

Minutes of the Meeting of the Bank Information Center's Board of Directors on November 12, 2012

Attendance

- 1) There were present:

Board members: Mamadou Goita (phone), Marcus Colchester, Charly Moore (Treasurer), Katharine Redford (Chair), Juliette Majot, Susanne Breitkopf, Athena Ballesteros

Staff/resource persons: Richard Bissell, Amy Shannon (phone), Chad Dobson (Executive Director), Alvin Carlos (Development Director, Board Secretary), Mark Rentschler (Campaigns Director), Amy Ekdawi (Middle East and North Africa Program Manager), Jelson Garcia (Asia Program Manager), Joshua Lichtenstein (Forest Campaign Manager), Hetal Patel (Senior Finance Associate, during Financials discussion)

Regrets from Board members: Lisa Veneklasen

Call to Order

- 2) Ms. Redford convened the meeting at 9:30am.

Strategic discussions

- 3) Ms. Redford framed the discussion as an opportunity to reflect on BIC's strategic plan and see if and how we may need to adjust it given the changing context.
- 4) The group reviewed revisited the latest contextual developments relevant to the IFIs.
- 5) The group discussed the continued importance of the World Bank and other international financial institutions in influencing development.
- 6) The group discussed BIC's value-added in supporting work on IFIs other than the World Bank.
- 7) The group discussed ideas on how to be more effective in winning policy campaigns.
- 8) The group discussed how safeguards can be extended to other lenders, either by harmonization of standards or by sector-wide approaches.
- 9) The group discussed the importance of BIC's work in empowering civil society organizations in Southern countries where IFIs are influential, and the need to evaluate BIC's impact
- 10) The group discussed the importance of ensuring that IFI policies are implemented well and having CSOs with institutional capacity to ensure effective policy implementation.
- 11) The group discussed three different criteria in choosing the countries where BIC works in: a) where there is direct World Bank Executive Director or Alternate representation, b) where World Bank is very influential, and c) where there are problem projects.

Review of current grant deliverables

- 12) The Board was briefed by Mr. Carlos on the list of main grant deliverables relating to policy campaigns and capacity building in the regions.

July 2012 Minutes

- 13) The Board approved the minutes of the July 10, 2012 Board meeting.

Financials

- 14) The Board was briefed by Mr. Carlos on the organization's latest 2012 budget projections. Mr. Carlos noted that the latest projected deficit is ~\$24,000, down from the previous figure of ~\$46,000, due to a projected increase in grant revenue and reduced expenses.
- 15) The Board discussed and approved the proposed 2013 balanced budget of \$2.75 million. Fifty three percent of the revenue projections are secured, forty percent are likely, while seven percent is uncertain. Slightly more than half of the budget goes to policy campaigns, while close to half is for regional capacity building work (with some overlap). Mr. Carlos noted that BIC had to reduce its Africa program to reach a balanced budget.
- 16) The Board expressed that it would like to see a surplus in 2014 to start rebuilding BIC's reserves to three months.

Fundraising

- 17) Mr. Colchester, Mr. Goita, and Ms. Breitkopf volunteered to provide ideas or assistance on fundraising for the Africa program.
- 18) A participant mentioned that the additional amount of funds that BIC can raise from U.S. foundations is significantly limited.
- 19) A suggestion was made to pursue funds to work on a) standard-setting at the Green Climate Fund, and b) supporting Brazilian or Chinese NGOs in establishing standards at their national development finance institutions.

BIC staff capacity

- 20) Mr. Carlos shared an organogram of BIC staff positions with the Board. The diagram showed which positions are currently funded and filled.
- 21) The Board expressed concern that there not enough resources being directed towards finance/administration/development positions.
- 22) The Board shared their views on the pros and cons of filling the Director of Regional Programs position within existing staff. The Board suggested a clear terms of reference.
- 23) The Board expressed its wish to have a better gender balance within senior management.

24) A Board member volunteered to share his experience on the value of having a dedicated media person.

Board Development

25) The Board nominated and approved that Mr. David Hunter and Ms. Amy Shannon be part of BIC's Board of Directors. Ms. Redford was tasked to invite the two.

26) The Board solicited other names of people that it might consider.

27) The Board suggested to review the types of role it wants to assume, by reviewing the Board discussion paper that Ms. Greetje Lubbi wrote several years ago, and to ask BIC staff what it needs from the board.

Executive Session

28) The Board commenced their executive sessions at 4:15pm.

29) The Board adjourned at 4:45pm.