Statement by

Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan
Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance
Republic of Côte d’Ivoire

On behalf of the Group II African Countries
Statement by
Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan
Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance
Republic of Côte d’Ivoire
On behalf of the Group II African Countries
90th Meeting of the Development Committee
October 11 2014
Washington, D.C.

My speech focuses primarily on the reports related to the topics appearing on the agenda for our October 11, 2014 meeting, namely:

i. Promoting Shared Prosperity in an Unequal World: Key Challenges and the Role of the World Bank Group;


I. Promoting Shared Prosperity in an Unequal World: Key Challenges and the Role of the World Bank Group

We thank and commend the World Bank staff for the quality of the document. In light of concerns regarding growing inequality in the world and its implications for future economic growth, we believe that this is an opportune time to bring this issue to the attention of the governors.

We endorse all of the key messages pertaining to the WBG’s policies for the promotion of shared prosperity and the high-impact areas of intervention mentioned in the report. We believe that in order to reduce poverty and promote shared prosperity, priority must be accorded to building institutional and human capacity and developing infrastructure, agriculture, SMEs, and the financial sector.

We note with regret, however, that the document submitted to the Ministers does not present any specific proposals regarding the activities and operations that the WBG intends to conduct to promote shared prosperity in countries. In that regard, we believe that improving working conditions and productivity for the bottom 40 percent would make a meaningful contribution to efforts to promote growth and shared prosperity. We therefore urge the WBG to increase human and financial resources for the new jobs crosscutting solution area, with a view to helping African countries meet this challenge.
II. Global Monitoring Report 2014: Ending Poverty and Sharing Prosperity

We commend the staffs of the World Bank and the IMF for this 11th Global Monitoring Report (GMR), which, in our view, is thorough and objective. We broadly endorse the recommendations and key messages of the report on the progress made toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as those pertaining to the twin goals of the WBG, namely, ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. We would, however, like to underscore two points:

First, we note, based on the analytical work presented by Bank and IMF staffs on the GMR, that the sectoral composition of GDP growth plays an instrumental role in efforts to reduce poverty and share prosperity, with the greatest contributions coming from labor-intensive sectors. However, it bears noting that this is not clearly conveyed in the document on shared prosperity, which, in our view, should propose a specific plan outlining how the WBG will tackle the goal of boosting shared prosperity in the future. To that end, we believe that in order to end poverty and promote shared prosperity, the WBG should accord priority to jobs in its programs and strengthen its crosscutting solution area tasked with helping our countries create jobs.

Second, we support the key messages of the GMR 2014 and concur with the assessment of the challenges of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity, and tracking progress toward the MDGs. However, we believe that the Global Monitoring Report 2014 should focus on the principle of mutual accountability, which is a core element of the report, while emphasizing the key measures needed to accelerate progress toward the MDGs.


We welcome this update on the WBG’s support in the area of gender equality.

We are pleased with the overall conclusions of the report, which highlights several gains from WBG interventions during the period under review. This annual exercise is extremely useful and should, in our view, be continued.

Despite these achievements, we note that there is still much to be done, and emphasis must be placed on proposed plans and the evaluation of these outcomes. In order to reverse the lack of effectiveness of WBG actions, which has been clearly demonstrated, efforts must be made to improve diagnostic and dialogue tools with respect to analysis and outcomes. We therefore encourage the Bank to move beyond the social sectors, according priority to synergies between the Bank, IFC, and MIGA to boost the impact and effectiveness in the areas of employment for women, microfinance, and social inclusion.

We believe that clear accountability must be established for experts, country directors, and senior management. This accountability could take the form of the development and application of a mechanism that tracks the extent to which operations mainstream, as appropriate, gender equality concerns in the WBG’s work. To that end, country directors must be accorded a key role, because it is largely in them that accountability is vested.

Directors must also communicate to stakeholders the importance of gender equality to ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity in countries. Adequate human and financial resources should be allocated in order to foster a culture change and achieve tangible and sustainable outcomes.
We strongly encourage the WBG to **formulate an action plan** to promote knowledge sharing and its ownership among client countries. In particular, efforts to provide primary, secondary, and tertiary education to young girls must be continued and sustained. The same applies to land reforms that promote access by women to full property ownership with a view to empowering them and boosting their productive potential.

Implementation of WBG programs targeting gender equality will still require donor support, at least in the short and medium term. To increase the effectiveness of implementing programs aimed at reducing extreme poverty in client countries, it is important that the WBG ensure fiscal sustainability by providing the new gender crosscutting solution area with sufficient resources and by strengthening collaboration with the other sectoral and crosscutting solution areas to facilitate implementation of these activities.

**IV. 2014 Report: "Macroeconomic Developments in Low-Income Countries"**

We thank the IMF staff for this important report and welcome the detailed assessment conducted on macroeconomic developments, the near-term outlook, and the vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs).

We also take this opportunity to urge the IMF to include the "development of debt financing" aspect in its analysis, in particular the considerable need for financing of key infrastructure in IDA countries. In this regard, the WBG should evaluate the progress achieved with the review exercise of its policy on non-concessional borrowing. Moreover, we think that this report offers an important opportunity for the Bretton Woods institutions to develop policies that can help LICs face non-economic shocks such as the Ebola virus epidemic.

Finally, we believe that all of these documents clearly demonstrate the importance of having reliable, consistent, and comprehensive data. In this regard, we call on the WBG once more to strengthen our statistical tools in order to improve data availability and quality, including with regard to gender in IDA countries.

Once more, we urge the WBG to find innovative methods of supporting capacity building in national and regional data collection institutions in IDA countries.