Disclosure and Access to Information Policy - Briefing Session
At the Bank Group Annual Meetings 2013 in Marrakech

INTRODUCTION

Following the Boards of Directors’ approval of the Bank Group’s Disclosure and Access to Information (DAI) Policy on May 2, 2012, the Policy became effective on February 3, 2013. The DAI Policy re-affirms the Bank’s commitment to the principles of good governance, particularly transparency, accountability and sharing of information, mostly pertaining to its operations. The Policy reflects a paradigm shift from a restricted disclosure process based on a positive list of documents to be disclosed, to a presumption of disclosure with limited exceptions (the negative list). In other words, the Bank commits itself to make public all information in its possession, with a limited number of exceptions. For stakeholders, this will mean a greater access for policies, strategies as well as key decisions made during project development and implementation. To facilitate the implementation of the DAI policy, Management is carrying out a series of activities including publication of Disclosure Handbook, a dedicated webpage, awareness and training programs, as well as adequate advisory services to staff and external stakeholders on the new disclosure requirements.

1) DAI BRIEFING SESSION – CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FORUM – TUESDAY 28 MAY

Civil society representatives are invited to the CSO Forum to share and contribute to various issues on development relevant to their work, with the objective to strengthen collaboration between the Bank and the CSOs.

OBJECTIVE

The DAI Briefing Session at the CSO Forum will provide the opportunity to present the Bank's new Policy and how it affects the operationalization of its activities.

The objectives of the session are: (i) to brief the participants on the work done by the Bank since the consultation missions with CSOs in 2011 and 2012; (ii) to present the main thrust of the Policy with focus on key changes and how it affects the Bank’s operations and its engagement with stakeholders including CSOs; (iii) to inform CSOs about the implementation status of the Policy since its effectiveness; and (iv) to strengthen and exchange on possible areas of collaboration.

PRESENTATION

It will include the following aspects

1. The road from the 2011-2012 CSO consultations to today
2. Why a new Disclosure and Access to Information (DAI) Policy?
3. What are the objectives of the new DAI Policy?
4. What are the key changes of the new DAI Policy?
5. How will the DAI Policy impact on the Bank Group operations and activities?
6. What were the issues raised during the consultations & How were they addressed?
7. How is the Bank doing about the implementation of the new DAI Policy?
8. What are the benefits for the CSOs

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Overall, the DAI Briefing Session will enhance visibility of the Bank’s mission, strategies and activities via a more transparent, open and less restrictive disclosure and access to its information.
In particular, it is expected that, at the end of the Briefing session, the CSOs would: (i) have gained knowledge of the DAI Policy; (ii) be fully aware of the new changes and understand how it enhances transparency in Bank’s activities and engagement with CSOs; (iii) appreciate the Bank’s implementation efforts and offer of support; (iv) have agreed on key areas of collaboration with the Bank in promoting disclosure and access to information in their countries.

**FORMAT**

We will have a presentation of the new key aspects of the Policy; The Moderator will take the floor and instill discussions around the presentation and the broader theme of DAI of the Bank and Civil Society participation.

The session will be moderated by the Mr. Marc Cohen, Manager, ORQR.2, Quality Assurance and Results Department of the Bank.

**PARTICIPANTS**

The briefing session will be open to all attending the CSO Forum and Annual Meetings:
- Civil society representatives invited to the CSO Forum
- General participants with interest in the DAI Policy and its implementation

**DATE:** Tuesday 28 May, 9-10.45 am

**LOCATION:** Diamant Room, Palmeraie Golf Palace Complex