

**Bank Information Center  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors  
December 16, 2008**

**Present** (via conference call):

Jonathan Fox (chair)  
Chad Dobson (ex-officio)  
Robin Broad  
David Hunter (treasurer)  
Smitu Kothari  
Juliette Majot  
Atila Roque  
Bruce Jenkins (secretary)  
Alvin Carlos (development/finance)

**Absent:**

Richard Bissell

- 1. Call to order:** Jonathan Fox convened the meeting at 11:00 AM.
- 2. Minutes:** The minutes of the October 3, 2008, Directors meeting were amended and approved. They will be posted on BIC's website.
- 3. Strategic Plan:** The Directors discussed BIC's proposed 2009-2012 Strategic Plan. The plan outlines three campaigns through which BIC will focus its efforts over this period: promoting greater transparency at the World Bank; strengthening social, environmental, and disclosure policies for extractive industries; and securing a shift in the World Bank Group's energy portfolio away from fossil fuel promotion to one focused on financing renewables and energy efficiency. BIC will also explore developing an initiative that would provide greater support to organizations focused on monitoring and reforming national budget processes in countries that borrow from the IFIs. In addition, BIC will continue to provide a range of information and convening services for its partners.

Chad outlined the inputs that contributed to the plan's development: an external evaluation, a study on shifting international financial flows, a partner survey, a gender audit, and a two-day retreat with stakeholders.

The Board welcomed staff's proposal to focus BIC's activities on achieving concrete policy objectives. The Directors reviewed the sections of the plan. It was noted that the plan could reflect more on recent changes in the US government. The Directors raised questions on the depth of BIC's linkages to various networks as it pursued the campaigns, particularly in the climate area. It was noted that there are many established networks, with deep expertise, and cutting across a wide political spectrum. The issue of

networking with climate groups will be explored further. Also, Directors noted that carbon finance issues and the role of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) would likely arise as BIC deepens its work in this area.

The Directors discussed BIC's plan to discontinue its IMF initiative. Chad explained that funding for the IMF work has been discontinued and that strategically there were difficulties in integrating the IMF work with BIC's MDB project and policy focus. The Directors noted that BIC should remain open to limited collaboration with Southern-based groups on IMF issues, particularly in light of recent increases in IMF financing.

It was also noted that staff should develop more specific objectives in the provision of information services to provide clearer criteria for evaluation.

The Directors welcomed the national budget initiative, but emphasized that BIC's focus must be on supporting existing groups, not on establishing new structures. Furthermore, Board members raised questions regarding the terms of engagement with strategic partners of this initiative.

After clarifying changes to reflect the Board's review and recommendations, the Directors approved BIC's 2009-2012 Strategic Plan.

**4. Organizational Budget 2009:** David presented BIC's proposed 2009 budget. The balanced budget projects revenue and expenses of \$2,233,381 for the year. The budget reflects additions of new staff for which dedicated funding has been secured. Staff were congratulated on attracting new foundation support. A Director noted that the budget as presented raised questions on alignment with the strategic plan and would like further discussion of this at an upcoming meeting.

**5. Board Development:** The Directors elected two new members to BIC's Board of Directors. Mamadou Goita is Executive Director of the Institute for Research and the Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IPAR) in Bamako, Mali. His term will begin January 1, 2009. Lisa Veneklasen is Executive Director of Just Associates of Washington, DC. Her term will begin January 1, 2010.

**6. Appreciation:** The Directors extended their appreciation to Jonathan for his excellent service as Chair of BIC's Board. David Hunter will assume the role of Chair as of January 1, 2009.

Drafted by Bruce Jenkins, Secretary