- Thank you Chair and my Colleague from IDB and many thanks to the co-facilitators for inviting the World Bank Group to participate today.

- As has been said, there is an enormous amount of money needed to meet the SDGs and the financing gap is large. Not all of it, and not even most of it, can be provided by the multilateral development banks, but the MDBs do play a pivotal role in providing long-term financing, concessional financing, and countercyclical financing during crises.

- From July 2023 to end of June 2024, our fiscal year that just ended, the World Bank Group committed $133 billion, 8% more than the previous fiscal year.

- More importantly, in terms of impact, last year we helped feed 156 million people. We improved schooling for 280 million students. We provided healthy water, sanitation, or hygiene to 59 million people. And we enabled access to sustainable transportation to 77 million people, to mention just a few of the results achieved.

- The World Bank Group is undertaking an extensive package of reforms—what we are calling "The Better Bank"—aimed at improving our impact, speed, and efficiency without sacrificing our commitments to social and environmental standards, as well as to boost our financial firepower.

- We have taken sweeping steps to generate a significant amount of additional funds to help countries address their toughest challenges, from climate change and fragility to hunger and soaring debt.

- Over the last year, our shareholders have approved measures that will add more than $150 billion to our financing capacity over the next decade without lowering our triple A credit rating.

- We have come up with this money by lowering our minimum equity-to-loan ratio, leveraging hybrid capital, offering portfolio guarantees, and using callable capital, among other measures. Tools such as the portfolio guarantee mechanism and the hybrid capital instrument—which rely on our donors' generous contributions—are critical financing mechanisms because they have an important multiplier effect in that they leverage every dollar multiple times, by mobilizing funds from capital markets.

- Leveraging is also what makes the International Development Association the most efficient source of financing for the poorest countries. The International Development Association or IDA is the World Bank's concessional financing arm for low-income countries, with more than 20 percent of IDA financing given in the form of grants. Every $1 given by donors to IDA is transformed on the capital markets into $3.5 for meeting development needs in IDA20.

- Moreover, IDA uses a country-led model that puts governments in the driver's seat, while reducing fragmentation and transaction costs.

- IDA is the world's largest source of development finance. It helps to improve conditions for 1.9 billion people. As a result of IDA commitments, between 2012 and 2023, some 1.2 billion people received essential health services, 117 million people gained access to improved water services, and 92 million people obtained new or improved electricity services, among other results.

- IDA also plays a critical role in maintaining sustainable debt levels. The IDA grant allocation framework, which has been adopted by some other MDBs, provides increasing levels of concessionality in response to greater debt distress risks, ensuring that financing is provided in a way that does not undermine debt sustainability.

- In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, IDA commitments totaled $35 billion of which more than $7 billion were grants. 75 percent of those commitments were for Africa.

- We are currently undertaking the 21st replenishment of IDA. This process will be completed in December 2024 and, given the scale of the financing challenges we are discussing here, we are hoping for a robust outcome.

- But, even with all the financing that all the MDBs can muster and all the steps that have been taken to squeeze balance sheets, there will still not be enough money for what needs to be done in the world to meet the SDGs.

- We must bring in the private sector—and for this, countries need to ensure there is an enabling investment environment.

- Countries must take the steps to mobilize private financing and to improve domestic resource mobilization and implement sound fiscal policy. As a forthcoming IMF-World Bank paper points out, there are vast resources to be tapped in developing countries when tax capacity is built up, sound budget procedures are put in place, and public debt markets are developed.

- The WBG is fully committed to continue supporting the countries we serve, working on the areas mentioned above and tackling their development challenges. We look forward to providing our financing resources, global knowledge, and convening power to achieve sustainable development solutions and to support their quest to become prosperous nations.