

## Afghanistan

### Inclusive Growth Development Policy Operation

June 13, 2017

#### Chair Summary\*

Executive Directors approved a grant for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the Inclusive Growth Development Policy Operation (IDA/R2017-0167) in the amount of US\$ 100 million on the terms and conditions set out in the President's Memorandum. Directors expressed broad support for the operation and the other projects presented to the Board. They noted the serious economic, political and security challenges going forward.

Directors emphasized the need to unleash opportunities in the country for growth and poverty reduction. They welcomed the World Bank's support of interventions in the urban, energy, and agriculture sectors that would mitigate the challenges related to the settlement and improved livelihoods of return migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons and provide important economic opportunities to vulnerable groups. Directors also acknowledged the benefits to women provided by the reforms but encouraged the authorities and the Bank team to further explore options to advance gender equality with Government.

Directors stressed the importance of building country capacity and providing implementation support to mitigate the risks related to implementation of policy areas included in the operation. They appreciated the World Bank's efforts to strengthen fiduciary safeguards, apply innovative means to support implementation of reforms in fragile context, and monitor the results. Directors commented on the importance of citizen engagement in the reform of land administration, including participation in monitoring and evaluation and access to grievance redress mechanisms.

Directors also underscored the need to strengthen governance capacity and access to government-provided services, recognizing that physical movement of citizens and officials is constrained due to security risks. They welcomed the Afghan authorities' emphasis on governance and service delivery as a national priority and urged the use of electronic/mobile tools to foster accountable and transparent service delivery.

Directors also noted the critical support currently provided to Afghanistan via the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and significant volumes of bilateral aid. They emphasized the need to ensure full coordination of donor funding, and to learn from Afghanistan including through South-South experience exchange. Directors recognized the dedication of Bank staff working in Afghanistan.

---

\* This summary is not an approved record.