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Joint Message from the President and Dean of the Board

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Sponsor: Executive Directors, Office of the President

Tuesday a website carried a story based on the disclosure of confidential board documents. The story contained an attack on the Board, the President and, most importantly, on the institution, which undermines the work of the Bank. Disclosure of such documents is a violation of Bank rules and we have jointly decided to have the matter investigated.

The Board and the President dissociate themselves in the strongest terms from the personal attacks contained in the story.

We believe deeply in this institution and its mission of helping the poorest people in the world to escape poverty. Trust, confidence, good communication and dynamic interaction between the Board and management is critical to achievement of this mission.

President Wolfowitz said: "I have consistently maintained that the Bank is on a fundamentally sound course, although there is always room for improvement. My partnership with the Board is essential to achieving progress. The members of the Board bring both exceptional personal qualifications and the authority of their constituencies to Board discussions."

Board Dean Eckhard Deutscher commented: "The Board is working constructively with the President. The dialogue between the President and the Board is strengthening the Bank, as exemplified most recently in Tuesday's Board meeting on the extensive Governance and Anticorruption consultations. I am confident in our ability to work effectively together with the President and management."

Paul Wolfowitz
President

Eckhard Deutscher
Dean of the Board

For Information: Kevin Shaw Kellems