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 a 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.

As part of its awareness and dissemination campaign, the Bank plans to hold a Regional Awareness and Dissemination Workshop for North Africa on the margins of its 2013 Annual Meetings.

NORTH AFRICA REGIONAL AWARENESS AND DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP

The Bank organized regional consultations during the preparatory phase of the Policy in 2011 and 2012. During this comprehensive consultation process, the Bank has benefited from the positive feedback and valuable comments that were shared on how the Bank should address the issues of disclosure and access to its information.

On the margins of the Annual Meetings in Marrakech, the Bank will conduct its first Regional Awareness and Dissemination Workshop targeted at the North African countries, e.g. Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.

OBJECTIVE

The regional workshop aims at engaging various stakeholders from the North African region on the DAI Policy and on some specific initiatives of the Bank related to openness and transparency.

The main objective is to raise awareness and adequately inform stakeholders about the policies and initiatives, as well as the respective rights and benefits. It will also serve as a platform to enhance the Bank’s visibility regarding its mission, strategies and activities, by sharing on disclosure and access to its information, as well as on other open data initiatives of the Bank.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This regional workshop will: (i) promote the principles of good governance to the various stakeholders through a more open and less restrictive disclosure and access to information concerning the Bank Group and its operations; (ii) support the Bank’s consultative process and regional inclusion, offering a platform for communication between
the Bank and stakeholders to leverage the correlation between openness and project effectiveness; (iii) ensure transparency in the Bank’s compliance with the Policy and its operationalization.

**FORMAT**

The Workshop will be organized as follows: presentations of the new key aspects of the DAI Policy and related initiatives enhancing openness to the Bank’s information, followed by panel discussion to provide inputs on specific issues related to greater openness and disclosure of information. We will conclude with an exchange of views on how to take the collaboration between the Bank and its stakeholders forward in terms of implementing and operationalizing its DAI Policy.

**PARTICIPANTS**

The workshop will target the following audience:
- Civil society representatives from the North African countries
- Media representatives from the North African countries
- Partners of the Bank in the North African countries
- Delegates from the two Regional Economic Communities’ Offices in North Africa, UMA in Morocco and CEN-SAD in Libya
- Delegates from International Organizations and Institutions

**DATE:** Monday 27 May, 9-17.30

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