

Aan de Voorzitter van de
Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal
Binnenhof 4
Den Haag

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Onze Referentie
MINBUZA-2014.716179

Bijlage(n)
3

Datum 5 januari 2015

Betreft Verslag van de Nederlandse inzet bij de Jaarvergadering Wereldbank 2014

Op 11 en 12 oktober jl. vond de Jaarvergadering van de Wereldbank Groep (WBG) in Washington DC plaats. Op 29 september jl. is uw Kamer per brief (ref: 2014Z16832) geïnformeerd over de beoogde inzet, welke ik tijdens het Algemeen Overleg op 2 oktober jl. in detail heb besproken. In deze brief, die ik stuur mede namens de Minister van Financiën, koppel ik terug over de belangrijkste onderwerpen die tijdens de jaarvergadering zijn besproken en opgebracht:

- de internationale strijd tegen Ebola;
- het post-2015 proces;
- gedeelde welvaart;
- samenwerking Nederland-Wereldbankgroep binnen de Global Practice Water

De schriftelijke en de mondelinge interventie die Nederland, namens de Kiesgroep, heeft ingebracht in de vergadering, zijn bijgevoegd, evenals het communiqué voor de Development Committee.

De Jaarvergadering heeft aangetoond dat de Wereldbank een onverminderd sterke partner is bij de realisatie van de Nederlandse beleidsagenda en dat de inzet van de Wereldbank complementair is aan de Nederlandse agenda van hulp, handel en investeringen. Dit bleek bij de bespreking van de strijd tegen Ebola, de post-2015 agenda en de nieuwe Global Practice Water, maar ook tijdens de discussie over "shared prosperity" (gedeelde welvaart). Dit is één van de twee hoofddoelen van de Bank en één van de drie doelen van mijn beleid ("duurzame en inclusieve groei").

Ebola *"Ebola is the earthquake, the economic effects are the Tsunami."*

De Jaarvergadering van de Wereldbank werd overschaduwd door de Ebola-epidemie in Liberia, Sierra Leone en Guinee. De vergadering bood een uitgelezen kans om met alle relevante internationale spelers een strategie vast te stellen om de strijd tegen Ebola aan te gaan.

Tijdens de Jaarvergadering vond een *high level meeting* over de Ebola-epidemie plaats onder leiding van President Kim, in aanwezigheid van SGVN Ban Ki-Moon, MD Lagarde van het IMF, de regeringsleiders van de 3 getroffen landen, de president van de African Development Bank en vele ministers. President Kim was

zelfkritisch ten aanzien van de strijd tegen Ebola: *'We have to put out the fire: we were not prepared, no finance, no plan. The international community is way –way beyond the curve in tackling the outbreak, we have to speed up and scale up global response.'*

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De centrale boodschap was dat haast bij de bestrijding van de epidemie is geboden. Alle aanwezige landen werden opgeroepen zo spoedig mogelijk financiële middelen toe te zeggen om snelle actie ter bestrijding van de Ebola-epidemie mogelijk te maken. Daarbij ligt de nadruk op het 1.) stoppen van de epidemie, 2.) behandelen van zieken, 3.) organiseren van noodzakelijke (publieke) diensten, 4.) stabiliseren van de getroffen landen en 5.) voorkomen van infecties in niet-geraakte landen. Lagarde riep de getroffen landen op hun uitgaven op te voeren: *'The IMF does not say this very often, but in order to cure the epidemic, it is good to increase the fiscal deficit.'*

Tijdens de high level meeting heb ik aangekondigd dat Nederland de Zs. Ms. Karel Doorman zal inzetten, 16 miljoen euro versneld zal vrijmaken en ondersteuning in de vorm van douanesamenwerking zou aanbieden. Daarnaast heb ik het belang van goede coördinatie met VN, WHO, IMF en AfDB, onderstreept. Hiertoe heb ik tevens opgeroepen in het *oral statement tijdens het development committee*, waarbij ik ook mijn waardering heb uitgesproken voor daadkracht van de Wereldbank in de strijd tegen Ebola. Tot slot heb ik tijdens de high level meeting gewezen op de bereidheid van de private sector ter plaatse, zoals Heineken en Shell, om bij te dragen aan een oplossing. Op verzoek van de Guineese President Condé heb ik met hem gesproken over de gevolgen van de Ebola-epidemie voor zijn land. Condé dankte Nederland voor de inspanningen in de regio. Ik heb daarnaast gesproken over de mogelijkheid een bezoek aan Guinee te brengen als de omstandigheden dat weer toelaten, vergezeld door een handelsdelegatie.

De Wereldbankgroep heeft inmiddels duidelijk haar niche gevonden binnen de internationale inspanningen ter bestrijding van de Ebola-epidemie. Het comparatieve voordeel van de WBG zit in het feit dat de Ebola-epidemie veel verder gaat dan een gezondheids crisis. De directe en indirecte effecten van de epidemie zoals het niet oogsten van gewassen, stilvallen van handel en tot stilstand komen van publieke diensten (scholen en overheid) hebben ingrijpende sociale en economische gevolgen.

De Wereldbank heeft een viervoudige respons op de Ebola-crisis. Ten eerste is er in totaal 520 miljoen dollar beschikbaar gemaakt voor *emergency response*, waarvan ruim 420 miljoen dollar¹ *emergency financing is* vrijgemaakt vanuit het zogenaamde *Crisis Response Window* (CRW) binnen IDA. Ten tweede is een *Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction Trust Fund* (ERRTF) opgericht. Dit is complementair aan het CRW en mobiliseert extra donormiddelen om de langere termijn economische en sociale gevolgen van de crisis te verminderen, en een betrouwbaar en deugdelijk gezondheidssysteem op te bouwen in de getroffen landen. Ten derde wordt door de WBG in samenwerking met het IMF nagedacht over een *'rapid response mechanism'* om de mondiale reactie op toekomstige epidemieën die om snelle actie vragen te verbeteren en de kosten voor urgente mobilisatie van middelen te verkleinen. Ten vierde trekt de IFC tenminste 450 miljoen dollar uit voor investeringen in, en advisering aan banken en bedrijven in

¹ Stand 4 december 2014

de drie getroffen landen. Hiervan zal 200 miljoen dollar aangewend worden voor economisch herstel op de lange termijn middels investeringen in de financiële sector, 'small agribusiness', industrie, infrastructuur, gezondheidszorg en onderwijs.

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De Nederlandse bilaterale betrokkenheid in de door Ebola getroffen landen in West-Afrika is bescheiden. Echter, bovenstaande inzet van Wereldbankgroep via IDA en IFC bedraagt bijna 1 miljard dollar. Nederland is een grote donor van IDA (en IFC) en draagt zo via de Wereldbank substantieel bij aan het gecoördineerd bestrijden van de Ebola-epidemie.

Post-2015

De post-2015 agenda vormde een belangrijk onderdeel van de Jaarvergadering. Mede uit hoofde van mijn co-voorzitterschap van het *Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation* heb ik de Wereldbank opgeroepen een grotere rol te spelen in de discussie over het vervolg op de Millennium Ontwikkelingsdoelen, en zijn ondersteunende en adviserende rol daarin verder uit te bouwen. Met de oprichting van de 'Global Practices' lijkt de Bank klaar te zijn om effectief bij te dragen aan de post-2015 agenda en de Duurzame Ontwikkelingsdoelen. In mijn bilaterale gesprek met President Kim heb ik het belang van de Bank in het post-2015 proces onderstreept, mijn waardering uitgesproken voor de coördinatie met de VN op dit onderwerp en de wens geuit dat de vaart in het proces blijft. Ik heb voorts geparticipeerd in twee 'side-events' over Post-2015 en *Financing for Development*. In een ontmoeting met o.a. SGVN Ban-Ki Moon, de heer Mohieldin (*special envoy* post-2015 van de Wereldbank) en mevrouw Ngozi (Minister van Financiën van Nigeria) is gesproken over de voorbereidingen van de Addis Abeba conferentie in 2015, waarbij de kernconclusie is dat de Wereldbank een cruciale rol heeft te vervullen bij het financieringsaspect van de post-2015 doelstellingen.

Het onderwerp *domestic resource mobilization* nam een prominente plaats in de discussie in. Ik heb daarbij het belang onderstreept van goede belastingheffing, facilitatie van *remittances* en eerlijke belastingverdragen. Ook heb ik gepleit voor een focus op fragiele staten, actieve participatie van de private sector in het post-2015 proces en *commitment* van de betrokken landen. Net zoals bij de voorjaarsvergadering heb ik ook deze keer in het kader van mijn co-voorzitterschap van het *Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation* een aantal gesprekken gevoerd. Ditmaal heb ik onder andere gesproken met Minister Gondwe van Malawi, co-voorzitter van het Global Partnership.

Shared Prosperity

De Wereldbank is een onverminderd sterke partner is bij de realisatie van de Nederlandse beleidsagenda en dat de inzet van de Wereldbank nauw aansluit op de Nederlandse agenda van hulp, handel en investeringen en daaraan tevens *complementair* is. Een voorbeeld hiervan is de tweede hoofddoelstelling van de Wereldbank, die deze vergadering centraal stond: gedeelde welvaart. Deze doelstelling bouwt voort op de bestaande zorgen dat een eenzijdige focus op groei in inkomen per capita van de bevolking niet voldoende is als ontwikkelingsdoelstelling. De gedeelde welvaart doelstelling sluit dan ook naadloos aan op mijn eigen beleidsagenda en laat zien dat de Wereldbank een hefboom is voor Nederlands beleid op dit punt.

Global Practice Water

Samen met President Kim heb ik een convenant (MoU) getekend, waarin is vastgelegd dat Nederland en de Wereldbank nauw zullen samenwerken bij het opzetten van de nieuwe Global Practice Water. Het mede vormgeven en invullen van deze Global Practice biedt Nederland de kans om invloed uit te oefenen op het nieuwe beleid voor de watersector – en daarmee op de grote leningenportefeuille van de Bank op dit terrein. Tevens is het een kans voor Nederlandse bedrijven en kennisinstellingen om structureel met de Bank samen te gaan werken.

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Nederland is bereid om de Global Practice Water te ondersteunen met 50 miljoen dollar, verspreid over 5 jaar (2015-2019). Hiermee worden de bestaande *Multi-donor Trust Funds* (MDTF's) voor het *Water and Sanitation Program* (WSP) en het *Water Partnership Program* (WPP) onder één paraplu gebracht. Dit is in lijn met mijn beleid om nieuwe en bestaande Trust Funds te consolideren in overkoepelende (*umbrella*) fondsen. De eerste resultaten – afname aantal Trust Funds waaraan Nederland bijdraagt – zijn al zichtbaar. Per 1 juli 2014 is het aantal actieve Nederlandse Trust Funds bij de WB en IFC teruggebracht van 185 tot 119. Hiermee neemt Nederland tevens leiderschap in het consolidatieproces van de Wereldbank Groep richting meer overkoepelende trustfunds.

Ik heb bij president Kim aangegeven dat het model van samenwerking in partnerschappen wat mij betreft navolging verdient, en aangeboden de dialoog aan te gaan voor andere Global Practices waar Nederlandse kennis en kunde duidelijke meerwaarde kunnen hebben.

Overig

Ik heb en marge van de Jaarvergadering diverse gesprekken gevoerd. Met Managing Director Sri Mulyani Indrawati sprak ik over de borging van de participatie van NGO's in het proces van de herziening van de *safeguards* (toezegging aan uw Kamer in het AO Wereldbank 2 oktober jl.), hetgeen door de Bank gestand is gedaan middels een consultatie op 10 november j.l. in Brussel. Ik heb mij voorts nader laten informeren over het brede proces van de *safeguards* herziening. Ik blijf nauw betrokken bij dit onderwerp en ik blijf inzetten op mechanismen die effectief, gebruiksvriendelijk en overkoepelend zijn. Tevens herhaalde ik in mijn gesprek met Sri Mulyani Indrawati de oproep tot sober beloningsbeleid en heb ik met haar van gedachten gewisseld over de rol van de Bank in fragiele staten.

Tijdens het voornoemde bilaterale onderhoud met President Kim sprak hij zijn waardering uit voor de relatie tussen Nederland en de Bank. Ik heb opnieuw steun uitgesproken voor het hervormingsproces dat onder zijn leiding is ingezet, per 1 juli jl. zijn beslag heeft gekregen en momenteel verder wordt uitgerold. President Kim benadrukte dat de Bank beseft welk belang Nederland hecht aan kostenbesparingen.

De Minister voor Buitenlandse Handel
en Ontwikkelingssamenwerking,

Lilianne Ploumen

Oral statement
(11 October 2014, 2pm)

(Check against delivery)

[Introduction]

1. Disease, war and poverty. John F. Kennedy described them as “common enemies of man.” We come together at a crucial time in the battle against all three enemies and they are the three themes I want to address on behalf of my constituency.

[Disease]

2. First, disease. The world is alarmed by the evidence of the spread of Ebola in West Africa. The epidemic threatens to undo years of development progress there and to undermine public health everywhere. We welcome a swift and strong response by the World Bank Group, the IMF and the African Development Bank.
3. In the coming period, we will be looking to the World Bank Group especially for measures to bolster the economies of the most affected countries – we don’t want the economic impact to kill even more people than the disease does. Of course, close collaboration with the World Health Organization and other UN agencies and international partners remains imperative. However, action is more important than consensus. And we must learn from this for a next time. When disease flares up, money and action should follow – and follow quickly. The best and the brightest, many of whom are employed here, should figure out the trigger mechanism – and figure it out quickly.

[War]

4. Then our second common enemy: war. South Sudan, Central African Republic, Iraq, Syria – today’s world is home to many fragile and fracturing states, with millions of people imperilled and impoverished.
5. Our constituency has also been directly affected. We welcome the Bretton Woods institutions’ continued support of Ukraine.
6. In these times of disease and disorder, we urge the World Bank Group to stand by its clients and act as an anchor of stability.
7. Programs and projects in especially fragile states must be, as much as possible, sheltered from budget cuts – here in Washington, they

may seem like small budget line items, but take away a few of these line items and things may unravel in some far-off and fragile place.

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8. It is our duty as governors to make sure that the World Bank Group plays a stabilizing role in today's world, while sticking to its mandate and maintaining focus on its central mission, revolving around the twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

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[Poverty]

9. All over the building, I have seen stickers with the text "End Poverty". My constituency agrees that poverty, the third common enemy of humanity, has not just an absolute but also a relative dimension, a shared prosperity dimension. Inequality matters.
10. Our debate today about shared prosperity comes at the right time. Although the global economy is recovering, the recovery is vulnerable and uneven. In a number of countries, both advanced and emerging, inequality has increased – a worrisome trend. The World Bank Group must bring to bear the full weight of its financial and intellectual resources to make sure that nobody gets left behind, that everyone gets their fair share of prosperity.
11. Just a few weeks ago, we heard at the UN how much ground we have left to cover if we want to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on, for example, health and environment. That is why I urge the World Bank Group to put on a final sprint to help us achieve all of the Millennium Development Goals. The Group should also step up its role in the discussions about the successor framework.

[The organization]

12. Now and in the future, we need a "solutions bank", in the words of the President. Since July 1, we have the Global Practices as the new brain trusts. My constituency looks forward to working with all of them. During these Annual Meetings, with the signing of an MoU, the Netherlands started out by partnering with the Water Global Practice.
13. In this phase of the reorganization, I wish to call on Management to provide World Bank Group staff – the real capital of the organization – with much-needed and much-deserved clarity, while at the same time maintaining the momentum on the expenditure review's measures of austerity. And this is not austerity for its own sake – in fact, every dollar saved will help save lives, as it will fund an increase in IBRD lending.

[As part of this effort, we urge the World Bank to:

- First, rationalize salaries and benefits so they are in line with the Bank's development mandate.
- Second, conduct inclusive consultations for the new safeguards policy.
- Third, avoid a race to the bottom in procurement decisions and allow quality and value for money to help countries develop in a sustainable way.
- Finally, align trust funds with core business, and reduce unnecessary fragmentation. We as donors will play our part.]

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[Conclusion]

14. While all the internal housekeeping needs to continue, our focus should turn ever more toward the outside world, where disease, war and poverty demand our attention and will continue to do so for some time to come – even 70 years after this institution was founded. Golda Meir, the late leader of one of our constituency's members, once said: "Being 70 is not a sin." In the case of the World Bank Group, still being alive and kicking at that age is far from a sin, as disease, disorder and destitution are still very much with us. 70 years is not enough. Thank you, Mr. President.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and
the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries**

Washington, DC, 11 October 2014

Statement by Lilianne Ploumen

**Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,
representing the constituency comprising Armenia, Bosnia and
Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel, Macedonia,
Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Romania and Ukraine**

Introduction

1. The Development Committee meets (DC) today after several DCs during which we discussed the change process at length. – Our constituency reiterates its support and welcomes the creation of the Global Practices per July 1. In this phase of the reorganization, we wish to call on management to maintain the momentum on the expenditure review's measures of austerity, while at the same time providing WBG staff – the real capital of the organization – with much-needed and much-deserved clarity. Nevertheless, while this internal housekeeping needs to continue, our focus should turn ever more toward the outside world, where disease, war and poverty demand our attention.
2. First of all there is the alarming evidence of the spread of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. Our Constituency is deeply concerned about this growing humanitarian crisis with large socioeconomic consequences. We welcome the swift and strong response by the

World Bank Group (WBG). In the coming period, the World Bank Group shall concentrate especially on measures to boost the economies of the most affected countries. Of course, close collaboration with the IMF, World Health Organization, and other UN agencies and international partners is imperative.

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3. Secondly, the situation in South Sudan and the Central African Republic is still fragile, and conflicts in Iraq and Syria have been affecting millions of people. Also our constituency has been affected by fragility. We welcome the continued support of both the World Bank Group and the IMF in helping Ukraine addressing its economic challenges.
4. In these times of crises, we urge the WBG to stand by its client countries, help them absorb the economic shocks, while building resilience and laying the foundations for medium-term growth. It is our duty as governors to make sure that the WBG continues to play this role while sticking to its mandate and maintaining focus on its central mission of achieving the twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

Promoting Shared Prosperity

1. Although the global economy is still recovering, the recovery is vulnerable and uneven. Inequality has risen in recent years in a number of countries, both advanced and emerging, which is a worrisome trend. Our constituency therefore welcomes the fact that this DC agenda revolves around the goal of promoting shared prosperity.
2. Promoting shared prosperity at country level involves different country-specific challenges and trade-offs. We encourage the WBG to apply a tailor-made approach using all knowledge and expertise across the Group. A One World Bank Group approach is key to delivering and implementing this new vision of shared prosperity. With

the Global Practices, lessons learned on one side of the world can become lessons applied on the other side of the world – nevertheless, we should acknowledge that every country is different and therefore methods to boost shared prosperity that have worked in one country might not work in the next. Country-level expertise should remain the bedrock of any country-level program.

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3. Our constituency would like to highlight in particular the importance of infrastructure, often the way to provide more people with access to the growth process and to thus boost shared prosperity. In that context, my constituency supports the current Global Infrastructure Facility proposal. The GIF aims at playing a useful role through leveraging public capital with private sector funds to finance the infrastructure gap. It can help build pipelines of well-prepared and efficiently financed bankable projects. With this instrument, the WBG can be of added value in addressing the challenges of infrastructure finance and development.

Gender Equality Agenda at the World Bank Group

4. Our constituency reiterates the importance of gender equality both intrinsically and as a means of pursuing the Bank Group's goals of reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. We therefore welcome that this development committee will be used to discuss the review of the progress in the implementation of the WBG Gender Equality Agenda.
5. Our constituency supports the recommendations stemming from '*The Update on the Implementation of the Gender Equality Agenda*'. Firstly, the level of ambition needs to be raised in line with the WBG strategy that has been endorsed by the Governors last October, in order to achieve the goal of ending poverty by 2030. Secondly, the reorganized structure of the Bank around Global Practices (GPs)

should enhance the capacity of the WBG to assist client countries with improving gender outcomes.

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6. Our constituency shares the analysis of the WBG that it is insufficient to solely work on the economic empowerment of women, but that we also need to strengthen political participation, eradicate violence against women (including early- and forced marriages) en bolster sexual and reproductive rights and health, also in conflict situations.

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Macro-Economic Developments in Low-Income Developing Countries

7. Our constituency welcomes the discussion on the Macro-Economic Developments in Low-Income Developing Countries (LIDCs). As LIDCs have distinctive economic and social performance aspects, it makes sense to treat them as a separate subgroup within the wider category of developing countries. This nonetheless heterogeneous group contains large exporters, frontier market economies, and fragile/conflict-affected states (FCSs). We call upon the WBG to ensure that the reorganisation and budget cuts will not affect the Bank's potential for working in fragile and conflict affected states. Having high quality staff closer to host countries through the hub in Nairobi as well as in country offices has made a substantial difference which enables important further work.
8. We underline the effort of the WBG to reaching the vision of shared prosperity in fragile states. After all, a disproportionate part of the poorest people in the world lives there. Moreover, as FCSs will form IDA's main client base in the future, we need to strengthen our engagement in these countries to be successful. Our constituency reiterates that this requires a less risk-averse management framework.

Reform of the Safeguard policy

9. We welcome the ongoing review of the safeguard policy and encourage the Bank to aim for a new safeguard policy that receives

broad support. Our constituency therefore invites all CSOs working on strong safeguards to engage constructively in the consultations with the WBG that have recently been opened.

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10. Our constituency reiterates its view that effective safeguards are core contributors to achieving development impact. Safeguards allow the WBG to maximise the positive impacts of its activities, and minimise the potential harm to the environment and communities affected.

Bijlage 3: Communiqué van het Development Committee van 11 oktober 2014:

Development Committee Communiqué
Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund
on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries
Washington, DC October 11, 2014

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1. The Development Committee met today, October 11, 2014, in Washington, D.C.
2. The global economy remains on a cautious watch and is subject to considerable downside risks. Shared prosperity will require inclusive economic growth, job creation, and a sustained multilateral effort to empower the poorest and most vulnerable. We encourage the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to work together with member countries to implement bold policies to boost growth and to build resilience.
3. We are pleased that this year's Global Monitoring Report (GMR) tracks, for the first time, the progress made in pursuit of the WBG's goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner, while continuing to report on the status of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The GMR's coverage of inequality between the bottom 40 percent and the rest of the population, including high-income countries, provided a strong basis for our discussion of shared prosperity.
4. We welcome the discussion on promoting shared prosperity and the WBG's role in supporting investment in human capital, improved access to markets, structural reforms, financial inclusion, infrastructure, improved tax and transfer systems, including social safety nets, and addressing climate change. We underline the importance of policies and institutions to promote an enabling environment for the development of the private sector, which is critical for investment, job creation, and inclusive and sustained economic growth. We call on the WBG to support countries to prioritize and implement tailored policies in these areas, to track results and impacts, and to build statistical capacity. We welcome the IMF's commitment to provide support in its areas of special expertise, including the design of tax policies and fiscal reforms.
5. Inclusiveness is at the core of shared prosperity. We stress the importance of continuing the WBG's focus on gender. We encourage the WBG to deepen gender integration across its operations and to focus more clearly on implementation and impact. We look forward to the WBG's updated Gender Equality and Development Strategy, as well as future updates.
6. IDA countries have recorded strong growth since 2000 and have shown impressive resilience during the global economic crisis. However, a fifth of IDA countries have not recorded per capita output growth since then and are vulnerable to adverse shocks, including to natural disasters, epidemics, and economic and financial sector vulnerabilities that can quickly reverse the progress achieved. We ask that the IMF and the WBG continue to monitor economic risks and vulnerabilities.

7. We commend the WBG for its leadership and quick response to the Ebola crisis. We welcome the WBG and IMF's rapid mobilization of emergency funding to support treatment and containment. We are encouraged by the joint effort of the international community in West Africa and underscore the importance of providing additional and ongoing coordinated support on the ground for the World Health Organization's Ebola response Road Map. Beyond the human tragedy, economic losses in these countries are devastating. Swift and coordinated action and financial support are critical to contain and mitigate both direct and long-term economic impacts of the crisis, and build capacity to effectively deal with epidemics.

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8. We call for targeted actions and support for countries in turmoil and transition in the Middle East and North Africa and in other regions. We emphasize the importance of the WBG and IMF providing adequate support to these countries. We encourage both institutions to continue to focus on immediate needs and help set the groundwork for expanded engagement when more stable circumstances allow for it.

9. Fragile and Conflict Situations need a distinctive focus and assistance adapted to their specific challenges. We call for stronger commitment to achieve concrete, measurable impact, while working to better understand the drivers of conflict. Small island states remain vulnerable to economic shocks and natural disaster risks, necessitating support adapted to their unique needs. We encourage the WBG to further promote and support increased private investment opportunities in these countries.

10. We commend the WBG for integrating climate change and disaster risk management into country planning, strategies, and financing. We ask the WBG to continue working on climate change, consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to contribute to the success of the November Conference of the Parties in Lima, Peru.

11. Investment in infrastructure, including energy, is crucial to sustaining economic growth and ensuring shared prosperity. We encourage the WBG to continue its operational and advisory support to improve infrastructure. Funding for the Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) is a welcome step to launch a platform that will facilitate the mobilization of private capital for infrastructure projects. We are hopeful that the GIF will soon acquire the required scale and ambition. We look forward to increased cooperation to build a pipeline of commercially, ready-to-finance viable projects. We call on the WBG and IMF to support countries to deliver efficient, reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy, including through the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.

12. We congratulate the WBG for delivering increased lending, investment, mobilization of resources, including private sector investment, and advice this past fiscal year, while undergoing a fundamental internal change process. We expect an important shift in the way the WBG operates to deliver more efficient support to client countries, drawing on partnerships, integrated regional approaches, and knowledge sharing, including South-South cooperation, responding to client needs and reacting quickly to unexpected shocks. We will monitor the implementation of the change process and expect better lending quality with increased development impact. We welcome the WBG's reiterated commitment to diversity and inclusion,

which is crucial to its institutional goals. We encourage the WBG to make progress in achieving the agreed diversity targets as quickly as possible.

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13. The UN-led post-2015 Development Agenda provides an opportunity to build a model of development that is more inclusive and sustainable. We urge the WBG and the IMF to support the international efforts to reach agreement on the post-2015 development goals. We note the particular significance of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July 2015. We expect IDA-17 to be critical for accelerating progress on the MDGs, and the WBG, in general, for successful implementation of the new development agenda.

Onze Referentie
MINBUZA-2014.716179

14. We remain committed to the completion of the 2010 WBG shareholding realignment and urge all members who are yet to subscribe to their allocated IBRD and IFC shares to do so. We remain fully committed to concluding the next shareholding review in 2015.

15. The next meeting of the Development Committee is scheduled to take place on April 18, 2015, in Washington, DC.