Statement by

H.E. Mohamed Boussaid
Minister of Economy and Finance
of the Kingdom of Morocco

On behalf of the Constituency of Afghanistan, Algeria, Ghana, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Morocco, Pakistan, and Tunisia
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92nd Meeting of the Development Committee

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Lima, Peru

Background

Our meeting is taking place against the especially important backdrop of commitment by the international community to new sustainable development goals.

In this regard, we would like to express our satisfaction over the adoption of the Program of Action resulting from the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, and the unprecedented commitment made by all international stakeholders to come together and mobilize the necessary resources for the financing of post-2015 sustainable development.

We are also pleased with the consensus reached on September 26, 2015 at the New York Summit of world leaders on a historic and far-reaching sustainable development program over the next 15 years. By 2030, when this program’s 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) will be achieved, we will be able to end poverty and transform lives while protecting the planet.

We are confident that the spirit of international solidarity shown at these two major events will pave the way for the conclusion, at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in December 2015 in Paris, of a universal agreement to limit global warming and climate change, which pose a threat to sustainable development.

In this regard, we must thank our World Bank Group (WBG), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the other multilateral development banks (MDBs), and the United Nations for the work done throughout this process that facilitated the successful crafting of this new sustainable development architecture.

It must be noted that this new architecture, to take effect in January 2016, will, over the next 15 years, guide the decisions to be made by the various international community actors with regard to implementation of the new SDGs.

In this context, we commend the WBG on the appropriate choice of topic for this meeting of the Development Committee and on the quality of the report entitled “The World Bank Group Support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” submitted at this meeting, which (i) provides an in-depth analysis of the current and future capacity of the WBG to contribute to achievement of the SDGs,
and (ii) targets the priority intervention areas of the Bank in order to meet the challenges posed by sustainable development.

**Strengthening the Role of the WBG to Meet the SDGs**

We agree with the recommendation of Bank experts on the importance of according priority to the collaboration and global partnership initiative, given that no institution, acting alone and in isolation, would be able to tackle the complex challenges involved in meeting the SDGs.

Nonetheless, more rapid implementation of our Bank’s strategic directions, effective and efficient operationalization of the WBG’s institutional and financial resources, capitalizing on progress made, and translating the Bank’s commitments into tangible actions would, without a doubt, allow the WBG to meet the 2030 target.

Within this framework, and while commending the progress made as a result of the operating model adopted by the World Bank Group since the implementation of its new strategy, we would like to propose:

**At the Strategic Level:**

- More rapid implementation of country strategy assessments. Analysis of the results of these assessments will therefore play a decisive role in the implementation of a specific action plan in the years ahead in order to help countries better grasp the development challenges and implement appropriate strategic policies to tackle them;

- Accelerated implementation of the repositioning of the Bank as a "Solutions Bank," through the establishment of the 14 global practices that facilitate the flow of knowledge, the mobilization of multisectoral teams, and the design of development solutions tailored to national priorities.

**At the Institutional Level:**

- Improved upstream coordination of the interventions of the different WBG institutions related to sustainable development. In this regard, IDA, in keeping with its poverty reduction mission, is called upon to assume its mission more vigorously and to play a central role in supporting achievement of the SDGs. IFC and MIGA are also called upon to assume their mission fully, by maximizing the contributions of the private sector in a bid to create greater wealth and jobs, in particular;

- Deepening the internal reforms started by the Bank, particularly in the areas of governance and the streamlining of procedures.

**At the Financial Assistance Level:**

Ramping up financial assistance to developing countries in the form of loans and technical assistance. In this regard, we commend the WBG on its sound performance in the area of commitments, which climbed to **US$63 billion in 2015**, compared to pre-2014 period, when these commitments barely exceeded US$15 billion.

We are cognizant of the fact that the additional demand for financing that will result from the expanded role of the WBG in the operationalization of the 2030 Agenda could place constraints on the Bank’s
financing capacity. In this regard, we are in agreement with the recommendations made in the "2015 Shareholding Review of the Bank" to:

(i) Begin, right now, an in-depth discussion among WBG shareholders related to the options that can meet this heightened demand without reducing the Bank’s financing capacity;

(ii) Submit, at the 2016 Spring and Annual Meetings, the progress report on these discussions and the results arising therefrom; and

(iii) Make an announcement, at the 2017 Annual Meetings, regarding the decision on the need for a possible WBG capital increase.

- Leveraging the expertise and knowledge within the WBG to focus on the review of innovative and appropriate financing mechanisms, in particular with a view to boosting the yield of national tax systems and improving fiscal governance, promoting public-private partnerships, and developing and deepening capital markets, with the aim of assisting member countries in their efforts to mobilize domestic financial resources;

- Rapid operationalization of the Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF), which is intended to mobilize greater resources for infrastructure financing, in partnership with the private sector.

**Intervention Areas: What Should Be the Priorities of the WBG?**

Given the scope of the program to be implemented in the SDG context, we agree with the WBG’s decision to focus on the following four priority areas:

(i) **Preventing crises**, by supporting the capacity of countries facing situations of crisis, conflict, fragility, and natural disaster;

(ii) **Responding to** growth-related **infrastructure needs** stemming from population demands and growing urbanization;

(iii) **Combating the effects of climate change**, which poses one of the greatest challenges and, while producing devastating effects on a global scale, has a greater impact on the most vulnerable; and

(iv) **Improving statistical data** by helping countries produce the information needed for decision-making purposes in terms of both program design and follow-up.

Given its international expertise, the WBG is nonetheless called upon to intervene in innovative sectors at the national, regional, and international levels. In this regard, we must underscore the importance of regional transformative projects and issues related to international taxation and illicit financial flows.

In addition, working **in collaboration with its partners, in particular the IMF**, the WBG is called upon to explore ways to obtain the financial and technical resources that can assist member countries in areas (and across all sectors) that can bolster their resilience, in particular to exogenous shocks.

It goes without saying that the role that we would like our institution, the World Bank Group, to play in this new development landscape, is in line with the continuation of the reforms related to representation and voice within the WBG. In this regard, we stress the need to forge ahead with the
establishment of a transparent formula that ensures the **equitable distribution of voting rights** between developing and transition countries, on one hand, and developed countries, on the other, and protection of the voting rights of poor countries.