

Statement by the Arab Governors to the World Bank Group

The Arab Governors to the World Bank Group (WBG) met with the WBG President Mr. David Malpaas on Sunday 20 Oct 2019. The meeting discussed the cooperation between Arab countries and the WBG, including ways to strengthening the WBG response to the specific challenges facing countries in fragile and conflicted-affected situations

In this context, the Arab Governors to the World Bank Group expressed their strong support to the International Development Assistance (IDA) and the IDA19 replenishment process. The Arab Governors recognized the critical role that IDA has been playing for more than 50 years in supporting countries to respond to their most complex development challenges, including by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Arab Governors recognized IDA's transformational role and its track record in achieving development in low income countries especially those suffering from fragility, conflict and violence (FCV). IDA's support to Yemen shows how effective the IDA development agenda can be in a context of active conflict. In addition, IDA's support to mobilizing and redistributing resources needed to rebuild Somalia after three decades of conflict is another example of the vital role that IDA plays in supporting countries to transition from conflict to stability. IDA also contributed to global public good agenda by extending its help to Lebanon and Jordan in dealing with the influx of Syrian refugees.

We appreciate the proactive role IDA has played to alleviate poverty and underemployment in Djibouti, as well as the support extended to the Government of Mauritania in its efforts to reduce poverty. We also appreciate the support to Comoros using a range of WBG tools and instruments, as well as the efforts to maximize financing for development in other IDA/FCS countries. A robust IDA19 replenishment is necessary to sustain and scale up these efforts. We also want to take this opportunity to stress the importance of intensifying efforts to support to the reform agenda of Sudan, expedite its debt relief process and replenishment of the multi donor trust fund.

The Arab Governor stressed the importance of having a robust IDA 19 replenishment that will invest in growth, people and resilience and will enable IDA to scale up its support to countries facing FCV. For them, an investment in the future of the poorest countries through IDA is an investment in the future prosperity of all.