Summary Report on the LTS CAR Consultation Meeting

Bangui – April 4th, 2012

The summary below captures the main points that were discussed during the national consultation meeting in Bangui, and is not intended to be a detailed set of minutes for the meeting. The comments have been summarized along the following thematic areas: (i) Context and drivers of change; (ii) Vision for Africa for the next decade; (iii) Operational focus and role of the Bank; (iv) Financing; and (v) Institutional reform.

1. Context and Drivers of Change

The following drivers of change were identified by participants:

- Need to have relevant diagnoses on the main issues Africa is facing in order to better guide the long term strategies of the Bank.
- Governance: it is urgent to develop practical tools to improve political, economic and financial governance in Africa, with civil society featuring as a key player to measure success and accountability;
- Health and Youth: health should be taken into account in programs supporting youths, especially as this relates to issues such as eliminating HIV/AIDS, reduce teenage pregnancy, educate young girls, etc.
- Rural sector and agriculture: place agriculture as a core initiative for Africa’s development;
- Human capital: human capital development is a key driver of change for Africa via the strengthening of social and educational infrastructure; professionalization and adaptation of education programs to African economies, and the reinforcing of fundamental and applied research.

2. Operational focus and role of the Bank

After constructive and interesting discussions, participants to the national consultation in Bangui agreed on the following actions for the Bank to implement.

- Governance: the Bank should foster civil society organizations’ commitments in controlling and monitoring public initiatives executed for Africa’s development.
- Knowledge as a tool for informed decision making: there is a need to develop information systems in statistics in Africa in order to help African decision makers in designing, implementing and monitoring development strategies;
- **New information and communication technologies.** The Bank should support new information and communication technologies in Africa in order to better place the continent into the current globalisation of economies;

- The Bank should have a specific treatment for landlocked countries, like CAR, and help them transform their geographic position into an asset thanks to innovative and profitable projects;

- The Bank should support initiatives aiming at creating viable development banks in Africa to support private and public sector projects;

- Private sector support could be done through innovative financing;

- Health, the fight against HIV/AIDS, the fight against violence, particularly gender-based violence, and support to vulnerable groups are all areas that should be supported with more emphasis.

3. **Financing**

   **Resource mobilization**

   - For participants, the Bank must strengthen its catalytic role to mobilize financial resources for projects in Africa.

4. **Institutional reforms**

   - **Decentralization** of financial mechanisms of the Bank, and added flexibility for processes should be an institutional reform goal within the Bank;

   - Recommendations issued after consultation meetings with stakeholders should be more closely monitored via specific action plans.