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)

ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH MEETING
BANGKOK, THAILAND – OCTOBER 15, 2026

DC/S/2026-0039
October 15, 2026

Statement by

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

Germany

Statement by

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

114th Meeting of the Development Committee

October 15, 2026
Bangkok, Thailand

A world in upheaval and a multilateral system under pressure

We are living in an era of profound upheaval. Geopolitical confrontation is intensifying, economic uncertainty persists and public debt has reached critical levels in many countries. These crises do not unfold in isolation. They reinforce one another, drive up development and humanitarian needs across all regions, severely affect the lives of the most vulnerable and increase the financing needs of the poorest countries. At the same time, the multilateral system itself is under pressure, faced with eroding trust, growing fragmentation and declining external resources.

In such a context, the World Bank Group and its shareholders have a pivotal role to play. Development finance must help to stabilize economies, to protect the most vulnerable and to fund investment in long-term resilience. Our response must be coordinated and cooperative, guided by a clear understanding that global challenges can only be tackled through effective multilateralism.

To this end, Germany will focus its cooperation with the World Bank Group on (i) promoting peace, crisis prevention and reconstruction; (ii) combating poverty and hunger, advancing food security and nutrition, and protecting natural resources, particularly water; and (iii) strengthening the World Bank Group as a central actor in multilateral cooperation, able to deliver public and private resources at scale to drive ambition and impact.

We are convinced that these three strands together form the backbone of a renewed multilateral effort to deliver on our shared vision: a world free of poverty on a liveable planet.

Promoting peace, crisis prevention and reconstruction is mission-critical for the World Bank Group.

The World Bank Group is a key global actor in helping countries manage shocks and crises. In an international environment marked by increasing political and economic volatility, further refining the World Bank crisis response instruments is a priority.

The conflict in the Persian Gulf has shown how quickly economic and energy security can be threatened and global confidence shaken, which has ripple effects for food security and development. World Bank Group resources should be deployed swiftly, transparently and in a targeted manner, focusing on the most vulnerable and on measures that strengthen long term resilience and the transformation of energy systems.

Coordination and coherence will be crucial. We therefore welcome the joint efforts on crisis response by the World Bank Group, Regional Development Banks, the International Monetary Fund, the International Energy Agency, UN agencies and the World Trade Organization following the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Their commitment to step up cooperation in supporting the most affected countries and to safeguard global economic, energy and food security sends an important signal to markets and communities alike.

In the face of economic shocks, we must not lose sight of the humanitarian tragedies and reconstruction needs in Gaza, Syria and Sudan. The World Bank Group has an important role to play in

supporting recovery in Gaza, in preparing for a future reconstruction process that respects international law and promotes inclusive growth, and in accompanying Syrian recovery and reconstruction. In the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, it is a central partner for strengthening resilience, regional cooperation and development prospects.

Ukraine's reconstruction is another major case in point for international cooperation and for a strong World Bank Group. The Bank continues to be a key partner in strengthening Ukraine's resilience and coping with the consequences of Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression. The World Bank Group has mobilized over 90 billion US dollars to help maintain basic services for vulnerable groups, restore critical infrastructure, strengthen the private sector and stabilize public finances. Germany highly appreciates the Bank's leadership in loss and damage assessment and will continue to cooperate closely with the World Bank Group and other partners to ensure that Ukraine's reconstruction promotes sustainable development, and strengthens both democratic institutions and social cohesion.

Fighting fragility, conflict and violence is mission-critical for the World Bank Group. By 2030, 60% of all people living in extreme poverty are projected to be living in countries affected by fragility, violence and conflict. Germany welcomes that IDA allocates more than half of its funds to countries in fragile contexts. We also welcome the World Bank Group's refreshed FCV strategy and its ambitious goals, including its strong focus on job creation and private sector development in the most fragile contexts. Fragility, Conflict and Violence should be treated as a cross-cutting development challenge, systematically reflected across all strategies, instruments and operations. **To maximize development impact**, we call on the World Bank Group to realize its potential as 'One World Bank Group', **to continue expanding investments by IFC and risk insurance by MIGA in the poorest and most fragile countries**, and to strengthen its cooperation within the MDB Group on fragility.

Preventing crises before they arise remains the most effective strategy. Investments in crisis prevention must therefore remain at the heart of the World Bank's agenda. Climate change, biodiversity loss and inequalities are drivers of fragility that must be carefully analysed in order to identify risks more quickly and to intervene in a timely and coordinated manner.

UNHCR has set the ambitious goal of reducing the number of aid-dependent refugees by half by 2035. Germany calls on the World Bank Group to support the inclusion and self reliance of refugees, paying particular attention to the specific needs and opportunities of women, girls and marginalized groups, and to use its financing strategically, encouraging host governments to invest in inclusive refugee policies, access to services and opportunities for economic participation.

In the IDA22 replenishment process, Germany will advocate for a strong nexus between crisis prevention, food security and the protection of natural resources, particularly water.

Combating poverty and hunger, promoting food security and protecting natural resources are at the core of the World Bank Group's mandate.

Hunger and poverty are on the rise again. Today, around 645 million people face hunger, and an estimated 826 million people live in extreme poverty. Wars, humanitarian crises and climate phenomena, such as El Niño, exacerbated by climate change are making the situation worse. These developments threaten global stability and undermine decades of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

In close cooperation with the World Bank Group, Germany will focus on long term investments in sustainable and resilient food systems, climate-smart agriculture and local value chains. To this end, Germany will expand its cooperation with the World Bank Group to deliver targeted support for global food security, rural development, climate resilience and nature recovery, while maintaining a strong focus on environmental and social standards.

Water is a decisive strategic resource for global development, prosperity and security. The right to

water requires universal access to safe and affordable water for all. **As one of the world's biggest bilateral donors in the water sector, Germany will cooperate closely with the World Bank Group to achieve the ambitious targets of the "Water Forward" initiative.** We contribute financing and expertise to build reliable, affordable, sustainable and resilient water and sanitation systems, and to strengthen water utilities. Together with our partners, we will promote water security by improving water governance and sustainable water use, including through improved transboundary water management.

Public resources alone will not be enough to transform food systems, expand local value chains and build water security at scale. Mobilizing private capital is essential. Germany commends the AgriConnect initiative launched by the World Bank Group, IFAD and the African Development Bank, with the aim of doubling annual investment in agribusiness to 9 billion US dollars by 2030 and reaching 300 million farmers. We are committed to strengthening cooperation with German and European companies and to using the World Bank Group's financial strength and expertise to mobilize private capital for development.

We welcome the implementation of the World Bank's Procurement Change Program and its strong emphasis on quality, sustainability, innovation and value for money. Its success will depend on consistent application, greater transparency, stronger client capacity, early market engagement and effective complaints mechanisms. These reforms can improve development outcomes, strengthen competition and facilitate the participation of qualified local and international firms. In this context, we appreciate the World Bank Group's outreach to the German private sector.

As the largest non-African shareholder in the African Trade & Investment Development Insurance (ATIDI), Germany is committed to reducing risks and providing guarantees for agricultural investments and for other climate-relevant sectors. We welcome the strategic partnership between ATIDI and MIGA and invite MIGA to intensify this cooperation, especially where risk sharing and scale are critical to unlocking private investment.

We are pursuing these objectives with the **Jobs Agenda firmly in mind**. Over the next decade, around 1.2 billion young people worldwide will enter the workforce. Our shared aim must be to create more and better jobs that improve economic and social participation, promote economic empowerment of women and youth, ensure labour rights and living wages, and enable a just and sustainable transformation. A **strong partnership between the World Bank Group and the International Labour Organization** is key to putting these principles of decent work into practice.

Strengthening the World Bank Group, expanding partnerships and strengthening multilateralism in a fractured geopolitical landscape.

Delivering on our shared priorities requires a World Bank Group that is financially sustainable, strategically oriented towards private sector engagement, effectively partnered with other multilateral development banks and the United Nations, and equipped with a governance structure that is legitimate, accountable and capable of acting. We will continue to explore options for how to strengthen the voice of the poorest countries in the World Bank Group. Strengthening voice and representation should go hand in hand with a shared commitment for effective multilateralism.

We urge the World Bank Group to ambitiously implement the World Bank Group Evolution. Based on strong partnerships with middle-income countries, the World Bank's Framework for Financial Incentives (FFI) marks a breakthrough in mainstreaming global public goods. It rewards countries for the cross-border benefits they create in addressing the shared global challenges of our time – climate change, biodiversity loss, pandemics and conflicts.

We applaud the indefinite extension of the World Bank Group's Climate Change Action Plan and welcome that all World Bank Group projects will continue to be aligned with the Paris Agreement. Germany expects the Bank to maintain and, where possible, increase its level of climate ambition, make

certain that mitigation and adaptation finance volumes and impacts do not fall behind recent performance, and ensure that it continues to report on climate finance and its results. The Bank should sharpen its focus on climate adaptation, nature based solutions, and just transitions away from fossil fuels.

The World Bank Group's Gender Strategy leads the way in accelerating gender equality and promoting human rights, in particular for marginalized groups. We expect it to guide the Bank's actions across all strategies and instruments. Gender equality, women's economic empowerment and the protection of human rights are not optional add-ons; they are prerequisites for sustained development, social stability and inclusive growth.

To accelerate collective action in an increasingly fragmented world, Germany aims to foster new alliances with and within the World Bank Group through strengthened bilateral and multilateral development cooperation in our focus regions, through close collaboration with the South-North Commission on Development, and also through dialogue with partners from the Global South as part of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference.

We welcome that the World Bank Group continues to join forces with other multilateral development banks to act together as a system. Together, MDBs actively support client countries in reducing complexity, timelines and transaction costs. Germany calls on the World Bank Group to continuously improve its environmental and social standards and to uphold strong, independent accountability mechanisms in all operations.

Together with the World Bank Group, Germany will continue to work on preventing debt crises in developing countries. We will strengthen our support for debt transparency and debt management, including through an additional contribution to the World Bank's Debt Management Facility. We will intensify our engagement on debt swaps and promote deeper cooperation with multilateral development banks so as to direct concessional financing towards high-impact investments in the poorest countries in line with the Sevilla Commitment.

Responsible debt management is essential in order to protect development space and avoid crises that disproportionately affect the poorest. We support close World Bank-IMF cooperation on public financial management and domestic revenue mobilization, helping partner countries preserve fiscal space, build state capacity and finance their development priorities.

One year after the **UN International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville**, these objectives remain relevant for all development actors, including the World Bank Group.

Conclusion – Reaffirming our shared commitment to a world free of poverty on a liveable planet

We need a strong World Bank Group within a strong multilateral system more than ever. Converging crises, rising inequalities and the accelerating climate emergency demand that we act together, with urgency and ambition. The World Bank Group continues to show that multilateralism can deliver in a rapidly changing global landscape. Germany is committed to supporting the Bank on its path to becoming better, more effective and financially stronger, while preserving its financial integrity and high standards.

We advocate for proactive crisis prevention and peacebuilding, for decisive action against hunger and poverty, and for a just and sustainable transformation of food, water and energy systems. European shareholders together account for one quarter of the World Bank Group's capital. We coordinate closely to ensure that the World Bank Group's corporate strategies reflect European values and interests, while contributing to a fair multilateral system that gives poorest countries a stronger voice.

In a world in upheaval, strong, rules-based and inclusive multilateralism is our best chance to secure peace, prosperity and a liveable planet for present and future generations.