

## West Africa

### West Africa Unique Identification for Regional Integration and Inclusion (WURI) Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA)

#### Chair Summary\*

June 5, 2018

Executive Directors approved an IDA financing envelope of up to SDR 218.1 million (US\$317.1 million equivalent) for a “West Africa Unique Identification for Regional Integration and Inclusion” (WURI) Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) program (IDA/R2018-0125). They also approved a credit for the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, a credit and grant to the Republic of Guinea, and a grant to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission in the total amount of SDR 84 million (US\$122.1 million equivalent) for the first phase of the WURI MPA program on the terms and conditions set out in the President’s Memorandum. Directors authorized Management to commit financing for this MPA program in phases.

Directors recognized the rationale for using the MPA for this operation, financing regionally interoperable foundational ID (*fID*) systems, and facilitating access to services to all persons irrespective of legal status. They supported the Program Development Objective of increasing the number of persons in participating countries who will have government-recognized proof of unique identity that will facilitate access to services. They welcomed the operation’s interlocking three-component architecture, namely: (i) Strengthening the legal and institutional framework; (ii) Establishing robust and inclusive *fID* systems; and (iii) Facilitating access to services through *fIDs*.

Directors appreciated the creative application and use of the MPA for shared learning, noting that ECOWAS member states are at different levels of readiness, and observing that early successes might be used to incentivize other countries to participate in subsequent phases. They welcomed that the program design reflects the need to establish strong legal and institutional underpinnings of *fID* systems in all countries ensuring data protection, privacy, and inclusion. They stressed the importance of establishing a robust and inclusive system that serves the identity needs of all, thereby enhancing its sustainability.

Directors took note of the risks associated with the implementation of these reforms, notably, geopolitical risks and inadequate institutional capacity. They encouraged the Bank to strengthen capacity-building activities and Management agreed to conduct an impact evaluation for the program, and emphasized the importance of continued close coordination with other development partners.

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\*This summary is not an approved record.