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Statement by the Hon. **JOE HOCKEY**,
Governor of the Fund and the Bank for **AUSTRALIA**

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It is a pleasure to be here at the 2014 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Australia places great value on its membership of both institutions and strongly supports the role that the Bank and Fund play in ensuring macroeconomic stability and reducing poverty.

There are positive signs for the global economic outlook, which need to be nurtured. Stronger conditions are apparent in some key economies – a welcome trend – but global growth is uneven and more needs to be done to generate much needed jobs in both the developed and developing world. We cannot be complacent in these circumstances. We need strong, sustainable and balanced growth in order to safeguard our economies and put people into jobs.

As G20 President during 2014, Australia has set a practical agenda to strengthen international cooperation, boost global growth and create jobs. Many of the decisions and actions to get the world economy moving are difficult – reform always is. But we, and our G20 partners, are determined to lift global growth and we are willing to use all the available tools to meet this challenge.

At the recent G20 meeting I chaired in Cairns, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors committed to implement over 900 measures to enhance competition, trade and investment. Together, the IMF and OECD estimate, these measures could add 1.8 per cent to the G20's collective GDP by 2018, which will lead to the creation of millions of jobs, not just in G20 countries but globally.

We will now redouble efforts to meet our target of lifting the G20's collective GDP by 2 per cent by 2018. The detail of our individual growth strategies to meet this aim will be released at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Brisbane. We are determined to hold each other to account for the commitments we have made and I am pleased that the IMF and others are working with us on plans to monitor implementation of these measures.

I encourage all nations participating in these Annual Meetings of the Bank and Fund to consider the steps they might take to spur greater growth and thus generate the jobs people need.

World Bank

Australia is strongly supportive of the World Bank Group Strategy and of the reform process being driven by President Jim Kim. At the core of the reforms is a recognition that the private sector – the generator of 90 per cent of all jobs – plays a crucial role in reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. This view is strongly shared by the Australian Government, as reflected in our new aid policy.

With the majority of the World Bank Group's structural changes now complete, it is essential that the Group further commits to a focus on results. Ultimately the success of the reform effort will be measured by results on the ground, through progress towards the twin goals of ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity. In doing so, it is essential that the Group remain attuned to the diverse needs of its membership, including the particular challenges faced by small island and fragile and conflict affected states.

We particularly welcome the partnership arrangements announced for the Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF). Developing high quality infrastructure is central to efforts to stimulate global growth. The GIF is a leading example of the unique and catalytic role that the World Bank Group can play when it works at its best: applying convening power and technical capacity to unblock constraints to private sector investment and thereby stimulating growth and contributing to poverty reduction. The GIF's role as an open platform where private and public sector actors, including other MDBs, can convene, is extremely important. We look forward to the GIF's further development, particularly the trialing of the GIF concept in the Asia-Pacific.

IMF

The global economy, while beginning to recover, continues to feel the legacy of the crisis, while facing new challenges associated with the weak and uneven recovery. These pressures bring into focus the need for the Fund to continue to strengthen its surveillance. Australia welcomes the recent Triennial Surveillance Review (TSR), which will continue to embed recent surveillance innovations while ensuring surveillance continues to adapt to emerging risks.

We support the Fund in its efforts to promote dialogue and cooperation to achieve economic and financial stability. In particular, we welcome the Fund's advocacy of and engagement with structural reforms, noting that recent experience in the global economy has underscored the fact that structural failings can be the source of deep seated macro imbalances as well as placing a break on growth potential.

Australia strongly supports a well-resourced and representative Fund. The quota and governance reforms agreed in 2010 will permanently strengthen the Fund's resources. The reforms will also provide emerging market and developing countries a greater voice and representation to reflect the shift in global economic weight. We look forward to the ratification of the 2010 reforms as soon as possible. We stand ready to consider options to progress reform in other ways if the 2010 reforms do not come into force by the end of the year, including moving forward on the 15th General Review of Quotas.