

STRATEGIC PLAN

2022
2024

AFRICA GROUP II



Office of the Executive Director
Abdoul Salam BELLO

STRATEGIC PLAN | 2022 2024

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Foreword



Abdoul Salam BELLO,
Executive Director

I am pleased to present our Office’s Strategic Plan 2022–2024. I am also pleased to report that at the Office Retreat from January 12 to 14, 2023, one of the aims of which was to approve this Strategic Plan, my Alternate, **Mr. Harold Tavares**, expressed his intention to extend the period of its implementation to the end of his next term (2024–2026) in order to allow more time for achieving the objectives contained in the Plan. In any event, in representing Africa Group II on the World Bank Board of Directors, we will be guided by the Strategic Plan, at least over the period between November 2022 and October 31, 2024.

The Strategic Plan 2022–2024 ensures the continuity and deepening of the work of my predecessor, **Mr. Alphonse Ibi Kouagou**, with whom I enjoyed a good collaborative relationship in managing the affairs of the Office in the interest of our countries. This collaboration has borne fruit and is a testament to his open-mindedness and readiness to work in partnership with me. It was therefore quite natural for me to continue the work that we had started together. I look forward to extending this level of collaboration to my successor, to ensure a smooth transition and every success in pursuing the mission of the Office.

The Strategic Plan 2022-2024 updates and expands upon the strategy that we implemented over the period 2020-2022, especially our urgent calls for greater consideration to be given to the specific situation of fragile, small, and middle-income countries, the effects of climate change, human capital development, access to energy for our populations and the need to strengthen food security.

The update of the previous Strategic Plan is guided, among other things, by the lessons learned from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of the war in Ukraine, as well as security and inflationary shocks, including food insecurity and access to energy.

I take this opportunity to thank all our Governors for their support over the past two years and look forward to their support during this term. If we are to successfully address the difficulties besetting the economies of our countries and the challenges of implementing an ecological, resilient and inclusive development process, we need, in the 10 years remaining for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, to create greater synergies among all stakeholders. Furthermore, in order to protect the interests of our countries, we must remain alert to the process of change that began in early 2023 with regard to the vision of the WBG as well as in relation to the Bank's operational and financial models and financial capacity. The aim is to help Africa Group II member countries, through our shared efforts, to overcome multiple crises, particularly in relation to security, health, energy, climate and food, and, in so doing, to position them, in the not-too distant future, as emerging economies.

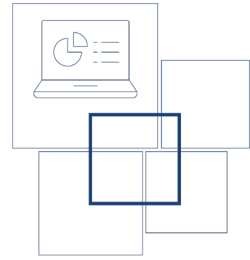
Abdoul Salam BELLO

Executive Director





Executive Summary



This paper identifies the four strategic priorities and the 10 related objectives for achieving our expected outcomes by the end of the two terms of the current Executive Director, with a focus, wherever necessary, on the particular circumstances of the small and middle-income countries within our Constituency.

These strategic priorities and objectives may be summarized as follows:

STRATEGIC PRIORITY I.

FOCUS ON CRISES AND SITUATIONS OF FRAGILITY

OBJECTIVE 1.

PROMOTE ADEQUATE RESPONSES TO CRISES AND SITUATIONS OF FRAGILITY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMITMENT OF THE WBG TO REMAIN ENGAGED IN AFFECTED COUNTRIES

OBJECTIVE 2.

HELP ENSURE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND PROMOTE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MALABO DECLARATION ON THE ACCELERATED GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

OBJECTIVE 3.

HELP STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE SAFETY NET SYSTEMS, EMPOWER WOMEN, AND COMBAT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY II.

CLIMATE AGENDA – MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

OBJECTIVE 4.

PROMOTE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO ENERGY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

OBJECTIVE 5.

HELP COUNTRIES ACCESS CLIMATE AGENDA AND BLUE ECONOMY FUNDS AND RESOURCES (BY PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF THESE FUNDS)

OBJECTIVE 6.

PROMOTE ACCESS TO LAND RESTORATION FUNDS, AS WELL AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COP15 RECOMMENDATIONS AND WORLD BANK REPORTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN EACH COUNTRY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY III.

HUMAN CAPITAL FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

OBJECTIVE 7.

PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD BANK'S AFRICA HUMAN CAPITAL PROJECT, INCLUDING GIRLS' EDUCATION

OBJECTIVE 8.

HELP COUNTRIES STRENGTHEN THEIR HEALTH SYSTEMS AND, AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, DEVELOP VACCINE MANUFACTURING CENTERS AND THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

OBJECTIVE 9.

PROMOTE THE DIGITAL ECONOMY IN ALL SECTORS OF ACTIVITY WITHIN EACH COUNTRY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY IV.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

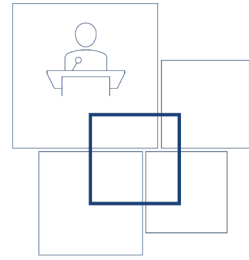
OBJECTIVE 10.

FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF IFC AND MIGA ACTIVITIES IN EACH COUNTRY, WITH A FOCUS ON MARKET CREATION AND THE PROMOTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

For each of these objectives, the document describes the context and outlines a series of actions that the Office plans to implement over the next two years. The same procedure was followed for the four cross-cutting issues selected: (i) Resource mobilization – IDA20 and other sources of financing; (ii) Participation of Africa Group II Countries in the 2018 Capital Increase – IBRD and IFC; (iii) Promotion of regional integration and regional solutions; and (iv) Partnership between the Office and regional and subregional institutions.



Introduction



World Bank statistics reveal that since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed an additional 70 million people into extreme poverty. Of the world's 830 million people living in extreme poverty, Africa alone accounts for 60 percent, or 380 million people, equivalent to a little more than the population of the United States of America.

The negative effects of the pandemic have been exacerbated by the impact of the war in Ukraine, particularly in relation to food security and energy prices. This has exacerbated the inflationary environment that loomed over our economies in the wake of the accommodative fiscal and monetary policies implemented in response to the health crisis. The combined impact of these simultaneous shocks raises fears of a recession in the near future.

Over the next two years, the Office will make its modest contribution to help our countries overcome the multiple crises besetting them and reverse the trends toward extreme poverty. The basic aim will be to bring about a positive impact on the growth and

development of the countries represented by the Office, with a particular emphasis on fragile economies, small island States and middle-income countries, as well as on human development issues, including health and education, especially girls' education.

This will require greater mobilization of private and public financing for our countries. It will be essential to strengthen partnerships. It will be important to expedite regional integration.

TO THIS END, THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024 IS BUILT AROUND THE FOLLOWING PILLARS:



THE FOLLOWING CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES WILL UNDERPIN THESE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

**RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION - IDA20
AND OTHER SOURCES
OF FINANCING**

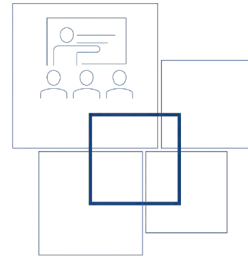
**PARTICIPATION OF AFRICA
GROUP II COUNTRIES IN THE
2018 CAPITAL INCREASE -
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT (IBRD) AND
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE
CORPORATION (IFC)**

**PROMOTION
OF REGIONAL
INTEGRATION AND
REGIONAL SOLUTIONS**

**PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN THE OFFICE
AND REGIONAL
AND SUBREGIONAL
INSTITUTIONS**



Chapter I.



Overview of Africa Group II Constituency and the main challenges facing its member countries

The Africa Group II Constituency is represented by the EDS13 Office and is made up of 23 Sub-Saharan African countries, of which 19 are French speaking, three Portuguese speaking, and one Spanish speaking. They have a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of about \$300 billion and a population of approximately 300 million. According to the World Bank Group country classification, the Group comprises three IBRD-only countries, three blend countries, i.e., eligible for both IDA (International Development Association) and IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) resources, and 17 IDA-only countries.

Ten of the 23 countries in the Constituency are classified as lower middle-income economies, three have upper-middle-income economic status and the rest (10) are considered low-income countries. The Constituency includes 10 fragile and conflict-affected States. In addition, the Constituency hosts eight countries classified as small States, four of which are islands.

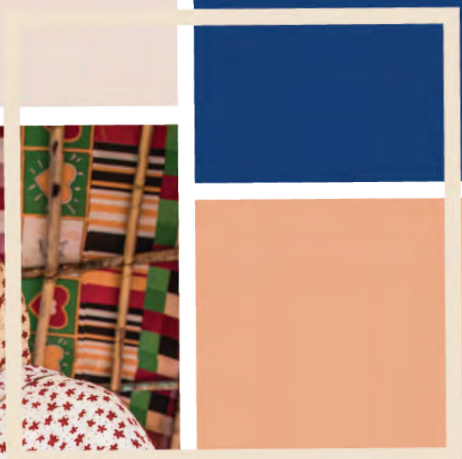
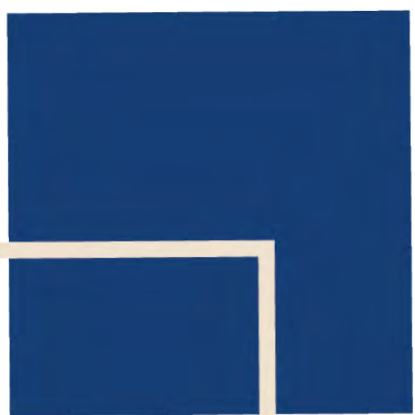
EDS13 COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

WORLD BANK CATEGORIES	COUNTRIES
IBRD-only countries	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Mauritius
Blend countries	Cabo Verde, Cameroon and Republic of Congo
IDA-only countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Togo
Upper middle-income countries	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Mauritius
Lower middle-income countries	Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe and Senegal
Low-income countries	Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Togo
Fragile States	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Niger
Small States	Cabo Verde, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius and Sao Tome and Principe
Small Island States	Cabo Verde, Comoros, Mauritius and Sao Tome and Principe

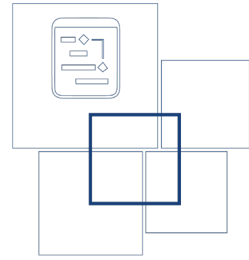
MAP OF AFRICA GROUP II COUNTRIES



The World Bank Group is endeavoring to achieve the twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. Challenges facing Africa Group II countries include the post-COVID recovery in an environment characterized by rising levels of inequality and fragility, conflict, violence, climate change, infrastructure deficits, debt, the technological divide, the challenges of urbanization, changing demographics, the human capital deficit, low levels of job creation, and economic transformation. Against this backdrop, the Office of the Executive Director will work with the World Bank Group to help the countries within its Constituency address these situations.



Chapter II.



Strategic Priorities and Cross-cutting Issues

STRATEGIC PRIORITY I.

FOCUS ON SITUATIONS OF CRISIS AND FRAGILITY

OBJECTIVE 1.

**PROMOTE ADEQUATE RESPONSES TO CRISES
AND FRAGILE SITUATIONS, IN KEEPING
WITH THE WBG'S COMMITMENT TO REMAIN
ENGAGED IN THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES**

Ten of the Africa Group II member countries are classified by the World Bank as countries that are in fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS). FCS situations constrain progress toward growth and sustainable development, not only in the affected countries, but also in neighboring countries that may be obliged, for

example, to manage flows of refugees and displaced persons. In many cases, this situation has generated regional instability. Conflicts are the root cause of 80 percent of humanitarian needs and reduce gross domestic product (GDP) growth by an average of two percentage points per year. Since 2020, FCS situations have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, whose socioeconomic impacts have heightened the risks of fragility, conflict, and violence and led to increased poverty.

Without strong and comprehensive action, FCS situations could both erode gains in poverty reduction and undermine prospects for progress. The World Bank Group's Strategic Plan for Fragility, Conflict and Violence 2020–2025 is designed to address this critical situation. Over the next two years, our Office will need to help promote adequate responses to FCS situations, in accordance with the World Bank Group's policies and strategy on this issue. The following actions will be conducted:

- Monitor implementation of the World Bank Group's Fragility, Conflict and Violence Strategy 2020–2025, in Africa Group II countries, particularly in the Sahel, the Great Lakes region of Africa, the Horn of Africa, and the surrounding regions.
- Facilitate access to the IDA20 Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA) for all fragile countries in Africa Group II as well as for those at risk of fragility, to help them prevent violent conflict through a stronger focus on prevention, the implementation of institutional reforms and development programs, and proactive crisis risk management.
- To ensure that, in keeping with their policies, WBG institutions remain engaged during active crises and conflicts (including coups d'état and sociopolitical crises), notably through partnerships with United Nations institutions and the African Union (AU), civil society and nongovernmental organizations.

- Promote recourse to the IDA regional envelope by Africa Group II member countries, in order to mitigate the impact of FCS situations, particularly in the implementation of poverty reduction programs and case management of refugees and involuntarily displaced persons.
- Draw the attention of countries and their development partners to situations that could exacerbate inequality, lack of opportunities, discrimination and exclusion that feed grievances and perceptions of injustice. These in turn lead to fragile and conflict-affected situations and, in particular, facilitate the recruitment of youth into armed and terrorist groups.

OBJECTIVE 2.

HELP ENSURE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND PROMOTE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MALABO DECLARATION ON THE ACCELERATED GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

Since 2019, extreme weather conditions, conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic have pushed nearly 50 million more people into situations of acute food insecurity across Sub-Saharan Africa, including several of the Africa Group II member countries. According to the World Bank, Africa is facing its worst food crisis in 40 years. Approximately 114 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa, or the equivalent of nearly half of the U.S. population, face severe food insecurity. In East Africa, 50 million people are at risk. In the Sahel, the number of people in need of emergency food aid has quadrupled to 30 million in recent years.

In 2014, African Union Heads of State and Government adopted a Declaration in Malabo, **Equatorial Guinea**, the aim of which was to accelerate and promote agricultural development and transformation, with a view to ensuring Africa's food security during the 10-year period between 2015 and 2025. However, it has to be acknowledged that despite the progress made in some areas, the rapidly growing threats from climate change, population growth, urbanization, market volatility, trade disruptions, political instability, and fragile and conflict-affected situations continue to place pressure on efforts to achieve food security and agricultural development in Africa.

In 2021, IDA established the West Africa Food System Resilience Program to increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems in participating countries. The program focuses on harnessing the digital economy for agricultural production, food crisis prevention and management, and the integration of regional food markets. It adopts a multi-phase programmatic approach that takes into account the need for regional structural solutions to strengthen the resilience of food systems in West Africa. Phase I was approved in November 2021 and includes **Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger** and **Togo**, as well as regional organizations such as the Inter-State Committee to Combat Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Phase II will cover **Chad, Ghana** and **Sierra Leone**.

In addition, the partnership between IDA and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) has been working since 2010 to address the challenges facing some Africa Group II members as they seek to develop their agricultural systems and food security programs.

Over the next two years, the Office will work to ensure that the WBG:

- Helps our Constituency countries expedite implementation of the provisions of the Malabo Declaration.
- Accelerates the implementation of the West Africa Food System Resilience Program and extends it to other countries in the region, as well as other regions of our Group; and reinforces its commitment to eradicating hunger in African countries through regional food resilience programs.
- Enhances cooperation with regional and subregional institutions involved in agricultural development and food crisis prevention such as CILSS, ECOWAS, the Green Wall Committee, and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).
- Increases the overall financing of investment in agriculture, agricultural productivity and rural industry, and reduces poverty through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation; while promoting intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and related services, including through support for the accelerated implementation of the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- Develops agricultural value chains and inclusive digitalization and contributes to the removal of the current constraints to the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises.
- Facilitates our countries' access to IDA Crisis Response Window (CRW) resources to respond to severe food crises resulting from natural disasters, public health emergencies and economic crises.

- Integrates the adoption of technological advances and innovative structural investments to support enhanced agricultural productivity and the resilience of food security systems.

OBJECTIVE 3.

HELP STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE SAFETY NET SYSTEMS, EMPOWER WOMEN, AND COMBAT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Social safety nets, empowering women and girls, and preventing gender-based violence are essential complements to the successful implementation of development processes. The mainstreaming of social safety nets improves outcomes, notably enhancing equity and inclusiveness in the implementation of policies for economic growth and development.

Social safety nets are non-contributory benefits, in cash or in kind, aimed at supporting the poor or vulnerable, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected situations. Since developing countries and their partners mainstreamed social safety net programs in the early 2000s, they have proven their effectiveness. These programs include cash transfers (conditional and unconditional), highly labor-intensive public works, social pensions, school feeding programs, emergency programs and programs to promote social inclusion, as well as the use of fee waivers or scholarships to provide enhanced access to health services, education and housing.

In its approach to help countries build social protection systems, IDA employs a “progressive universalism” approach, focusing first on the poorest and most vulnerable before reaching other social groups. IDA20 prioritizes adaptive social protection that

should be integrated into national systems in order to reduce the risks of a series of shocks and provide a platform for delivering other services to hard-to-reach people and groups, thus helping countries consolidate systems of inclusiveness and resilience.

Women's empowerment is defined as a process of awareness-building and skills development through which women acquire the capacity to act independently, both individually and collectively, and thus free themselves from male domination and influence. Women are at the heart of efforts to achieve family, cultural, health and social balance. They also play a central role in health, development and education. Consequently, empowering women is essential to the achievement of peace and economic and social progress.

"Gender and Development" has been a special theme for IDA since IDA16, reflecting a broad consensus that closing gaps between women and men, and boys and girls, is essential for reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. IDA's approach to gender has evolved significantly over time, including through better monitoring of progress toward outcomes, integrating gender-specific analyses and programming into national strategies, improving the collection of gender-disaggregated data, and launching work to address gender gaps in fragile and conflict-affected regions.

With respect to the digital economy and agriculture, IDA20 proposes to increase women's access to and use of new technologies in order to close gender gaps in these areas. Specific actions are also planned to strengthen women's land rights and to ensure that infrastructure operations (transport, energy and water) include interventions to create medium and high-skilled employment opportunities for women.

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to all forms of abuse, coercion and threats, whether physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or

economic, committed against an individual because of his or her gender or gender identity. GBV undermines the autonomy, dignity, health (mental and physical) and safety of its victims. In addition to its major adverse effects on social and economic development, GBV is also a public health problem and an obstacle to gender equality and development.

IDA helps countries strengthen their policy frameworks for prevention and response to GBV, and supports GBV prevention services in health and education. IDA has been implementing the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Project for a number of years. The aim of this project is to enhance the income-generating potential of beneficiaries, promote the development of essential life skills and improve school enrollment and completion rates for women and girls. This project also supports the design, evaluation, and scale-up of interventions that enhance viable alternatives to early marriage and childbearing in some countries within our Constituency, namely **Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.**

In view of their importance for the development of our countries, the Office will advocate for strengthening the World Bank Group's efforts to develop and update social safety nets, empower women and girls, and prevent GBV. Advocacy will focus on:

- Mainstreaming and diversifying safety nets in our countries to support the poorest and most vulnerable households in fragile and crisis situations, protect them from some of the consequences of policies implemented, and help them access education and employment opportunities.
- Introducing digital means to facilitate the implementation and effectiveness of safety net systems, such as the NOVISSI program that was implemented in Togo at the height of the

COVID-19 pandemic. The use of new technologies in this safety net program should be replicated, sustainable, and widespread.

- Promoting all WBG actions and programs aimed at increasing the empowerment of women and girls and their contributions to economic activities and development.
- Disseminating programs similar to SWEDD across all regions of the continent.
- Strengthening actions by women and girls to prevent GBV and its consequences.
- Strengthening actions on gender-related issues and the empowerment of women and girls, including in matters pertaining to health, education, and employment, in all projects and programs financed or supported by the WBG.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY II.

CLIMATE AGENDA – MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

OBJECTIVE 4.

PROMOTE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO ENERGY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

Access to energy remains of critical importance in our Constituency countries. Universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy sources is essential for achieving the SDGs, as well as for ensuring the economic growth and prosperity of individuals, the development of human capital and the delivery of public services. Major challenges remain in accessing energy in homes, schools, hospitals, and the industrial sector, with high supply costs estimated to be more than double those of member countries of the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development).

In addition, lack of clean cooking causes more than 4.3 million premature deaths each year, mainly among women and girls. The need to improve energy access has become even more urgent in the context of the COVID-19 response and the preparation for a resilient recovery.

However, in response to the imperatives of the 2015 Paris Agreement for the reduction of net carbon emissions by 2050 and the WBG's commitment to align with it by July 1, 2025, it was decided that IDA's

commitment to natural gas projects will be limited to situations where natural gas used in the energy sector cannot be economically replaced by cleaner alternatives. Africa is endowed with abundant energy resources, from renewable sources of energy to fossil fuels, including natural gas. It is important to note that these resources, including natural gas, can transform lives and offer economic opportunities for the continent. For example, African natural gas can be harnessed to provide electricity across larger areas of the continent.

According to the African Energy Commission (AFREC), natural gas is the most environmentally friendly fossil fuel in terms of CO₂ emissions, below the levels of oil or coal. This is why it is often seen as a transition fuel that can help reduce emissions in the medium term, before gas is necessarily replaced by carbon-free sources. The role of natural gas was analyzed in a paper produced by AFREC and entitled “Designing the Energy Transition in Africa,” which recommends that African countries determine the extent to which the full potential of natural gas may be unlocked during Africa’s transition to full decarbonization.

For the reasons cited above, the Office has in recent years strongly argued in favor of increasing energy supply and use in our countries, to ensure universal access based on optimal diversification of different energy sources, including natural gas. The Office has mobilized the Executive Directors representing Sub-Saharan Africa to advocate for this cause, both on the Board of Directors and through bilateral discussions with the Executive Directors representing the United States, France and the United Kingdom, as well as the Nordic and Baltic countries. This has led to an agreement that certain waivers may be granted to African countries for receiving IDA financing for gas-based energy production.

Over the next two years, the Office will pursue its advocacy by ensuring that:

- Our countries use the opportunity offered by the waiver for financing gas-based energy production in order to significantly increase their people's access to energy and to facilitate all the development opportunities it offers.
- IBRD, IDA, IFC (International Finance Corporation) and MIGA (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency) are all complying with their commitments to our countries under SDG7 on universal access to sustainable energy, including water, solar, and wind energy and the development of renewable energy storage systems.
- All of our countries are on track to achieve SDG7 to ensure universal access to energy, investments, innovation, and new sectors that are drivers of job creation, inclusive growth, and shared socioeconomic prosperity.

OBJECTIVE 5.

HELP COUNTRIES ACCESS CLIMATE AGENDA AND BLUE ECONOMY FUNDS AND RESOURCES (BY PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF THESE FUNDS)

Climate finance is critical to achieving low-carbon, climate-resilient sustainable development. However, the global climate finance landscape is complex and constantly changing. Funds are available through multilateral channels (within

and outside the financing mechanisms of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement), and increasingly through bilateral channels, as well as regional and national climate funds. They are often intended to help developing countries adapt, mitigate, and reduce the effects of climate change. However, the countries within our Constituency have little or no knowledge of the existence of these funds, or of the conditions for accessing them.

The World Bank defines the blue economy as “the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and the health of ocean ecosystems.” For the European Union, the blue economy encompasses all sectors and industries related to oceans, seas and coasts, whether directly within the marine environment (such as shipping, supply of seafood or energy production) or the land environment (such as ports, shipyards, or coastal infrastructure). As defined, it is clear that all coastal and island countries within our Group should incorporate the blue economy in their private and public sector development plans.

Over the next two years, the Office will:

- As part of its efforts to facilitate access to information for our Constituency countries, identify climate funds available from the World Bank and other sources, as well as the conditions for access.
- Encourage countries to consider accessing green funds to accelerate their climate adaptation and energy access programs.
- Call on the WBG to increase its assistance to countries in their efforts to develop programs for harnessing the blue economy.

- Encourage countries to develop their blue economies by taking advantage of the opportunities available.

OBJECTIVE 6.

PROMOTE ACCESS TO LAND RESTORATION FUNDS, AS WELL AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COP15 RECOMMENDATIONS AND WORLD BANK REPORTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN EACH COUNTRY

Desertification and land degradation are a huge problem. A third of the world's land surface area is threatened by desertification. African countries, particularly those in the Sahel region, are among the most affected. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is seeking to address this phenomenon. Land restoration is a critical goal for ensuring a sustainable future for humanity, particularly in terms of food production and food security. Discussions in successive "COP" gatherings have focused on ways to protect landscapes globally. The Great Green Wall project in the Sahel, launched by the AU, is part of this effort. However, progress has been stymied, largely owing to insufficient financing.

African countries have not yet made sufficient progress in developing their national plans to combat desertification. In this regard, financing is a sensitive issue. African countries are seeking a global fund for drought prevention and management that is separate from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The EU is advocating for increased financing for Early Warning Systems for drought to be channeled through the GEF, the global financing instrument par excellence in all matters pertaining to the environment. Land degradation is precisely one of the five GEF focal areas.

All countries that have ratified the three 1992 Rio Conventions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (climate change, biodiversity, combating desertification) meet regularly to discuss progress in these areas. These meetings are known as the Conference of the Parties or COP. The 15th Conference (COP15) on combating desertification was held in Abidjan, **Côte d’Ivoire**, on May 9–20, 2022.

The World Bank Group’s Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs) are new core diagnostic instruments that integrate climate change and development considerations. They should help countries prioritize the most effective actions that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost adaptation, while achieving broader development goals, such as drought control. CCDRs will feed into other WBG diagnostics, commitments and core operations, and help attract financing for high-impact climate actions. The 19 reports available to date cover 24 countries, including six in our Constituency, namely a report for the G5 Sahel countries (**Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger**) and a report for **Cameroon**.

Over the next two years, the Office will work to:

- Promote access to land restoration funds, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- Advocate for WBG assistance to our Constituency member countries to implement the Abidjan COP15 recommendations and their national plans to combat desertification.
- Advocate for the development of CCDRs for all member countries of our Constituency.

- Promote the implementation of CCDR recommendations to accelerate our countries' adaptation to climate change and the achievement of the SDGs.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY III.

HUMAN CAPITAL FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

OBJECTIVE 7.

PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD BANK'S AFRICA HUMAN CAPITAL PROJECT, INCLUDING GIRLS' EDUCATION

Human capital (i.e., the sum total of a population's health, skills, knowledge and experience) accounts for the largest share of countries' wealth globally. The World Bank's Africa Human Capital Plan is part of its global human capital agenda and focuses on working with Sub-Saharan African countries to help them achieve their human capital goals.

Investing in Africa's people is key to ensuring the continent's future prosperity and its full participation in global markets. The Human Capital Project is based on the World Bank's new Human Capital Index, which focuses on how human capital contributes to the productivity of the next generation of a country's workers. The index measures a country's performance in the building blocks of an economy, including those closely linked to the SDGs for health, education, and nutrition.

Africa is the region with the lowest human capital index. Africa's Human Capital Index score of 0.40 in 2022 puts the region at 40 percent of its potential. This means that under the current conditions, children born today will achieve only 40 percent of their economic potential. In a hypothetical situation where everyone benefits from a complete education and enjoys full health, GDP per worker could be 2.5 times higher in Africa.

Over the next two years, the Office will:

- Encourage countries in our Constituency, which have not yet done so, to adopt the Human Capital Project and undertake priority human capital reforms and investments;
- Advocate for the World Bank to work closely with our countries in order to help them define their vision and strategy with a view to achieving their human capital development goals;
- Encourage countries and the World Bank to focus in particular on girls' education so that, in the long run, by combining human capital and gender equality outcomes, the other half of the population will also be able to fully contribute to growth and economic development.

OBJECTIVE 8.

HELP COUNTRIES STRENGTHEN THEIR HEALTH SYSTEMS AND, AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, DEVELOP VACCINE MANUFACTURING CENTERS AND THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

According to the 2018 World Health Organization (WHO) Report on the State of Health in the WHO African region, the average health system performance index is 0.49. This means that, on average, health systems operate at only 49 percent of their potential, with performance scores ranging between 0.26 and 0.70. The scores are 0.32 for access to essential services, 0.63 for quality, 0.67 for demand and 0.32 for resilience. By way of example, no West African country scores higher than 0.50 for access to essential services.

Most public hospitals lack modern medical equipment to provide patient care, and some private referral hospitals are better equipped than even public teaching hospitals. Emergency care and trauma services are in a worrying state. Patients complain about the lack of promptness in their care and treatment, and it will be several years before universal health insurance is available in a number of African countries. Africa remains highly vulnerable in terms of health.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the preceding Ebola outbreaks have highlighted the fragility of Africa's health infrastructure and the urgent need to strengthen the entire health system in order to ensure access to quality health care for all Africans.

Over the next two years, the Office will help our Constituency countries:

- Access the various funds and programs available within and outside of the WBG, in order to strengthen health systems and systems for detecting, preventing and responding to epidemics and pandemics such as the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (HEPR) Umbrella Program and the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Fund (HEPRF);
- Access the Africa Medical Equipment Facility (AMEF) established by IFC for health businesses to help hospitals, clinics, laboratories and diagnostic imaging centers acquire state-of-the-art equipment;
- Encourage the WBG to support all our countries in order to strengthen health security and advance inclusive health systems and universal health coverage;
- Work with IFC to ensure the continuation and expansion of the vaccine manufacturing program on the African continent.

OBJECTIVE 9.

PROMOTE THE DIGITAL ECONOMY IN ALL SECTORS OF ACTIVITY WITHIN EACH COUNTRY

From financial services to distance learning to more inclusive government services, digital solutions promote faster and more equitable and resilient growth. Digital technologies are forging new pathways for rapid economic growth, innovation, job creation and access to services.

The AU and its member countries are currently rolling out ways to harness digital technologies and innovation that will transform African societies and economies, with a view to promoting Africa's integration, generating inclusive economic growth, boosting job creation, eliminating the digital divide and eradicating poverty by leveraging all the benefits of the digital revolution for socioeconomic development.

The WBG's Digital Economy for Africa (DE4A) flagship initiative supports the AU's Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa. The DE4A initiative aims to promote the digital economy in Africa in order to help accelerate the achievement of the UN SDGs and the WBG's twin goals.

Over the next two years, the Office will endeavor to:

- Promote in our countries the implementation of projects and programs supported by the AU Africa Digital Transformation Strategy and the WBG DE4A;
- Encourage the digitalization of education, health, and access to social safety nets and basic services;

- Promote entrepreneurship, including for youth, in the digital economy.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY IV.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE 10.

FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF IFC AND MIGA ACTIVITIES IN EACH COUNTRY, WITH A FOCUS ON MARKET CREATION AND THE PROMOTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

It is now widely recognized that private sector-led growth is the most viable in developing countries. As a result, the development community in general, and the World Bank Group in particular, has shifted from a paradigm of development finance based primarily on official development assistance and the public sector to one characterized by the widest possible mobilization of private sector resources, assigning a pivotal role to development finance institutions, such as IFC and MIGA, that will serve as leading development finance actors.

The IFC and MIGA strategies (IFC 3.0 and MIGA FY21–23, respectively) help address the challenge of mobilizing private sector resources. Indeed, the implementation of these strategies will help refocus the work of these WBG private sector entities from a transaction-oriented approach to a creating markets approach, placing an emphasis on mobilizing private capital for development and de-risking markets.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) includes a Private Sector Investment Financing Framework, which is a private sector-led initiative to build industry capacity and take advantage of the liberalized pan-African market. This initiative is expected to mobilize \$1 billion in investment annually on the continent.

Over the next two years, the Office will continue to:

- Promote IFC's and MIGA's work in all our countries;
- Carry out its actions aimed at encouraging the decentralization of these two institutions on the ground;
- Advocate for greater contributions from these institutions to the development of national private sectors and youth and women's entrepreneurship in all our countries, including through the creating markets strategy;
- Promote broader use of the Private Sector Window (PSW) to benefit our countries;
- Advocate with IFC and MIGA to encourage them to help our countries develop or reinvigorate their industrialization programs and implement them.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE 1: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION - IDA20 AND OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCING

The 20th IDA replenishment concluded on December 15, 2021, mobilizing a record US\$93 billion to cover the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. This reflects an overall nominal increase of 13 percent relative to IDA19. The breakdown of the overall envelope is as follows:

- Performance-Based Allocation Mechanism: **US\$54 billion**
- Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Envelope: **US\$8.8 billion**
- Regional Window: **US\$7.9 billion**
- Window for Host Communities and Refugees: **US\$2.4 billion**
- Crisis Response Window (CRW): **US\$3.3 billion**
- Private Sector Window: **US\$2.5 billion**
- Scale Up Window: **US\$14.1 billion**

These resources are intended to finance the following sectors: (i) human capital to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic while simultaneously scaling up investments in health, education, and social protection systems to support a green,

resilient and inclusive recovery; (ii) climate change to help IDA countries address the short- and long-term needs for adaptation, decarbonization, and biodiversity protection, as well as natural capital and ecosystems for a green and resilient recovery; (iii) Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) in order to deepen the implementation of the WBG FCV Strategy; (iv) Gender and development to deepen the implementation of the WBG Gender Equality Strategy across its four pillars, increase ambition in areas where gender gaps have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis and ensure that gender equality is an essential element of the IDA strategy; (v) Jobs and Economic Transformation (JET) to help IDA countries address both the immediate needs of minimizing job losses and mitigating risks, while also helping them seize longer-term opportunities in a world transformed by COVID-19; (vi) Crisis preparedness to help countries build resilience in a world where crises occur more frequently and with compounded effects; (vii) Governance and institutions to build competent, accountable, and inclusive public administrations.

During the three-year cycle that began in July 2022, the Office undertakes to:

- Ensure that each of our countries makes full and effective use of the envelope allocated to it;
- Encourage our countries to use the various windows to mobilize the resources for which they are eligible;
- Help our countries secure additional resources for those countries that have performed best in mobilizing and utilizing the resources to which they are entitled;
- Encourage our countries to improve their Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) ratings.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE 2: PARTICIPATION IN THE 2018 CAPITAL INCREASE – IBRD AND IFC

To reflect the interests and meet the financial needs of Africa Group II, it is important for the capital increase program approved as part of the financial envelope and package of measures discussed during the 2018 Spring Meetings to be implemented as soon as possible, with the full support of our Group.

The financial package includes a capital increase of \$13 billion—\$7.5 billion for IBRD and \$5.5 billion for IFC—as well as a \$52.6 billion increase in callable capital for IBRD. This operation will be implemented through a Selective Capital Increase (SCI) and a General Capital Increase (GCI) for IBRD and IFC. For IFC, the program also includes a proposal to convert retained earnings into paid-in capital and an amendment to the Articles of Agreement.

The Office monitors the situation and continues to encourage Africa Group II countries to subscribe to their shares as per the general and selective capital increase resolutions approved by the Board of Governors that provide for a five-year subscription and payment process. The Office is stepping up its efforts to ensure that the countries it represents take advantage of the time allocated to submit their subscription documents and make their payments on time to avoid irrevocably losing the shares allocated to them. Drawing on lessons from subscriptions to the 2010 capital increase, the Office is continuing the dialogue initiated with countries in 2019 and is taking other concrete steps to ensure that the process is effective and timely.

On the IBRD side, the deadline is October 1, 2023 for SCI and GCI subscriptions and payments. In the case of IFC, Resolution No. 278

adopted by the Board of Governors on April 20, 2023 extends the deadlines for SCI subscriptions and payments from the original date of April 15, 2023 to April 16, 2026. With respect to the GCI, on April 4, 2023, the Board of Directors approved an extension of the deadline for the submission of documents by one year to April 16, 2024. The deadline for completing payments remains April 15, 2025.

As of April 24, 2023, the status of our countries was as follows:

For IBRD: One country (**Mali**) has completed its subscription and paid up in full, five countries (**Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar** and **Mauritius**) have completed their subscription process and are making payments, four countries (**Comoros, Gabon, Mauritania** and **Senegal**) have completed the subscription procedures but have not yet initiated payments, five countries (**Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Niger** and **Togo**) have initiated the subscription process but have not yet completed it, and eight countries (**Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau** and **Sao Tome and Principe**) have not yet initiated the subscription process.

For IFC: Two countries (**Côte d'Ivoire** and **Madagascar**) have completed their subscriptions and payments, five countries (**Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius** and **Senegal**) have completed their subscription process and are making payments, 10 countries (**Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania** and **Togo**) have submitted their subscription documents but have not yet initiated payments, one country (**Niger**) has initiated but has not yet completed its subscription process, and five countries (**Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea** and **Sao Tome and Principe**) have not yet started the subscription process.

The Office intends to:

- Increase the number of reminders and step up awareness raising with respect to subscriptions and payments;
- Continue to provide any assistance required for this purpose, in collaboration with the staff of the World Bank's Corporate Secretariat.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE 3: PROMOTION OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Since gaining independence, African countries have understood that the continent's salvation lies in the pooling of their resources. As a result, numerous initiatives are being implemented at the continental and regional levels. The most recent initiative, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), represents a real opportunity to boost growth, reduce poverty and expand economic inclusion in Africa. It seeks support from and works with the various regional organizations to achieve these goals.

Regional integration provides an opportunity for African countries to diversify their exports, accelerate growth, and attract foreign direct investment to help them rebuild their economies that were devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In recent years, the World Bank Group has strengthened its support for regional integration in Africa, largely in response to numerous pleas from African Executive Directors. The WBG's updated Regional Integration and Cooperation Assistance Strategy in

Africa (2021–2023) focuses on improving connectivity in transport, energy and digital infrastructure. The WBG strategy seeks to promote trade and market integration by facilitating trade along regional economic corridors, providing technical assistance for the deployment of AfCFTA and support for regional value chains, and by fostering financial market integration.

The Office will focus in the coming years on:

- Encouraging our countries to accelerate their economic integration process at the regional and continental levels;
- Supporting all actions aimed at achieving the AfCFTA's objectives and implementing regional integration processes in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Making a strong case for WBG involvement to support achievement of the AfCFTA's objectives and implementation of regional integration processes in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Encouraging the other development finance institutions and organizations to increase their support for continental and regional economic integration in Africa.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE 4: PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE OFFICE AND REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

In view of the increasing importance of the regional and continental integration process in which all Africa Group II countries are engaged and the need for closer monitoring of the WBG's role in the multifaceted support required for this purpose, the Office will cooperate more closely with all African regional and continental integration organizations in which our countries participate.

This partnership should pave the way for the development of platforms for discussion, collaboration and information sharing, with a view to strengthening the Office's advocacy on economic integration and regional cooperation issues. Regular interactions with African regional and subregional organizations should enable the Office to take stock of their needs, in order to encourage the WBG to continually improve its response. These interactions will also be used to monitor this support.

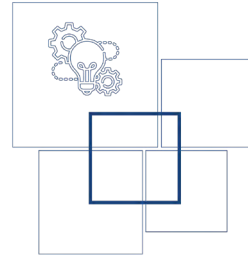
- The Office will ramp up its advocacy for regional and subregional institutions.
- The Office will also strengthen its advocacy to ensure that the WBG pays increasing attention to regional integration issues in Africa and mobilizes the necessary support.
- Lastly, the Office will intensify its advocacy for greater involvement of the WBG in the AfCFTA process.







Chapter III.



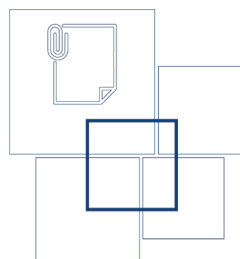
Implementation

To implement the Office’s Strategic Plan 2022–2024 and track the progress of the 10 objectives and the four cross-cutting issues individually, the Office will:

- Identify concrete actions to be taken to achieve the objective or address the cross-cutting issue;
- Define criteria for evaluating results;
- Assess progress toward achievement of all the objectives and implementation of responses to all cross-cutting issues within the required timeframes;
- Produce a semi-annual report on progress achieved and, where appropriate, the corrective actions required.

All actions and criteria for evaluating the results will be set out in a matrix that will serve as a guide for monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Semi-annual reports on each objective and cross-cutting issue will be compiled into a semi-annual strategy implementation report, which will be incorporated into the EDS13 Office's Annual Report to the Constituency's Governors.

Annex



IDA 20 Windows

OBJECTIVE	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	COMMENTS
I. Performance-Based Allocation system: US\$54 billion		
Allocations enable IDA recipient countries to implement policies that promote economic growth and poverty reduction and finance their financing needs.	The allocation of resources to IDA countries is based on the Country Performance Rating (CPR), population size and GNI per capita.	The CPR of IDA countries is determined annually based on the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) and the Portfolio Performance Rating (PPR).
II. Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Envelope: US\$8.8 billion		
The objectives of the FCV envelope are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond with greater agility to the evolving needs of IDA countries facing fragility, conflict and violence; • Provide targeted and tailored support to the prevailing conflict and fragility dynamics specific to each IDA client. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDA19 eligible countries will not be required to redo the eligibility process in IDA20. Rather, decisions regarding their continued eligibility will be confirmed through an annual performance review process. 	There are three types of country allocations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA) • The Remaining Engaged during Conflict Allocation (RECA) • The Turn Around Allocation (TAA)

OBJECTIVE	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	COMMENTS
III. Regional Window: US\$7.9 billion		
<p>Aims to promote development through regional approaches by providing top-up funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of two or more countries in the operation to ensure that the project's objectives are achievable; at least one of these countries must be an IDA-eligible country. • The operation should generate positive economic and/or social externalities (or mitigate negative ones) across country boundaries among participating countries. • There should be evidence of country and regional ownership of the operation. 	
IV. Window for Host Communities and Refugees: US\$2.4 billion		
<p>Help refugee-hosting countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate the shocks caused by an influx of refugees and create social and economic opportunities for refugees and host communities. • Facilitate sustainable solutions to protracted refugee situations, including through the sustainable socioeconomic integration of refugees and/or their return to their countries of origin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of UNHCR-registered refugees is at least 25,000 or 0.1 percent of the population. • The country adheres to an adequate framework for the protection of refugees. • The government has put in place a strategy or plan acceptable to IDA that describes the concrete steps, including possible reforms, toward long-term solutions that benefit host communities and refugees. 	

OBJECTIVE	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	COMMENTS
V. Crisis Response Window: US\$3.3 billion		
<p>Helps IDA countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to the impact of natural disasters, public health emergencies and economic crises. Respond at an earlier stage to slower-onset crises, namely disease outbreaks and food insecurity. 	<p>While all IDA-eligible countries are, in principle, eligible for CRW support, a country's access to the CRW depends on specific circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The magnitude of the impact of the crisis; The country's access to alternative sources of financing (including IBRD); and The country's ability to use its own resources. 	
VI. Private Sector Window: US\$2.5 billion		
<p>The objectives of this window, through leveraging of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) platforms, are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the mobilization of private sector investments, and Scale up the growth of a sustainable and responsible private sector in IDA-only countries and in IDA-eligible Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be an IDA, middle-income, blend, fragile, or conflict-affected country. Use blended concessional finance in private sector operations. 	

OBJECTIVE	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	COMMENTS
VII. Scale Up Window: US\$14.1 billion with two components		
<p>1. Short-term concessional loans (US\$7.8 billion)</p> <p>These loans aim to increase the investments that eligible countries need in the short and medium term as part of their COVID-19 response.</p>	<p>Be an IDA country at low or moderate risk of debt distress, a Gap Country or a Blend Country (except Small States that are at high risk of debt distress or in debt distress).</p>	
<p>2. Non-concessional resources (US\$6.3 billion)</p> <p>Increase IDA financing for national and/or regional projects that are radically transformational and have a strong development impact and significant economic benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a country that is subject to a Low-Income Country Debt Sustainability Analysis (LIC-DSA) and at low or moderate risk of debt distress. • The eligibility of countries not subject to a LIC-DSA will depend on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Confirmation that they comply with the IDA Sustainable Development Financing Policy and the IMF Debt Limits Policy; and ◊ The results of consultations with the Chief Risk Officer (CRO), staff of the Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice (MTI-GP), the Office of the Vice President for Operations Policy and Country Services (OPCS), and the Office of the Vice President for Development Finance (DFI). 	





Credits

Cover page.

Vincent Tremeau/World Bank. Sala Waterfalls. Labé Prefecture, Guinea

Girard/Visions of Africa. Fisherman in the Ogooué Region, Gabon

Arne Hoel/Visions of Africa. Rice fields near Ambositra, Madagascar

Vincent Tremeau/World Bank. Cashew Plantation in Boké, Guinea

Page iv. Vincent Tremeau/World Bank. Women trained as electricians install a solar panel in Am Timan, Chad

Page 1. World Bank PhotoLab. Photograph of the Executive Director

Page 3. Vincent Tremeau/World Bank. A group of women trained as electricians as part of the SWEDD project, in front of their workshop in Am Timan, Chad

Page 4. Girard/Visions of Africa. Bottles of honey ready for consumption and sale, Gabon

Page 8. Kaglan/Visions of Africa. Lunchtime at a school in Kpessou, Togo Maritime Region

Page 12. Vincent Tremeau/World Bank. . Cashew Plantation in Boké, Guinea

Page 16. Vincent Tremeau/World Bank. Raghiya studying at home in Selibabi, Mauritania

Page 47. Vincent Tremeau/World Bank. Viviane Damey preparing rice for lunch in Kindia, Guinea

Page 48. Girard/Visions of Africa. Ogooué River, Gabon

Page 55. Girard/Visions of Africa. Fisherman in the Ogooué Region, Gabon

Page 56. Vincent Tremeau/World Bank. Sala Waterfalls. Labé Prefecture, Guinea

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Report: Office of the Executive Director

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AFRICA GROUP II CONSTITUENCY COUNTRIES. EDS13

BENIN • BURKINA FASO • CABO VERDE • CAMEROON • CENTRAL
AFRICAN REPUBLIC • CHAD • COMOROS • REPUBLIC OF CONGO •
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO • CÔTE D'IVOIRE • DJIBOUTI
• EQUATORIAL GUINEA • GABON • GUINEA • GUINEA-BISSAU •
MADAGASCAR • MALI • MAURITIUS • MAURITANIA • NIGER
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