To: The Board of Executive Directors
From: The Secretary
Subject: The Access to Information Policy’s Classification and Declassification System and Review Process. Report of the First Vice Chairperson of the Policy and Evaluation Committee

Inquiries to: Director José Carlos Miranda (extension 1002)

Reference: GN-1831-31(11/10)

Management gave a presentation focusing on the general aspects of the policy and on the classification and declassification system and review process. The classification system is based on three categories of information - public, confidential and to be disclosed overtime. The declassification of documents takes into account the decrease of sensitivity of information overtime and establishes three declassification deadlines - after five, ten and twenty years. A two-stage review process was proposed. First stage appeals will be handled by an interdepartmental body, the Access to Information Committee (AIC) and second stage appeals, in case they comply with the provisions of the policy, will be decided by the External Panel. This panel will be composed of three members proposed by the President of the Bank and approved by the Board of Directors.

A number of Committee members expressed concern regarding the disclosure of Board records and the effect this could have on the contents of and frankness of discussions. Management explained that, as of the 1st of January 2011, date of effectiveness of the new policy, the contents of the minutes of Committee meetings would be similar to that of the minutes of the Board of Directors, without any deliberative information included. To maintain a detailed account of discussions of Committee meetings, the Office of the Secretary would produce a new category of documents - “Summaries of Deliberations of Committee Meetings” to be released after ten years. The proposal drew on the principle of protecting the space for debate at the Board and its Committees, whilst releasing information on items considered and decisions taken and the trend of discussions through the posting of the reports by the Chairpersons of Committees.

Some Directors noted that the bulk of implementation details would be handled at the level of the guidelines and that those had not been circulated to the Board. Management explained that the guidelines were being finalized and would be submitted to the Board for information before the end of the month. Guidelines concerning the treatment of Board records under the new policy were available on SEC’s website.

Some Directors believed the Bank should go further and disclose the details of discussions without restrictions. Taking that into consideration, the First Vice-Chairperson asked management to report back to the Board on the implementation details after one year, when any necessary adjustments would be discussed.

Given the above, as First Vice-Chairperson of the Policy and Evaluation Committee, I recommend that the Board of Executive Directors approve the “The Access to Information Policy’s Classification and Declassification System and Review Process” as it appears in document GN-1831-31.