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
   o It addresses Fund’s records that have permanent legal, historical or other enduring value.
   o 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:
   o 3 years for most Board documents
   o 3-5 for Board meeting minutes
   o 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

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