

Panama**Country Partnership Framework FY15-21****Chair Summary*****April 7, 2015**

Executive Directors welcomed the discussion of the joint IBRD/IFC/MIGA Country Partnership Framework (CPF) (R2015-0055[IFC/R2015-0058, MIGA/R2015-0016]) for Panama for the period of FY2015 to FY2021, the first CPF to be presented to the Board. Directors noted that the CPF has been informed by a comprehensive Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD), which reflected a broad array of analytic work and consultations with stakeholders to identify the key challenges facing Panama.

Directors commended Panama's impressive economic growth rates in recent years, which have largely translated into significant poverty reduction and shared prosperity. They acknowledged the alignment of the CPF with Panama's own 2014-2019 Strategic Development Plan, and with the priorities identified in the SCD. They also noted that in selecting the areas of proposed engagement, the CPF takes into account the WBG comparative advantage in the context of Panama.

Directors acknowledged the selectivity approach used in the CPF and the focus on three strategic engagement areas: supporting continued high growth; ensuring inclusion and opportunities for marginalized and indigenous groups; and bolstering resilience and sustainability. They encouraged attention to gender and welcomed the use of a mix of instruments that harness the complementarities and synergies among World Bank Group institutions. In this context, they encouraged strong collaboration across the Bank Group to support even greater private sector development, particularly with regard to job creation, financial inclusion, sustainable urban development, infrastructure, connectivity, and regional integration including through public-private partnerships when possible.

To support the increasingly complex private sector, Directors agreed with the emphasis on strengthening the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of public institutions. Directors welcomed the intentions to enhance Panama's budget management transparency, and continuing to address governance issues, particularly transparency of the financial sector. Directors also encouraged broadened strategic dialogue with the country and coordination with development partners with regard to other priorities identified by the SCD. Finally, they emphasized the importance of developing and monitoring a robust Results Framework.

*This summary is not an approved record