The Board’s Programming Committee met on January 29, 2007 to discuss the Bank’s Regional Strategy for Support to the Caribbean Community. In general, Directors welcomed the strategy, praising Management for the intense dialogue undertaken with the countries to prepare the document.

Discussion during the deliberations centered on: (1) integration beyond trade as a channel for improving the region’s social and economic infrastructure; (2) capacity building and the importance of increasing emphasis on institutional strengthening; (3) the need to increase the presence of the Bank’s private sector window in the Caribbean; (4) the importance of disseminating the strategy to the operational departments; and (5) the need for continued donor coordination.

At the meeting, Directors agreed to forward the strategy to the Board for approval. In my capacity as Chair of the Programming Committee, I recommend that the Board approval the strategy for CARICOM as set forth in document GN-2436.