

**AfDF-13 Second Replenishment Meeting**  
**Common statement on Independent Evaluation**

[Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom, United States]

Taking the opportunity of AfDF-13 Second Replenishment Meeting, we underline the critical importance of strengthening independent evaluation in AfDB. We acknowledge progress recently made in the field of independent evaluation at the Bank, under the responsibility of the Operations Evaluation Department (OPEV), and welcome the proposed Revised Independent Evaluation Policy of the Bank Group. Nevertheless, recalling that, as a result of the First Replenishment Meeting in February, the Chair's Summary underlined the importance AfDF Deputies "attach to the work of the independent evaluation department and specifically to impact evaluation" and that "external audit should be reinforced, in line with international best practices", we stress the necessity to further strengthen the independence and effectiveness of this function, consistent with best practices of other MDBs.

Specifically, the independence of OPEV could be improved by: strengthening the role of the Boards of Directors on the selection and appointment of the Head of Evaluation Department; reinforcing their hierarchical position within the Institution; ensuring stronger independence of the Head of Evaluation Department on the management of financial and human resources (including recruitment) of the Department, as well as its communication policy, under the supervision of the Committee on Operations and Development Effectiveness (CODE) of the Board of Directors; clarifying the powers of the evaluators, especially in the field of access to information, as well their protection during the evaluation and on the basis of their conclusions ; ensuring direct transmission of evaluation reports to the Board of Directors and a more systematic follow-up of key recommendations.

We invite management to come up with concrete proposals on these matters ahead of the next AfDF-13 Replenishment Meeting.