



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)



DC/S/2026-0035

April 16, 2026

**STATEMENT BY
MS. ELISABETH SVANTESSON, DC CHAIR**

Attached for information for the Members of the Development Committee is a Statement, which reflects the views of the majority of Committee Members, from Ms. Elisabeth Svantesson, DC Chair following the Committee's one hundred and thirteenth meeting held on April 16, 2026.

Chair's Statement: 113th Meeting of the Development Committee

Ms. Elisabeth Svantesson, Minister of Finance, Sweden

The Development Committee met today, April 16, 2026, in Washington, DC.

The global economy has been tested by repeated shocks over the past few years from wars and conflicts, including the new one in the Middle East. In addition to its humanitarian impacts, the economic effect is global, and it will once again hit the poorest and most vulnerable the hardest. This comes at a time when policy space has eroded and international cooperation is weaker. The appropriate policy response depends on how the shock propagates through the domestic economy, calling for timely and adaptable policies backed by credible frameworks and international cooperation. Ending wars and conflicts and securing lasting peace around the world remains essential for sustainable growth and long-term stability.

Governors were concerned about the impact of shocks on the global economy compounded by heightened uncertainty and persistent challenges, which are hindering efforts to sustain economic growth, reduce poverty, and create jobs.

Members commended the leadership and staff of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the scale and speed of their crisis responses and for the work to support stability and resilience. They recognized the WBG's fast-disbursing instruments, crisis response toolkit, and technical and policy expertise and called on continued work with affected countries. They welcomed the WBG's cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), multilateral development banks (MDBs), international organizations, the private sector, and other partners to respond to current shocks while remaining focused on the long-term development objectives in line with its mission of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity on a livable planet.

Governors strongly supported the WBG's focus on jobs: building the foundations by investing in physical, natural, and human infrastructure; reinforcing the business environment; and mobilizing private capital. They highlighted the urgency of providing jobs for the next generation of youth. Members urged the WBG to advance business-enabling reforms that boost private sector investment, support long-term growth and the creation of productive, better-paid and more secure jobs. They highlighted reforms to diversify trade, improve fiscal frameworks and strengthen debt sustainability. Ensuring more effective and fair domestic resource mobilization while improving the quality of spending and fighting corruption are essential.

Committee members encouraged the WBG to unlock opportunities in infrastructure and energy, agribusiness, health care, tourism, and value-added manufacturing, leveraged by digital and financial innovations. Members called for greater investment in people to build lives with dignity for all. Members noted the recent *Women, Business, and the Law* report, underscoring the need for policies that allow women to work and run businesses on equal terms.

Members were encouraged by reforms toward a faster, simpler, and more impactful WBG. They supported continued improvements in operational efficiency and effectiveness to strengthen

delivery and development impact in the context of helping countries become more self-sufficient. Given constrained official development assistance, members recognized WBG's ability to leverage contributions, its triple-A credit rating, and its financial stability to mobilize solutions at scale. They commended the implementation of the One WBG approach; the WBG Knowledge Bank; the integrated Environmental and Social function; the strengthened WBG Country Engagement model; and the simplified World Bank Group Scorecard as a coherent institutional framework to enhance development outcomes.

Members appreciated the WBG's commitment to ambitious 2030 targets on social safety nets, quality health services, women's access to capital, and digital development. They welcomed the sector-specific initiatives, such as improving electricity access with Mission 300, strengthening food security and moving farmers up the value-chain with AgriConnect, and providing safe water and irrigation via Water Forward, among others. Members recognized sustained efforts to support climate resilient economies, informed by WBG core analytical tools, in response to client demand and national long-term plans. Members welcomed the report *Building Human Capital Where it Matters* and underscored the importance of investing in health and education to improve future earnings potential.

Governors recognized the WBG for stepping up its support for communities affected by fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) and for reconstruction and recovery efforts in low- and middle-income countries. Members looked forward to further engagement and implementation of the FCV strategy, the Gender Strategy, and the Small States strategy, with a particular focus on the jobs agenda at the country level.

The Development Committee underscored the private sector's crucial role in achieving the WBG's development objectives. They noted IFC and MIGA's efforts to increase access to capital by connecting global investors to impact-driven opportunities through initiatives like the Originate-to-Distribute, the Guarantees Platform, and the Emerging Markets Securitization Program.

Committee members looked forward to the implementation of IDA 21 and thanked shareholders for their generosity. They called for a strong and ambitious delivery.

Members acknowledged the Report to Governors on the 2025 Shareholding Review.

Governors reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism and called for continued cooperation, with an emphasis on partnerships with public and private partners, including through mutual reliance frameworks and other structured cooperation.

The next meeting of the Development Committee is scheduled for October 2026, in Bangkok, Thailand.