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

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH MEETING**  
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**Statement by**

**H.E. Reem Alabali Radovan**  
**Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development**

**Germany**

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113<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Development Committee

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*Strong multilateralism is key to solving global challenges*

**We are in a period of global upheaval. Global uncertainties, economic vulnerabilities and conflicts continue to grow.** Development needs are prolific, and the international community must find new ways to cooperate. Now more than ever, we need to fight hunger, poverty and inequality, tackle the climate crisis, and foster peace and stability. At the same time, the geopolitical circumstances pose huge challenges for development.

**Developments in Iran and in the wider region are threatening regional and global security and they have far-reaching impacts, also on economic stability and development.** We welcome the two-week ceasefire concluded between the United States and Iran. The goal must now be to negotiate a swift and lasting end to the war. This can only be achieved through diplomatic means. This will be crucial to protect the civilian population of Iran, to ensure security in the region and to avert a severe global energy crisis. Germany is ready to contribute – together with its partners – to diplomatic efforts.

**Responding to global changes, Germany has reformed its framework for development cooperation.** The reform focuses on four overarching goals: ending hunger, poverty and inequality; promoting peace and stability; facilitating economic cooperation for sustainable and equitable growth; and also building strategic alliances for global solutions and strengthening the multilateral system. Our aim is to work even closer in partnership with countries of the Global South and effectively address key global issues on the basis of common interest. We can only address urgent global challenges and shape the future together globally.

*We need a strong and effective World Bank in times of rising global uncertainties*

**The World Bank Group has proven that multilateralism can respond and can deliver in the face of a rapidly changing global landscape.** Germany is supporting the Bank on its path to becoming better, more effective and financially stronger. Triple A ratings need to be fully preserved in order to provide stable, low-cost financing to clients – also in times of crisis. We continue to support the Bank strongly in the implementation of its Evolution Reforms and expect it to maintain a leading role on climate change and nature, gender and in fragile contexts.

**We strongly support the Bank's Framework for Financial Incentives for investments in global public goods through projects that promote countries' national development goals.** It is an excellent example of how the World Bank as a global development finance cooperative can shape international partnerships of the future. Poverty reduction, economic development and the work needed to protect a livable planet can only be achieved together.

**Germany champions an effective, accountable and legitimate World Bank Group as part of a just international financial architecture.** Every country should be heard and represented appropriately, and the voice of the poorest countries should be further strengthened. We will continue to explore different options for how best to achieve this objective. More voice should go along with more responsibility for effective multilateralism. We also call on the Bank to ensure that the Board remains the central decision-making body as regards the Bank's strategic direction.

**Ensuring that IDA continues to meet the needs of the poorest countries and remains financially stable in the future is a central part of our commitment for a just international financial architecture.** As IDA's fourth-largest shareholder, we appreciate IDA's strong policy focus on people, planet and prosperity, which strongly aligns with the goals of Germany's reform agenda in the field of development cooperation.

**The European shareholders together account for one quarter of the World Bank Group's capital.** We coordinate closely with one another so as to ensure that the World Bank Group's strategic directions and policies reflect joint priorities while remaining firmly committed to a rules-based multilateral system. We have been actively engaged in strengthening the International Financial Architecture with a view to better addressing global challenges and will continue to contribute significantly to this objective in all international forums.

**We commend the role of the WBG in addressing debt sustainability challenges.** The G20 and the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR) have been instrumental in strengthening the international debt architecture, bringing together different creditor groups, debtor countries and the private sector. We need an effective process for countries seeking debt treatment to restore debt sustainability. Further progress is essential in order to make debt treatments under the Common Framework more transparent and faster.

**To address global challenges and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, MDBs need to collaborate more intensively as a system.** Ongoing efforts on Mutual Reliance Frameworks are encouraging, so is the increasing use of co-financing agreements, including with KfW Development Bank. Further efforts to promote the effectiveness of the international development architecture and the efficient use of concessional resources have our support.

***The World Bank Group is a key partner in promoting peace and stability***

**Germany and the World Bank Group are strong partners for sustainable security, reconstruction and crisis prevention.** Development policy is a central pillar of Germany's security policy. Germany is engaged in the work of crisis prevention, as well as working towards the stabilization and recovery of countries in crisis. The World Bank Group plays a crucial role in providing financing and tools for crisis-preventive, peace-promoting approaches, recovery and reconstruction. We cooperate closely with the World Bank Group and partners working in Ukraine, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region.

**Fighting fragility, conflict and violence is mission critical for the World Bank Group.** By 2030, 60% of all people living in extreme poverty will be living in countries affected by fragility, violence and conflict. We welcome that IDA allocates more than half of its funds to these countries. The entire World Bank Group should step up its efforts and contribute even more to the prevention of cross-border crises, should address the key drivers of fragility, including climate change, biodiversity loss and inequalities, and should intensify its private-sector engagement in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

**The World Bank Group continues to be a key partner for our joint international efforts in strengthening Ukraine's resilience** and coping with the consequences of Russia's illegal unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression. We highly appreciate the World Bank's continuing work with regard to assessing the damage caused and the reconstruction needs, as well as providing important advice to the Government of Ukraine on creating an effective recovery and reconstruction architecture and implementing critical reforms. Moreover, the World Bank is providing important direct support, in particular through the Ukraine Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform Trust Fund (URTF).

**Regarding the Occupied Palestinian Territories we remain committed to a just and lasting peace based on a negotiated two-state-solution, with a future Palestinian state existing side by side in peace with Israel.** Germany will not recognise any changes to the 1967 borders that are not agreed by both parties. We continue to support the implementation of the 20-Point Peace Plan for Gaza on the basis of UNSC resolution 2803. We recall that the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire and reassert that Early

Recovery activities must be allowed at scale. Germany continues to support Early Recovery. We reaffirm that reconstruction must take place in all of Gaza for all Gazans, and that property rights must be respected in the reconstruction process. We call on Israel to release withheld clearance revenues to the Palestinian Authority, to extend the correspondence banking indemnity waiver by at least one year. We welcome the World Bank's economic support for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including its readiness to reengage in Gaza once conditions allow.

### **Working together to end poverty and boost shared prosperity on a livable planet**

**Our responses to the challenge of global water security will shape how we end hunger and poverty and promote peace and security on a livable planet.** As part of the reform to German development cooperation, engagement in the water sector will be strengthened. We highly welcome the World Bank Group's "Water Forward" initiative and will contribute to supporting countries' efforts to build reliable, affordable, sustainable and resilient water systems and to strengthen water utilities, drawing on our expertise and experience in the water sector.

**We expect the World Bank Group to maintain a high level of ambition in its climate support to countries and to enhance synergies, intensifying the work being done for the benefit of nature.** We need a strong policy framework for the Bank's climate change action. There is strong demand from client countries for climate-smart policies and investments in the agriculture, energy, transport and other sectors. As one of the major donors, we support the Tropical Forest Forever Facility and thank the Bank for its continued engagement for this joint innovative effort from the Global North and the Global South with the aim of unlocking private capital for forest finance.

**Escalation of conflict in the Persian Gulf has again shown the risks of reliance on fossil fuels for economic and energy security.** A strong focus on renewable energies and energy efficiency is therefore a strategic imperative for the World Bank Group's energy support. Energy investments need to extend affordable access and reliability while accelerating the transition to net-zero. This includes a greater focus on repurposing fossil fuel subsidies as a key lever for advancing a just transition in the Bank's fiscal and macroeconomic work.

**We are facing a global inequality crisis.** Inequalities are not just unfair, they undermine stability, fuel conflict, weaken democracy and hinder economic development. Reducing inequalities and fighting hunger and poverty are, therefore, a priority and are at the heart of Germany's reform in the field of development cooperation. We support the World Bank's work in promoting evidence-based policymaking with the aim of reducing inequalities and will continue to advocate for precise inequality metrics.

### **Creating more and better jobs and working with the private sector**

**Germany supports the World Bank Group's focus on sustainable job creation.** The Bank must put decent, inclusive and green jobs front and centre of its jobs agenda and must shape an enabling environment in which businesses can thrive and can create more and better jobs for the sake of development, social coherence and resilience. This requires sound public finances as well as the right balance between easing unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and establishing robust regulatory frameworks for workers' rights, gender equality and effective taxation. We must recognize that jobs, nature and growth are part of the same agenda: from sustainable agriculture and nature-based tourism to value-added manufacturing and resilient energy and urban systems.

**We welcome the World Bank Group's strong ambition in mobilizing and developing the private sector.** This ambition is indispensable for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and this creates opportunities, also for German companies. Under its 2030 strategy, IFC needs to remain focused on development impact, sustainability, and on the poorest and most vulnerable countries. We are committed to intensifying cooperation between IDA and the G20-Compact with Africa with the aim of increasing the

mobilization of domestic resources, supporting targeted policy reforms, and engaging the private sector in our partner countries.

**The modernization of the World Bank’s procurement procedures has set the course for tangible reforms that will benefit our partners in the Global South and private sector businesses around the globe.** Robust implementation of quality and sustainability criteria will contribute to delivering the strongest development results most effectively and efficiently. Continuous outreach and dialogue are key to diversifying the bidder base and increasing competition.

**Empowering women, protecting rights and strengthening accountability**

**A jobs agenda without the economic empowerment of women is not a jobs agenda.** Expanding women’s economic participation is not just a social aspiration, it is an economic imperative. The World Bank Group’s report on Women, Business and the Law is a wake-up call: the world is currently missing a 20% growth opportunity. World Bank Group policy reform and advice must contribute towards turning legal equality into a lived reality.

**We stand firm in our commitment to protect and advance human rights globally.** We promote gender equality and the rights of marginalized groups. Everyone must be able to exercise autonomy over their own bodies, lives and futures. Sexual and reproductive health and rights, including safe legal abortion are fundamental to gender equality and constitute irreversible human rights. The World Bank’s Gender Strategy and the corresponding targets under IDA21 must continue to be implemented with ambition.

**An effective World Bank Group needs strong accountability mechanisms.** While exploring options to potentially integrate the World Bank Group’s independent accountability mechanisms, we need to uphold the principles of improved effectiveness, no regression, independence, sufficient resourcing and careful transition. We look forward to the review of IFC’s Sustainability Framework, with close involvement of the Board and stakeholders.

**We need a strong World Bank Group within a strong multilateral system more than ever.** In order to meet the challenges ahead, we need to strengthen partnerships with the United Nations, partners from the Global South and civil society, and foster the efforts of Multilateral Development Banks to work as a system. Germany continues to be a committed supporter of a rules-based multilateral order and a steadfast partner of the World Bank Group in pursuing our common vision of a world free of poverty on a livable planet.