

Côte d’Ivoire**Country Partnership Framework****Chair Summary*****September 29, 2015**

Executive Directors discussed the joint IDA/IFC/MIGA Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Côte d’Ivoire (IDA/R2015-0239[IFC/R2015-0248, MIGA/R2015-0074]) for FY16 to FY19. Directors welcomed the CPF’s focus on building and reinforcing the foundations to promote inclusive growth and fostering sustainability and resilience with a “one World Bank Group” (WBG) approach. Directors appreciated the quality of the assessment provided in the Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) and noted the CPF’s alignment with SCD priorities and the forthcoming National Development Plan 2016-2020. Directors commended Côte d’Ivoire’s strong progress in recent years and the Government’s commitment to economic transformation, reform, and stability. However, they noted that important challenges remain, including in infrastructure, institutional capacity, employment – particularly of youth, regional and gender imbalances and inequity in access to services, and poverty indicators. Directors stressed the potential for reducing poverty by addressing spatial inequality, developing infrastructure, and pursuing land reform.

Directors agreed with the selectivity approach and areas of engagement reflected in the CPF, designed to accelerate sustainable private sector-led growth, build human capital for economic development and social cohesion, and strengthen public sector management and accountability. Directors noted the importance of the public investment program to strengthen infrastructure and expand access to energy. They also welcomed social projects in education, housing, health, and job training, particularly in impoverished and rural areas. Directors encouraged continued WBG assistance on the quality of public expenditure, public financial management, and debt sustainability, noting the country’s large investment needs and the evolving landscape of public, donor, and private funds. Directors also underscored the need to build resilience, noting the country’s exposure to climate change and pandemic risk.

Directors strongly encouraged a one WBG approach for initiatives to foster regional development and integration for Côte d’Ivoire and neighboring countries, noting the potential of Côte d’Ivoire to serve as a regional trade, transport and services hub. They commented on the importance of economic diversification of the Ivoirian economy, noting the risks related to dependence on cocoa exports. At the same time, they encouraged the development of social protection programs and employment alternatives for vulnerable groups and rural populations whose livelihoods involve cocoa production.

Directors emphasized the critical role of the private sector in boosting economic transformation. They welcomed the CPF’s focus on the use of innovative financial instruments to complement existing sources of finance, including public-private partnerships, guarantees, and the Global Infrastructure Facility. They encouraged a scale-up of IFC and MIGA in these areas, along with the innovative use of IDA as seed funding, especially for large transformational operations. Directors welcomed WBG support for the Government’s governance reform agenda to build timely investor confidence. Finally, Directors appreciated the flexibility in program design and implementation to help responsiveness to emerging priorities.

*This summary is not an approved record