

EB/LC/Mtg/10/2

July 21, 2010

To: Members of the Committee on Liaison with the World Bank and Other International Organizations (Mr. Bakker—Chair; Mr. Alazzaz, Mr. Callesen, Mr. Fayolle, Mr. Guzmán, Mr. Mozhin, Mr. Pereira, Mr. Rutayisire)

From: Jianhai Lin, Committee Secretary

Subject: **Committee on Liaison with the World Bank and Other International Organizations—Summary Record of Meeting 10/2**

Attached for the **information** of the Committee and other Executive Directors is a summary record of the June 22, 2010 meeting of the Committee on Liaison with the World Bank and Other International Organizations.

Att: (1)

Other Distribution:
Members of the Executive Board
Department Heads

SUMMARY RECORD
COMMITTEE ON LIAISON WITH THE WORLD BANK AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Meeting 10/2
June 22, 2010—2:30 p.m.

Members present: Messrs. Bakker (Chairman), Alazzaz, Bah (representing Rutayisire), Bergo (representing Callesen), Ducrocq (representing Fayolle), Hendrick (representing Pereira), Lushin (representing Mozhin), Pérez-Verdía (representing Guzmán) and Lin (Committee Secretary).

Also present: Messrs. Alnefaee, Choudhary, Giammarioli, Hills, Ismail, Jbili, Legg, Luo, Majoro, Mori, Nomura, Phan, Rediker, Sajkunovic, Tanasescu, von Stenglin, Ms. Zajdel-Kurowska, and the Secretary, Mr. Tiwari.

Agenda for the meeting: (i) Reform of the Annual Meetings; and (ii) background note on scope of the work of the Liaison Committee.

Reforming the Annual Meetings

Mr. Bakker invited Mr. Tiwari to report on his meeting with Minister Aganga, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, on the proposals for reforming the Annual Meetings. Mr. Tiwari confirmed that Mr. Aganga was fully supportive of the proposals.

Meeting participants reiterated their broad support for the ideas presented in the paper prepared by SEC,¹ including a shortened plenary and holding the plenary on Friday, October 8. However, a few speakers noted that they had not yet consulted with their authorities on the issue. Speakers discussed the following points:

- **General point:** Some speakers suggested that the 2010 Annual Meetings be treated as a “pilot” and that there be an opportunity to take stock after this year’s Annual Meetings to fine-tune the proposals for further improvement.
- **Governors’ speeches:** Most speakers were supportive of the idea that, instead of delivering their speeches at the plenary, Governors will be given the option of recording their speeches for broadcast on the web. However, one speaker had reservations about this. Another speaker noted that it would be important to

¹ EB/LC/10/1

communicate to Governors that their speeches would have a broader audience under the new proposals.

- **Scheduling conflicts:** Speakers sought clarity on how possible scheduling conflicts would be handled, particularly with the G-20, if the plenary were moved to Friday. Mr. Tiwari said that a morning plenary was currently the preferred option, which would allow time for the various G-group, bilateral, or other meetings to be held later that day and would also permit media coverage in Asia and Europe before the IMFC meeting.
- **Regional focus for plenary:** A few speakers were unconvinced about the idea of a regional focus for the plenary, as proposed in paragraph 7 of the paper. Mr. Tiwari noted that this was an idea for future years, and agreed that the plenary should remain a meeting of the Board of Governors and should not become an open debating session.
- **Costs:** Some speakers wondered about the cost efficiency of the new proposals. Mr. Tiwari noted that it was important to define first what the event should be for the Governors, and then to find the most cost effective way to deliver that outcome. For the 2010 Annual Meetings, the intention was to stay with the existing contracts with service deliverers, and then, following the Annual Meetings, to conduct a thorough assessment of where savings could be realized.
- **Development Committee:** One speaker noted the importance of the Development Committee remaining a joint Bank-Fund committee. Mr. Tiwari said that management and staff also shared this view. Mr. Bakker noted that, if the Fund truly valued the Development Committee, then the Fund Board should put more effort into considering the Committee's agenda when it came before the Board.

In light of the discussion, Mr. Bakker proposed the following course of action:

- The recommendation of the Liaison Committee to change the dates of the 2010 and 2011 Annual Meetings and a draft resolution to the Board of Governors in this regard should be circulated to the Executive Board, for approval on a lapse-of-time basis.
- The Chairman of the World Bank's Committee on Governance and Administrative Matters (COGAM) should be informed that the Liaison Committee had agreed to make this proposal to the Fund Board, which would then allow them to bring it to the Bank Board.
- The Liaison Committee should continue to be briefed by the Secretary on the Annual Meetings reform process on a regular basis, including on issues of a practical nature.

Scope of the Work of the Liaison Committee

Mr. Bakker referred to the background note on the possible scope of work of the Liaison Committee,² and asked Committee members and other participants for their views.

- Participants agreed that the Committee could play a role in fostering better Bank-Fund collaboration on well-structured and specific areas. Several speakers urged caution, suggesting that the Committee should not look for broad topics but rather undertake its work only when needed.
- Speakers also suggested that the Committee's work should focus on information sharing and any other issues that are of common interest (e.g., Annual Meetings reform and governance issues) to the Fund Board and its counterpart in the World Bank and other IFIs.
- Two concrete suggestions were made: (i) a short list of the policy issues on the Bank Board agenda for the period ahead could be prepared for the information of the Committee; and (ii) an informal meeting with COGAM could be held to discuss areas of possible cooperation in more detail.
- Speakers noted that there may be a role for the Committee in taking on issues related to the WTO and ECOSOC, but generally saw this role as limited and agreed that the primary focus of the Committee should be on the World Bank.

In closing, Mr. Bakker stressed that the Liaison Committee was a Board Committee and should therefore focus primarily on issues related to the work of the Boards of the Fund and the Bank, without straying into the purviews of management and staff. He also noted that (i) the idea of an informal meeting with COGAM could be pursued further; (ii) on the WTO, the IEO report on the Fund's involvement in trade policy could provide possible guidance; and (iii) on ECOSOC, more effort could be made at the Board level to explain the Fund's work to the permanent representatives at the United Nations. He suggested that the Committee Secretary would update the background note for the next Committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at 4:10 p.m.

² EB/LC/10/2