone
	South Africa
	Sudan
	Swaziland
	Tanzania
	Uganda
	Zambia
Thomas Moser (Switzerland)	Azerbaijan
<i>Andrzej Raczko</i> (Poland)	Kyrgyz Republic
	Poland
	Serbia
	Switzerland
	Tajikistan
	Turkmenistan
	Uzbekistan
Aleksei V. Mozhin (Russian Federation)	Russian Federation
<i>Andrei Lushin</i> (Russian Federation)	
Mohammad Jafar Mojarrad (Islamic Republic of Iran)	Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of
<i>Mohammed Daïri</i> (Morocco)	Algeria
	Ghana
	Iran, Islamic Republic of
	Morocco
	Pakistan
	Tunisia
Paulo Nogueira Batista, Jr. (Brazil)	Brazil
<i>María Ines Agudelo</i> (Colombia)	Colombia
	Dominican Republic
	Ecuador
	Guyana
	Haiti
	Panama
	Suriname
	Trinidad and Tobago
Adarsh Kishore (India)	Bangladesh
<i>K.G.D.D. Dheerasinghe</i> (Sri Lanka)	Bhutan
	India
	Sri Lanka

*Elected (continued)*

Javier Silva-Ruete  
(Peru)

*Héctor R. Torres*  
(Argentina)

Laurean W. Rutayisire  
(Rwanda)

*Kossi Assimaidou*  
(Togo)

Argentina  
Bolivia  
Chile  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Uruguay

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Congo, Democratic Republic of the  
Congo, Republic of  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Djibouti  
Equatorial Guinea  
Gabon  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Madagascar  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Niger  
Rwanda  
São Tomé and Príncipe  
Senegal  
Togo

## Senior officers on April 30, 2008

Jaime Caruana, Counsellor

Simon Johnson, Economic Counsellor

### **Area departments**

Benedicte Vibe Christensen  
Acting Director, African Department

David Burton  
Director, Asia and Pacific Department

Michael C. Deppler  
Director, European Department

Mohsin S. Khan  
Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department

Anoop Singh  
Director, Western Hemisphere Department

### **Functional and special services departments**

Michael G. Kuhn  
Director, Finance Department

Teresa M. Ter-Minassian  
Director, Fiscal Affairs Department

Leslie J. Lipschitz  
Director, IMF Institute

Sean Hagan  
General Counsel and Director, Legal Department

Jaime Caruana  
Director, Monetary and Capital Markets Department

Mark Allen  
Director, Policy Development and Review Department

Simon Johnson  
Director, Research Department

Robert Edwards  
Director, Statistics Department

### **Information and liaison**

Masood Ahmed  
Director, External Relations Department

Akira Ariyoshi  
Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Saleh M. Nsouli  
Director, Offices in Europe

Barry H. Potter  
Director and Special Representative to the UN Office at the United Nations

**Support services**

Serrano, Diana  
Director, Human Resources Department

Shailendra J. Anjaria  
Secretary, Secretary's Department

Frank Harnischfeger  
Director, Technology and General Services Department

Jonathan Palmer  
Chief Information Officer, Technology and General Services Department

**Offices**

Siddharth Tiwari  
Director, Office of Budget and Planning

Bert Keuppens  
Director, Office of Internal Audit and Inspection

Alfred Kammer  
Director, Office of Technical Assistance Management

Thomas Bernes  
Director, Independent Evaluation Office

## CD-ROM contents

*CD-ROM will include full text of print report in English, French, and Spanish (in PDF format), with additional material as listed below. Text will have links to relevant PINs, reports, etc., that are on CD-ROM.*

### **Chapter 1. Overview: Refocusing the IMF**

- Reports of the MD to the IMFC on the IMF's Policy Agenda (Oct. 2007 and April 2008)
- Board calendar for FY2008
- IMF Work Program Focuses on Key Aspects of Reform Agenda, PR 07/122
- IMF Interim Work Program Builds on Reform Progress, Focuses on Global Financial Stability, PR 07/295
- MD Statement on the Interim Work Program of the Executive Board, available via the Internet: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/121407.pdf>
- MD Statement on the Work Program of the Executive Board, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/053007.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/053007.pdf)
- CD-Box 1.1: Box on progress toward strategic objectives

### **Chapter 3. Fostering macroeconomic and financial stability and growth through surveillance**

#### **Bilateral surveillance**

- IMF Executive Board Adopts New Decision on Bilateral Surveillance Over Members' Policies, PIN 07/69
- Bilateral Surveillance Over Members' Policies—Executive Board Decision, June 15, 2007, available via the Internet: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0769.htm#decision>
- IMF Executive Board Holds Seminar on Globalization, Financial Markets, and Fiscal Policy, PIN 08/28
- CD-Table 3.1: Article IV consultations completed during FY2008

#### **Multilateral surveillance**

- WEO, summings-up of Board discussions, September 2007 and March 2008
- GFSR, summings-up of Board discussions, September 2007 and March 2008

#### **Multilateral consultation**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses Multilateral Consultation on Global Imbalances, PIN 07/97

- Staff Report on the Multilateral Consultation on Global Imbalances with China, the Euro Area, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, available via the Internet: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/2007/eng/062907.pdf>

### **Regional surveillance and outreach**

- CEMAC, PIN 07/81
- ECCU, PIN 08/12
- Euro area, PIN 07/89
- Transcripts of press briefings by APD on REOs, October 2007 and April 2008, [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2007/tr071019.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2007/tr071019.htm) and [www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080411a.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080411a.htm), respectively
- IMF Regional Economic Outlook for Europe Sees Need for Financial Sector, Fiscal, and Structural Reforms to Tackle Financial Turbulence and Sustain Growth, PR 07/252
- IMF Regional Economic Outlook for Europe Sees Slower Growth; Explores Challenges Policymakers Face in Seeking to Limit the Impact of Financial Turbulence, PR No. 08/89
- IMF Sees Continued Strong Growth, but also Heightened Policy Challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008, PR 07/249
- IMF Sees Latin America and the Caribbean Region Resilient So Far, But Risks Ahead,” PR 08/83, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0883.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0883.htm)
- IMF’s Regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia Sees Continued Positive Near-Term Economic Outlook, but the Region Faces Challenges to Sustain Ongoing Transformation and Reduce Unemployment, PR 07/241
- IMF Regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia Sees Sustained Growth, Highlights the Need to Contain Inflationary Pressures, PR 08/104
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Regional Economic Outlook, PR 07/237
- Sub-Saharan Africa Spring 2008 Regional Economic Outlook: Growth Expected to Remain Robust but Global Developments Cloud Prospects, PR 08/86, [www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0886.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2008/pr0886.htm).
- IMF Executive Board Discusses Selected Regional Issues in the Caribbean, PIN 07/124

### **Financial sector surveillance**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses a Work Agenda on Sovereign Wealth Funds, PIN 08/41

- Sovereign Wealth Funds—A Work Agenda, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/022908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/022908.pdf)
- IMF Executive Board Concludes Financial Soundness Indicators—Experience with Coordinated Compilation Exercise and Next Steps, PIN 07/135
- The Recent Financial Turmoil—Initial Assessment, Policy Lessons, and Implications for Fund Surveillance, [www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/040908.pdf)
- Transcript of joint IMF-Brookings Institution seminar, “Global Downturn? The World Economy in 2008,” available via the Internet: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2008/tr080131.htm>

#### **Framework of data provision for surveillance and other data initiatives**

- IMF Launches Revised Fiscal Transparency Code and Manual, PR 07/95
- IMF and World Bank Expand Databases on External Debt Statistics, PR 08/37
- CD-Box 3.1: ROSCs and Data Standards Initiatives

### **Chapter 4. Program support and capacity building**

#### **Financial assistance and policy advice**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses the Fund’s Role in the PRS Process and Its Collaboration with Donors, PIN 07/130
- IMF Executive Board Discusses HIPC Initiative and MDRI: Status of Implementation and the Financing of the Fund’s Concessional Assistance and Debt Relief to Low-Income Member Countries, PIN 07/122
- IMF Executive Board Modifies HIPC Initiative, PIN 08/03
- IMF Executive Board Discusses Operational Implications of Aid Inflows for IMF Policy Advice and Program Design in Low-Income Countries, PIN 07/83
- Food and Fuel Price Increases in Sub-Saharan Africa: Background Note for WAEMU Meeting on April 23, 2008, in Abidjan
- Progress Toward Nutrition, Health, Education, and Other Development Goals Off Track, Global Monitoring Report Finds, PR 08/75
- IMF Executive Board Discusses Aid for Trade, PIN 08/14
- IMF Executive Board Fully Restores Liberia’s IMF Status, Approves Financial Support Amounting to US\$952 Million and HIPC Decision Point Designation, PR 08/52
- CD-Table 4.1: Subsidy contributions for emergency assistance
- CD-Table 4.2: Subsidy contributions for the Exogenous Shock Facility

- CD-Table 4.3: Debt relief following implementation of the MDRI
- CD-Table 4.4: Implementation of the HIPC Initiative

#### **Program design**

- IMF Executive Board Concludes Review of Access Policy in the Credit Tranches and Under the EFF and the PRGF, and Exceptional Access Policy, PIN 08/30
- IMF Executive Board Discusses the Fund's Engagement in Fragile States and Post-Conflict Countries—A Review of Experience, PIN 08/43

#### **Building institutions and capacity**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses Strengthening Debt Management Practices: Lessons from Country Experiences and Issues Going Forward, PIN 07/60
- CD-Table 4.5: IMF Institute training programs, FY2006–08
- CD-Table 4.6: IMF Institute regional training programs

### **Chapter 5. Governance, organization, and finances**

#### **Quotas and voice**

- IMF Executive Board Recommends Reforms to Overhaul Quota and Voice—Key Elements of a Potential Package of Reforms, PR 08/64
- Report of the Managing Director to the IMFC on IMF Quota and Voice Reform, [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4242](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4242)
- IMF Board of Governors Adopts Quota and Voice Reforms by Large Margin, PR 08/93
- Resolution 63-2

#### **Adequacy of Fund resources**

- IMF Executive Board Recommends to Governors Conclusion of Thirteenth General Quota Review, PR 08/02
- IMF Board of Governors Approves Conclusion of Quota Review, PR 08/13

#### **Financial operations and policies**

- IMF Managing Director Strauss-Kahn Applauds Executive Board's Landmark Agreement on Fund's New Income and Expenditure Framework, PR 08/74
- Report of the Managing Director to the IMFC on a New Income and Expenditure Framework for the IMF, [www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4245](http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4245)
- IMF Board of Governors Approves Key Element of IMF's New Income Model, PR 08/101
- IMF Executive Board Approves Renewal of Standing Borrowing Arrangements, PR No. 07/270

**Management and organization**

- IMF Executive Board Moves Ahead with Process of Selecting the Fund's Next Managing Director, PR 07/159
- IMF Executive Board Selects Dominique Strauss-Kahn as IMF Managing Director, PR 07/211
- MD Statement on Strategic Directions in the Medium-Term Budget
- Terms of Appointment of Dominique Strauss-Kahn as Managing Director of the IMF, PR 07/245, available via the Internet:  
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07245.htm>
- Enhancing Bank-Fund Collaboration—Joint Management Action Plan, PR 07/235
- IMF Completes Voluntary Separations Phase of Organizational Restructuring, PR 08/94
- IMF Handbook/Organization of IMF, with descriptions of departments
- CD-Table 5.1: Distribution of professional and managerial staff by nationality
- CD-Table 5.2: Distribution of staff by gender
- CD-Table 5.3: Distribution of staff by developing and industrial countries
- CD-Table 5.4: IMF staff salary structure

**Communication and transparency**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses the IMF's Communications Strategy, PIN 07/74
- IMF Releases Third Annual Report on the Implementation of the Transparency Policy, PR 08/18
- CD-Box 5.1: Disseminating information: the IMF's publishing operations and Web site

**Accountability**

- IMF Executive Board Discusses Implementation Plan Following IEO Evaluation of the IMF's Exchange Rate Policy Advice, 1999–2005, PIN 07/119
- Implementation Plan Following IEO Evaluation of the IMF and Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa, PIN 07/93
- First Periodic Monitoring Report on the Status of Board-Endorsed IEO Recommendations and Management Implementation Plans, PIN 08/25
- CD-Box 5.2: Safeguards Assessment Policy

**Appendixes**

- I. International reserves
- II. Financial operations and transactions

- III. Press communiqués of the IMFC and the Development Committee (Oct. 2007 and April 2008)
- IV. Executive Directors and voting power
- V. Changes in membership of the Executive Board
- VI. Financial Statements for FY2008