

Bijlage 1: *Oral Statement* zoals uitgesproken door Minister Ploumen op 12 april 2014 tijdens het Development Committee:

## ***Draft oral statement***

### **Introduction**

Rebuild, reform and respect. These are the three themes I want to address on behalf of my constituency.

#### **First: Rebuild**

1. We are all deeply concerned about the continuously deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Syria. But we shouldn't stop there. We should be ready to engage and help stabilize the situation as soon as local developments allow.
2. This is also true for our constituency member Ukraine. We very much welcome the swift support of the World Bank and IMF.
3. I was happy to see a silver lining among all the dire news at the Central African Republic Roundtable yesterday: There weren't enough chairs. I can't remember a single meeting on the CAR where that was a problem. It is bad that it had to come this far for the situation to catch everyone's attention. But we are now at a point where we have necessary involvement of all relevant parties that will help improve the situation on the ground.
4. The future of the country is in the hands of the people of the CAR. With the right mix of efforts between the national authorities, bilateral and multilateral partners, we can help rebuild this country.

#### **Second: Reform**

5. Let me now zoom in to [the talk of town:] the reform process.
6. In meetings the past two days, many told me about the upheaval the current reform process is causing. This is understandable given the tremendous scope and magnitude of the modernization process. But let us all contemplate for a moment what Jim Kim is trying to accomplish: making the World Bank Group fit for purpose to end extreme poverty by 2030!
7. Jim, we fully support you in the process of turning the Bank into a "Solutions Bank". We need such an institution to face the challenges ahead of us.

8. Part of the modernization process is the move to becoming ONE World Bank Group. Yes, it is complicated, yes there are conflict of interest issues to resolve. But it is essential for solutions that make 1 and 1 equal 3. In this effort we urge the World Bank to:
- Rationalize salaries and benefits. Bring them in line with Bank's development mandate.
  - Align core business with Trust Funds, and reduce unnecessary fragmentation.
  - Minimize cost of doing business and let the proceeds flow to the clients that need it the most.
  - Avoid a race to the bottom in procurement decisions and allow quality and value for money to help countries develop in a sustainable way.

**Third: Respect**

9. I come to my 3<sup>rd</sup> point: non-discrimination.
10. On behalf of our constituency I would like to express our respect to the World Bank management for showing leadership in favor of non-discrimination. To use the words of President Kim: Institutionalized discrimination is not only bad for people and for societies, it is also bad for economies.
11. You have created momentum for the inclusion agenda and for the assurance that we are not doing harm to the environment and communities. Now we need to build on that. We need to do research, change policies, and change our attitudes to ensure that the Bank truly becomes a champion of all who are affected by the Bank's supported activities.

Thank you