

**IMMEDIATE
ATTENTION**

EBD/10/67

October 7, 2010

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: **2012 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors—Precise Date and Location**

Attached for consideration by Executive Directors is a paper setting out recommendations regarding the precise date and location of the 2012 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors. A corresponding paper is being circulated to the Executive Board of the Bank for consideration.

It is not proposed to bring this matter to the agenda of the Executive Board for discussion unless an Executive Director so requests by the **close of business on Thursday, October 14, 2010**. In the absence of such a request, the proposed decision on page 5 will be deemed approved, and it will be so recorded in the minutes of the next meeting thereafter.

It is not intended that this paper will be published on the Fund's external website.

Questions may be referred to Ms. Psalida, SEC (ext. 35360).

This document will shortly be posted on the extranet, a secure website for Executive Directors and member country authorities.

Att: (1)

Other Distribution:
Department Heads

2012 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- *This paper lays out the relevant issues for choosing the city for the 2012 Annual Meetings of the Fund and the World Bank, and recommends Sharm El Sheikh.*
- *The paper also recommends that the 2012 Annual Meetings convene on Friday, October 12, 2012.*
- *The Committee on Liaison with the World Bank and Other International Organizations and the Bank's Committee on Governance and Executive Directors' Administrative Matters fully support these recommendations, which are also the recommendations of the Egyptian authorities.*

I. BACKGROUND

1. On September 29, 2009, the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group approved the Arab Republic of Egypt as the location for the 2012 Annual Meetings.¹
2. The Egyptian authorities have proposed two cities—Cairo and Sharm El Sheikh—for consideration as the site for the Meetings, and Executive Directors requested a further evaluation of the two sites to determine which one would best meet the Meetings' requirements. In addition, the two Boards have requested a proposal on the date for the 2012 Annual Meetings.

II. FACTORS RELEVANT FOR DECIDING THE CITY FOR THE 2012 ANNUAL MEETINGS

3. In assessing the facilities of a location to host the Annual Meetings, the staff focuses on the following main requirements:
 - a hall for accommodating plenary sessions, including the opening ceremonies;
 - related and supporting space, including a large number of ancillary meeting rooms and offices for delegations, observers, officers and staff as well as sufficient space for the press and for registration;

¹ See “2012 Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors” (EBD/09/62), Executive Board Decision DEC/A/13215 (9/4/09), and Board of Governors Resolution No. 64-4, entitled “2012 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group”.

- at least 6,050 hotel rooms of an appropriate standard (with additional rooms needed for other private sector participants not attending the meetings as well as press and civil society representatives;
- other requirements such as parking, transport, data and voice communications facilities, and an airport with adequate flight connections and facilities to handle the large number of passenger arrivals and departures; and
- capacity to provide the necessary security measures that will ensure the safety and security of all participants during the period of the Annual Meetings as well as to ensure that the Meetings can take place in a secure environment and without disruption.

III. STAFF'S ASSESSMENT OF THE FACILITIES OF THE TWO CITIES FOR THE 2012 ANNUAL MEETINGS

4. The Secretaries of the Fund and the Bank, together with staff from the Bank/Fund Conferences Office, in January 2010 visited Cairo and Sharm El Sheikh to assess the adequacy of each city's facilities and to describe to the authorities the various requirements for hosting the Annual Meetings. Following the visit, staff requested from the Egyptian authorities to furnish and confirm additional information for both cities.

5. The Egyptian authorities have now provided all the information necessary for an assessment of the two cities as hosts for the 2012 Annual Meetings. The findings of staff and an evaluation of each relevant factor for the choice of city is described below.

6. **Capacity for accommodating the plenary session.** Both cities will have conference venues with adequate capacity to accommodate the 3,500 persons plenary session. In Cairo, a temporary hall would be constructed within the compound of the Omar Khayyam Hotel & Conference Center, while in Sharm El Sheikh, the hall of the Conference Center would be expanded to meet the required capacity.

7. **Offices and supplementary meeting spaces.** Both cities will have an adequate number of meeting rooms and offices as well as sufficiently large registration area, press center and dining facilities. Specifically, in Cairo, the two hotel towers in Omar Khayyam Hotel & Conference Center would be converted into offices, while in Sharm El Sheikh, 800 new offices and eight new meeting rooms in addition to the existing 11 would be built. Cairo has additional support from embassies and consulates.

8. **Hotel capacity.** The Egyptian authorities have confirmed that both Cairo and Sharm El Sheikh have the required number of sleeping rooms—15,000 and 17,000, respectively—in the respective hotel categories as specified in the Requirements Manual. The authorities have also provided indicative 2012 average hotel rates, which point to lower prices in Sharm El Sheikh relative to Cairo (Attachment).

9. **Flight connections and other supporting infrastructure requirements.** Cairo International Airport is served by numerous international airlines and there are direct flights from major cities. Regarding Sharm El Sheikh, the Egyptian authorities have confirmed that Egypt Air would increase its current flight frequencies between Cairo and Sharm El Sheikh during the peak arrival and departure periods of the Annual Meetings. In addition, Egypt Air would provide direct flights from London, Paris, Frankfurt and Dubai to Sharm El Sheikh during these same periods.

10. **Security issues.** The Egyptian authorities have confirmed that they are able to support and provide security for the Meetings in both cities. However, it is staff's assessment that the high population density and the web of roads and bridges in Cairo would present a more challenging site than Sharm El Sheikh from a security point of view.

11. **Traffic conditions.** Sharm El Sheikh fares well in the area of traffic management as the city has no or minimum traffic concerns. This would significantly facilitate the movement participants and security management in Sharm El Sheikh compared to Cairo.

12. **International exposure.** Sharm El Sheikh is emerging as a center for international conferences since a number of such events either have taken or are planned to take place there. Holding the Fund and Bank Annual Meetings in Sharm El Sheikh would significantly enhance the image of the city as a site for major international meetings in the future.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

13. Although both cities meet the overall requirements for hosting the Annual Meetings, Sharm El Sheikh has a significant advantage in the areas of security and traffic. Both Cairo and Sharm El Sheikh have, or could develop in time for the 2012 Meetings, the capacity in terms of the plenary hall, supporting offices and meeting spaces, and registration, press and dining facilities. Moreover, both cities have the infrastructure and expertise to support the meetings. Although Cairo holds the advantage in terms of flight connections, staff has been reassured by the Egyptian authorities that Egypt Air will add a sufficient number of additional flights to and from Sharm El Sheikh during peak periods.

14. In view of the important relative advantage of Sharm El Sheikh as regards security and traffic, staff recommends to hold the 2012 Annual Meetings in Sharm El Sheikh. The Egyptian authorities also recommend the 2012 Annual Meetings be held in Sharm El Sheikh and, in this context, they have assured staff that they will provide all the supporting infrastructure, including security. The Committee on Liaison with the World Bank and Other International Organizations and the Bank's Committee on Governance and Executive Directors' Administrative Matters have met to consider these issues and have expressed full support for the staff recommendations.

15. As regards the date of the 2012 Annual Meetings, it is proposed that the Meetings convene on Friday, October 12, 2012. This date is in accordance with our current practice and pattern for overseas meetings.

PROPOSED DECISION

In accordance with Resolution No. 64-4 of the Board of Governors, the Executive Board hereby decides that the 2012 Annual Meetings will be convened in Sharm El Sheikh in the Arab Republic of Egypt on Friday, October 12, 2012.

**2012 AVERAGE HOTEL RATES IN CAIRO AND SHARM EL SHEIKH
FOR THE ANNUAL MEETINGS
(in U.S. dollars)**

Table 1. Cairo

Rating	Single Room	Double Room	1 Bedroom Suite
5 Stars	400	450	1350
4 Stars	270	300	1050
3 Stars	140	180	800

Table 2. Sharm El Sheikh

Rating	Single Room	Double Room	1 Bedroom Suite
5 Stars	300	350	950
4 Stars	250	270	850
3 Stars	130	165	700

Note: Rates include breakfast and are subject to prevailing taxes and service charges.