The Board’s Programming Committee met on December 14, 2007 to discuss the Country Strategy with Haiti (GN-2465). Directors were positive about the major elements of the strategy, which aims to strengthen the country’s economic and social recovery process.

Directors comments centered on:

1. *Coordination of activities with other donors.* Given the presence of other organizations and agencies and other countries in the region providing support to Haiti, the majority of Directors commented on the need for the Bank to take a leading role in the coordination of activities so as to ensure the effective use of resources from the donor community.

2. *Private sector.* Directors stressed the importance of having a defined Bank Group strategy toward private sector involvement, improvement of the business climate, and IIC participation, at a time when the country was entering a recovery phase.

3. *Strengthening of the Country Office.* Directors expressed concern about staffing and working conditions in the Country Office, and pointed out the need for open positions to be filled as soon as possible.

Other issues raised by Directors related to disbursements, governance, remittances, justice and citizen security programs, education sector, training of human resources, and the country’s poverty reduction strategy.

In my capacity as Chair of the Committee, I recommend that the Board approve the IDB Country Strategy with Haiti (GN-2465).