

There is agreement that we must improve the situation of women in development. Our motive is not an abstract commitment to equality, but a common sense recognition of the evidence that the role of women is critical to durable development.

There is a clear acknowledgement that environmental consideration must have a growing influence on Bank decisions, and a general determination, Mr. President, to support your personal commitment to sustainable development.

Mr. President, in the past year you have begun a fundamental reform in the Bank. For this we are very appreciative. The success of the strategies we have discussed will depend upon the effective management of the Bank.

We urge you to continue the efforts to improve, simplify and strengthen the internal administrative reforms which have been identified or begun.

As a public institution, our internal process is under constant observation, both by the public and by financial institutions. The Bank's practices and policies must maintain the financial indicators expected by these financial institutions, whose partnership and confidence we require.

We must recognize that, to achieve success, the IDB cannot act alone. The problems we face are not those of the IDB, nor those of individual countries. They are a collective responsibility, and must be met in a spirit of multilateralism. A number of member countries have expressed their desire to participate more extensively in our Bank. This must be encouraged.

The role of the Committee of the Board of Governors has traditionally been limited. We have seen at this meeting that there are a variety of matters that concern all member countries. An expanded role for the Committee of the Board of Governors would enhance the multilateral aspect of the Bank and provide another opportunity for open discussions on issues of major concern to all of us.

But we must also work within the countries that we represent if we are to generate the resources needed to address our problems in a comprehensive manner.

Mr. President, I urge you, and the General Manager of the Inter-American Investment Corporation, to continue your search for private capital investment to fund specific projects in the productive sector. We must continue our search for innovative and creative forms of financing pre-investment studies if our pipeline of projects is to be strengthened.

I would like to take this final opportunity to thank the staff of the IDB for their outstanding contributions in the past week. Their work in Montreal has provided us all with a great appreciation of their talent and energy.