



I M F

Transparency Policy Review Team

Transparency Policy and Open Archives Policy Review: Pre-Consultation Call with CSOs

May 2023



Gathering your views on Transparency at the Fund

- We want to hear from stakeholders to inform Reviews of the Fund's transparency initiatives.

- Transparency initiatives at the Fund comprise of 3 pillars
 - Fund's Transparency Policy (TP) – relates to publication policies for Board documents.
 - Open Archives Policy (OAP) – access to Fund records
 - Communication Strategy (CS) – how we communicate with external stakeholders

Please note that we will have a separate process for stakeholder feedback on the Fund's Communications Strategy in the coming months

What is the Fund's Transparency Policy (TP)

➤ Coverage:

- The publication regimes of board documents, including timing of publication
- Rules for modification of documents presented to the Board.

➤ The policy aims at:

- Timely disclosing documents and information to the public while protecting the role of the Fund as trusted advisor (and member countries' confidential information)
- Protecting the candor and independence of staff's analysis by shielding staff from pressures and ensuring the Integrity of Fund publications

Principle 1: Balancing Trust and Publication of Information

Intent: letting the public see what the Board sees.

Encoded in Transparency Decision: The Fund *'will strive to disclose documents and information on a timely basis, unless strong and specific reasons argue against such disclosure.'*

Publication of country documents is:

- Voluntary: members need to give their consent.
- Presumed: members are encouraged to consent. Stronger presumption with use of Fund resources.

Principle 2: Protecting Staff and Integrity of Fund Publications

How? The Transparency Policy set rules to modify documents once they are submitted to the Board and:

- Prohibits modifications that alter staff's view, improve presentation, extend argument of staff or the authorities, or add new information.
- Allow deletions for market sensitive information

To be credible, such limits must operate consistently within narrow criteria or risk being undermined by “exceptions” over time: enforceable and evenhanded applied.

Fund's Open Archives Policy (OAP)

- OAP covers public access to all Fund records marked for permanent retention
 - It addresses Fund's records that have permanent legal, historical or other enduring value.
 - It enumerates the exceptions to what can be released (e.g. for security concerns)
- Lags in the access to Archives have shortened since 1996, now:
 - 3 years for most Board documents
 - 3-5 for Board meeting minutes
 - 20 years for other Fund records

Review of Fund's TP & OAP

Last review was in 2013.

This review will take a comprehensive look at all aspects of the Policy

➤ Transparency Policy

- Re-assess its underlying principles and objectives against recent developments
- Compare with other IFIs
- Assess whether the policy is delivering on its core objectives
- Evaluate room to improve the policy (e.g., simplification and strengthening of rules for document publication)

➤ Open Archives Policy

- Assess whether the policy conforms to best practices
- Evaluate progress towards full policy implementation, given ever-increasing volume of Fund records

➤ Communication Strategy

- Explore avenues to modernize communications to better reflect the digital media environment
- Assess options to better embed communications in Fund processes for more effective policy traction

Online Open Consultation - Timeline

Opens: May 31

Closes: June 30

Focus:

- Views on TP principles
- Views on trends in transparency
- Views on evenhandedness in application of the TP
- Views on the Fund's TP relative to other institutions
- Views on the Fund's OAP
- Views on the Fund's broader communications activities

Late 2023: Discussion of Findings and online publication of results

By mid-2024: Completion of reviews incorporating consultation inputs

Any Questions?