THE REPUBLIC OF GABON
COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY FY12-16

CHAIR’S SUMMING UP*

Meeting of Executive Directors

April 3, 2012

The Executive Directors discussed the joint IBRD/IFC Country Partnership for the Republic of Gabon, for the period FY2012-2016 (R2012-0052[IFC/R2012-0061]).

Directors commended the Gabon Authorities for the renewed engagement with the World Bank Group and the government’s ambitious development goals. They appreciated staff’s candid assessment of Gabon’s current socio-economic environment and underscored the importance of tackling Gabon’s high levels of poverty and income inequality, and improving its natural resource management and governance during the forthcoming CPS period.

Directors commended the alignment of the CPS with the country’s development plan, and its goal of transforming Gabon into an emerging economy. They welcomed the design of the CPS which draws from the Bank’s new Africa Regional Strategy and requested that results be monitored closely. Directors noted that the strategy considers gender equity as an important cross cutting theme, and urged that projects to improve investment climate and access to finance also target and measure progress in delivering support to women.

Directors recognized the staff for the innovative approach in combining traditional financing with knowledge and partnerships. They welcomed the Reimbursable Technical Assistance Agreement as particularly suitable given the country’s weak capacity and the need to improve governance. Directors were pleased the exercise reflected lessons learned from the implementation of the previous CPS and encouraged the Bank to share these as appropriate.

Directors supported plans to contribute to poverty reduction by providing guidance through analytical work. Finally, they urged the Bank to strengthen its collaboration with other key development partners to ensure effectiveness and achieve greater impact on the ground.

*This Summary is not an approved record.