

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

Regional Partnership Framework

Chair Summary*

May 19, 2022

Executive Directors expressed support for the Regional Partnership Framework (RPF) for the OECS countries for the period FY22-FY25.

Recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector in the OECS countries, Directors welcomed the ongoing and the planned program engagement that would focus on increasing resilience to climate change and other shocks, improving human capital, and creating an environment that would bring more and better jobs. They inquired about the WBG's support to promote economic diversification in the region and encouraged the WBG to redouble its efforts to enhance private capital mobilization and identify private sector-led solutions to promote innovations and jobs and lay the groundwork for green and resilient post-pandemic recovery and reconstruction, encouraging the use of the IDA Private Sector Window.

Directors stressed the importance of operationalizing the Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) agenda in the implementation of the RPF and called for stronger links between agriculture, nutrition, and health with a focus on addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) issues. They encouraged management to strengthen its regional approach and exercise selectivity and focus on increasing absorption capacity during the RPF implementation period in order to increase the development impact of WBG interventions in the Eastern Caribbean in line with IEG's recommendations. They also encouraged greater efforts to support OECS countries in the implementation of fiscal management reforms to promote fiscal and debt sustainability. The importance of addressing data gaps and harnessing digitalization for sustainable development was also noted.

Directors called for closer collaboration between the Bank, IFC, and MIGA, and encouraged enhanced efforts to build the capacity of public institutions to utilize WBG assistance and implement the needed reforms efficiently and effectively. They asked the WBG to explore options to replicate a regional approach to other regions. They also called for enhanced coordination with the other development partners, particularly in the climate and energy sectors.

*This Summary is not an approved record.