Chairperson’s Summary: Sub-Committee of the Committee on Development Effectiveness

The Sub-Committee of the Committee on Development Effectiveness (CODE) considered the Independent Evaluation Group’s (IEG) Global Program Review – The World Bank’s Partnership with the GAVI Alliance and the draft Management Comments.

The Committee welcomed IEG’s timely Global Program Review and observed that its scope was in line with the Approach Paper endorsed in October 2012. Members broadly supported the report’s findings and lessons learned. Members recognized the Bank-GAVI partnership as an overall success story. They commended the World Bank Group’s key role as one of the founding partners of GAVI, and noted that through this public-private partnership, the World Bank Group helped address a systematic shortfall in the global health architecture related to vaccination. Members acknowledged GAVI’s transformative accomplishments in accelerating coverage of children’s immunization globally, as well as the World Bank Group’s track record in pioneering two of the most innovative financing mechanisms through the GAVI Alliance: the International Financing Facility on Immunization and the Advanced Market Commitment, both of which have been essential for scaling up the immunization enterprise and for giving signals to the private sector that have helped to overcome market failures.

Members recognized the changing dynamics in the World Bank Group-GAVI partnership as a result of GAVI’s evolution from an informal alliance to a formal, independent organization, and the consequential governance adjustments. Most members agreed, however, that the Bank can and should have an important role in anchoring the vaccine sector in an equitable and effective health system that contributes to the World Bank Group’s new corporate goals. To that end, members underscored the importance for the Bank Group to enhance its engagement with GAVI along the entire value chain of vaccines, particularly at the country level, in order to assure GAVI’s relevance in delivering modern vaccines to underserved populations.

In response to a query on whether IEG’s review captured all the relevant programs and components that have contributed to immunization but may not have been labeled as such in the World Bank Group’s portfolio, the committee was informed by management that the World Bank Group may have done more in strengthening
delivery systems for immunizations. Management added that the downward trend in the World Bank Group’s vaccine portfolio could be a reflection of division of responsibilities and informed choices by beneficiary countries of grant funding over concessional credits. Members encouraged management to strategize the World Bank Group’s continued catalytic role in GAVI, in particular vis-à-vis innovative and sustainable financing, governance and decision-making, and coordination with other donors.

Juan José Bravo, Chairman, CODE
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