Report of the Chairperson of the Policy and Evaluation Committee
“Access to Information Policy”
(document GN-1831-28)

The Policy and Evaluation Committee met on Thursday, 6 May, to consider the document “Access to Information Policy – Draft” GN-1831-27, supplemented by the presentation that appears in document PP-68.

Management gave a presentation on the most important aspects of the proposed policy, including the commitment to transparency; the need to comply with the provisions of the Cancún Declaration; and harmonization of the Bank’s practices with the best practices of other institutions. Management indicated that the proposed policy would in fact place the Bank at the forefront on this topic.

The Committee members expressed broad support for the proposal, the approval of which would be a reflection of a sovereign decision to define our own standards of access to information. They indicated that this policy would be accompanied by more strategic communication of the Bank’s business. Similarly, the Directors referred to the need to assess how this greater degree of openness would translate into making the Bank’s action in the region more effective and how public consultation of the profile had contributed to preparing this draft policy.

After a wide-ranging exchange of views, during which clarification was provided on several technical issues and on the scope of some of the clauses of the policy, the only matter that remained pending was revision of the text included in paragraph 5.2 of the document on “Requirements regarding country disclosure.” In this regard, several consultations were held for purposes of reformulating the paragraph and I believe that the new text, as it appears in the revised version (GN-1831-28), addresses the concerns expressed by the majority of the Committee members.

Given the above, as Chairperson of the Policy and Evaluation Committee, I recommend that the Board of Executive Directors approve the “Access to Information Policy” as it appears in document GN-1831-28.