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NEWS RELEASE

Joint Statement from World Bank Management and Inspection Panel

World Bank Board Discusses request for Inspection in Lebanon

WASHINGTON, March, 10, 2011—The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors met on March 10, 2011 to discuss the Eligibility Report for the Lebanon - Greater Beirut Water Supply Project.

Executive Directors considered the Inspection Panel's Report and Recommendation regarding the "Lebanon - Greater Beirut Water Supply Project" issued on January 20, 2011, in relation to a Request for Inspection submitted in November 2010. During the meeting, Management proposed to expand a study already undergoing on water quality issues to cover water availability and costs. Acknowledging the legitimacy of the requesters' concerns, the Board invited the Inspection Panel to return by July after considering and taking into account the analysis of the study commissioned by Management on the water quality, availability, and cost, in order to inform the Board on whether or not subsequent investigation is warranted, and if so, on its precise focus.

The Inspection Panel is an independent body established by the Executive Directors of the World Bank to address the concerns of the people who may be affected by Bank projects and to ensure that the Bank follows its own policies and procedures in the design, appraisal and implementation of projects it finances.

Additional information can be found at www.inspectionpanel.org and www.worldbank.org

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