

investment and integrating the country into the global economy.

(1) Development of private sector

One of the Bank's greatest priorities will be to enable the private sector to assume a larger role in an increasingly outward-looking economy. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the banking system, enhancing the quality of education to improve the labor force, and removing constraints to low-cost housing construction.

(2) Improvement of public sector resources management

The Bank will help the Tunisian public sector play a supportive role, rather than a controlling role, by helping the civil administration adapt to a more liberalized and decentralized environment. The particular problems of the phosphate industry will also be addressed.

(3) Emphasis on social sectors / elimination of poverty

The Bank will seek to support Tunisia's traditional concern for social sectors and poverty alleviation. Here, the Bank will also stress higher efficiency of the social protection system. It will also deal with the worst pockets of poverty that still remain in Tunisia.

(4) Management of natural resources and the environment

More support will be given to Tunisia in its efforts to protect its scarce water reserves. More specifically, projects in sewerage, environmental management and agriculture will seek to improve environmental management in Tunisia.

(5) Integration of the economy into world markets

The Bank will attempt to assist the country integrate itself into world markets. Moreover, it will seek to assist Tunisia in diversifying its economy and accessing international financial markets.

In the past, the public sector has been the largest beneficiary of Bank operations in Tunisia. The five new pillars in the Bank's Tunisian Country Assistance Strategy attempt to shift this benefit towards the private sector. In the social and infrastructure sectors, Bank funds will continue to be channelled through public entities, although the role of the private sector will continue to grow.