

## IDA-18

### Final Replenishment Meeting, Yogyakarta, 14-15 December 2016 General Norwegian Statement on the Policy & Financing package

*Chair,*

- IDA plays a key role in mobilizing the maximum amount of multilateral financing for the realization of the ambitious SDG and Paris agendas.
- On the groundbreaking financing package, we think we have struck a fine balance between not fundamentally altering the nature of IDA and financial innovation, leveraging IDA's equity. We are in good shape to deliver on Addis, the “billions to trillions” paradigm shift and the MDB balance sheet optimization agenda.
- On the policy package, we are very content with the Draft Deputies' Report. We are extremely happy with the doubling of support to fragile states and FCV (fragility, conflict, violence) situations, the refugee sub-window and the increase in resources for crisis response. As regards FVC situations, the need to put more people on the ground can hardly be overemphasized.
- We also support the set-aside for Syria, across all financing scenarios. I'd like to draw your attention to the joint proposal (circulated non-paper) by Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Norway on the set-aside to be used for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries, in case conditions for World Bank re-engagement with Syria proper not materialize during the IDA-18 period. It is a global public responsibility to help remedy the situation. We repeat our call for a place-holder in the IDA Deputies' Report to revert to this discussion at the IDA-18 Mid-Term Review in 2018.
- Through the Private Sector Window we think we have found a proper balance between more risk-taking and prudence. We are hopeful that more risk-taking in poor IDA countries and fragile states will lead to better results.
- As for the rest of the policy package, we have a few remaining “asks”. Yes, we ask for a lot in these replenishments, perhaps too much, but still – just a few points:
  - ✓ On climate, we would like to see more focus in the narrative on “slow onset disasters”, beyond the strong focus on natural disasters and climate-related shocks.
  - ✓ On governance, we urge the bank and IDA to further increase the level of ambition on illicit financial flows, with a strengthened focus on combating IFF in concrete terms, beyond analytical work.

- ✓ On cooperation with other actors, we ask IDA to cooperate even more and even better with the African Development Fund, to achieve more synergy. We would like to see even more concrete commitment to such cooperation in the Deputies' Report.
- Finally, IDA replenishments are always a compromise between our priorities and country demand. We sincerely hope that the IDA-18 policy package will inspire country demand to the fullest possible degree.

*Thank you*

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Norwegian intervention on IDA support to Syrian refugees

*Chair,*

- Sorry for taking the floor once more, but I feel a need to clarify the proposal in the circulated non-paper.
- The proposal is not to support Syria's neighboring countries, which are not IDA-eligible. The proposal is to support Syrian refugees that have fled from a desperate situation in their home country, pending Syria becoming IDA-eligible not only in principle but also in practice.
- We realize, of course, that this situation is also being addressed by other initiatives and financing mechanisms, including the MENA Concessional Financing Facility.
- Our proposal does not, however, entail "mixing the boxes" or "meddling with the boxes". What we propose is to use complementary mechanisms for basically the same purpose, which is – after all – fairly commonplace in multilateral development cooperation.

*Thank you*

## IDA-18

### Final Replenishment Meeting, Yogyakarta, 14-15 December 2016 Norwegian final and pledging statement

*Chair,*

- Norway has always been, remains and will continue to be a staunch supporter of IDA. We hold IDA to be a uniquely fit-for-purpose delivery mechanism for support to poor countries, today more so than ever.
- We have already praised the IDA-18 policy and financing package – as the Netherlands coined it, “the Yogyakarta Package” – so I am not going to repeat myself. We are, in short, very content with the package.
- Like other donor countries, Norway has also struggled with severe budgetary pressures, which – frankly – is a bit of an unusual experience for us. We have fought hard for IDA, as a very strong performer, and have been able to reach a good result.
- Norway will participate in IDA-18 with a basic contribution to the amount of 2,748 billion Norwegian kroner, subject to parliamentary approval. This represents a “flat nominal” basic grant contribution, in line with the base scenario. We will follow the standard 9-year encashment schedule.
- On HIPC compensation, we target a contribution in keeping with our previous commitments, pending a budgetary process and, ultimately, parliamentary approval.
- Like others, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our Chair, Co-Chair, the IDA Team and bank management. Your hard work, ambition, dedication and stamina – working days, nights and very early mornings – go way beyond the call of duty. Thank you so much.
- Finally, I would also like to pay tribute to all of those working behind the scenes throughout this replenishment process, often our unsung heroes. Blessed be thou.

*Thank you*