

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Bank Information Center's Board of Directors on
September 20, 2011**

Attendance

1) There were present:

Board members: David Hunter (Chair), Sandra Smithey, Mamadou Goita, Charly Moore (Treasurer), Lisa Veneklasen

Staff: Chad Dobson (Executive Director), Alvin Carlos (Development Director, Board Secretary), Hetal Patel (Senior Finance Associate, during Financials discussion), Benjamin Natkin (Information Services Associate, during the 2012 Board date section), Vince McElhinny (BICECA Project Manager, during the Safeguards discussion), Mark Rentschler (Campaigns Director, during the Safeguards discussion)

Regrets from Board members: Katharine Redford, Athena Ballesteros, Atila Roque, Juliette Majot

Call to Order

2) Mr. Hunter convened the meeting at 9:12am. The Board reviewed and approved the agenda for the day.

July 2011 Minutes

3) The Board approved the minutes of the July 1, 2011 Board meeting, pending edits from Mr. Hunter.

2012 Board Dates

- 4) The Board agreed to schedule the next two Board meetings on February 2 and July 2, pending the absence of objections from other Board members.
- 5) Benjamin Natkin presented options for conducting video and audio-only remote calls for the July 2012 Board meeting. Mr. Goita, who will be calling in from Mali, will be exploring video options thru the Mali university. Mr. Natkin will explore options at other DC NGOs, including Pew Charitable Trusts, the Walton Family Foundation, and the Open Society Foundation.

Executive Director's Report

6) Mr. Dobson discussed a few staff changes at the U.S. Congress relevant to IFI reform.

- 7) Mr. Dobson discussed a number of staff changes at the World Bank. Rachel Kyte is now the head of the Sustainable Development Network. Inger Anderson is now Vice President for Middle East and North Africa. James Adams, the VP for East Asia, will retire soon and will be replaced by the VP for Latin America Pamela Cox. Carolyn Anstey is now a Managing Director. President Zoellick will end his term at the end of June 2012. Roberto Lenton of the Inspection Panel will be leaving soon. The World Bank has a new grievance mechanism that will be led by Amar Inamdar. Vinod Thomas of the Independent Evaluation Group will soon move to the Asian Development Bank.

Financials

- 8) The Board was briefed by Mr. Carlos on the latest 2011 revenue and expense projections. Mr. Carlos enumerated the six new grants that have come in for 2011, as well as previously expected grants that are now uncertain. The projected deficit is still in line with the Board-approved deficit of \$91,000.
- 9) The Board was briefed by Mr. Dobson on the status of the Moore Foundation grant renewal.
- 10) The Board was briefed by Mr. Carlos and Mr. Dobson on the nine pending grant proposals for 2012, totaling \$1.3 million. Board members suggested three other foundations that they thought BIC should pursue.
- 11) Mr. Moore presented three draft versions of the 2012 budget for the organization, and the assumptions of each draft. The three versions were for \$2.16 million (20 staff members), \$2.5 million (22 staff), and \$2.85 million (25 staff).
- 12) The Board discussed the merits of approving a budget that reflects the necessary resources to implement BIC's new Strategic Plan.
- 13) After a rich discussion, the Board approved the \$2.85M planning budget for 2012, plus the necessary resources needed on BIC's planned Parliamentary oversight work. The Board noted that the expenditures will need to be matched by concrete revenue streams.

Strategic Plan Opportunities: Promoting Accountability at the World Bank

- 14) The Board discussed an accountability model where CSO groups in select countries around the world would work closely with progressive Parliamentarians and their respective World Bank Executive Directors in promoting transparency and accountability at the World Bank. One concrete goal would be for the local CSOs to work with their Parliaments to mandate that WB Executive Director positions be made public. Mr. Dobson mentioned that FOIANet, an international network on freedom of information, may be interested in working with BIC on this issue.

World Bank Safeguards Review

- 15) The Board was briefed by Mr. McElhinny on the developments around the World Bank Safeguards Review. Among other things, Mr. McElhinny talked about the context and

goals of this global campaign, the recent CSO letter sent to President Zoellick where more than 260 organizations in the South and North signed on to, and implications of the changing dynamics at the World Bank Board.

Board Development

- 16) The Board approved Mr. Goita's second term to serve on BIC's Board.
- 17) Mr. Moore volunteered to chair the Board Development Committee, whose members comprise Ms. Veneklasen and Ms. Majot, with Mr. Hunter and Mr. Dobson as ex-officio members.
- 18) Ms. Veneklasen put forward several names that the Board should consider inviting as new Board members, given that three Board members will rotate out in 2012. Other Board members also floated other names. The Board Development Committee will consider these, and match it with the needs of the Board. Mr. Dobson suggested to solicit the opinion of BIC staff.
- 19) The Board and Mr. Dobson reminded themselves on the importance of getting more clarity on the needs of the Board (e.g. fundraising skills, geographical representation (Europe/Central Asia not represented), gender balance, based in Washington DC).

Executive Sessions

- 20) The Board commenced their executive session with Mr. Dobson at 1:50pm.
- 21) The Board commenced their executive session with Board members only at 2:05pm.
- 22) The Board adjourned at 2:15pm.