Chairperson’s Summary: Committee on Development Effectiveness

The Committee on Development Effectiveness (the Committee) met to consider the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG’s) report entitled *World Bank Group Support to Health Financing for Improving Health System Performance FY03-FY12* and Draft Management Response.

The Committee welcomed the timeliness of the evaluation and was encouraged that management broadly concurred with the report’s recommendations. Members recognized that health is inextricably correlated with the World Bank Group’s corporate strategies and the mandate of poverty reduction. Members appreciated the timeliness of the evaluation, coinciding with the implementation of Global Practices, Cross Cutting Solution Areas and the “One-WBG” model. Members agreed this was an opportunity for the institution to assess comparative advantages to further enhance its development effectiveness including in the health sector.

Members noted that the evaluation covered the period from 2003 to 2012 and that the Bank's approach to the financing of the health sector has evolved significantly. They expressed strong interest in seeing the Global Practices lead to a consistent and cohesive strategy to financing across the Regions, while still appreciating the country context. Members agreed with the importance of a more holistic approach to health financing and service delivery, augmented cross-sector coordination, and increased public-private interface and partnerships, including in particular with the International Finance Corporation (IFC). In this respect, members were encouraged that the Bank and IFC are joining forces to develop a road map for collaboration on health financing as well as on broader assistance in health systems and reforms. They underscored the need for synergies in collaboration with external partners to further improve future World Bank Group support to health financing. Members emphasized the importance of monitoring and evaluation and encouraged management to focus on cost-effective means of evaluation of the relevant policies and operations.

Some members commented that the emphasis of health financing should be equally placed on financial sustainability and equity, in order to improve poverty alleviation effects and strengthen equity of health systems. Members noted the difficulty in evaluating the Bank’s knowledge role, including technical assistance, in health financing and welcomed the clarification that there have been various knowledge initiatives underway to improve knowledge development and sharing, including designing a prospective impact evaluation at the inception of Bank projects. Members recognized that the divergent views with respect to results-based
financing (RBF) reflect primarily the fact that in 2012 the RBF portfolio was relatively new. They supported management’s plan to continue integrating RBF with other health financing functions in order to create a more comprehensive approach.

Juan Jose Bravo
Chairperson