

ARTF Strategy Group Meeting

June 12, 2016

Summary of Discussions

An ARTF Strategy Group (SG) Meeting was held on June 12, 2016 and was attended by 12 members including the Ministry of Finance (MoF). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Stephen N. Ndegwa (World Bank Operations Manager). The agenda items were: (i) Presentation from the ARTF Supervisory Agent – MSI; and (ii) ARTF Flexibility Review Update.

1. Presentation from MSI on Third Party Monitoring Approach: MSI, the firm currently contracted as the third party monitor (supervisory agent) for ARTF investment projects, presented their approach to monitoring for the five ARTF projects- EQUIP, NSP, ARAP, OFWMP and IRDP. Some findings from the field visits to a sample of EQUIP project sites were also presented. This was followed by a discussion of several issues including how the supervisory agent's work fits into the World Bank's overall approach to monitoring of results; accountability for addressing deviations observed in the field; maintenance of schools, and capacity building for line ministries on monitoring. It was agreed that the latest quarterly reports from the Supervisory Agent would be shared with the SG in addition to being posted online.

2. Update on ARTF Review: discussions have been ongoing between the Bank and MoF to finalise the ToR for the review. The Administrator briefed the SG of a proposal to draft a short note on Flexibility in the ARTF based on internal analysis and discussions with SG members over the last few months. This will be shared in a few weeks. SG members are invited to send specific ideas on additional flexibility. In the meantime the Administrator and MoF will meet to discuss the ToR for a full external review of the ARTF, which will encompass the flexibility issues. The ToR will be shared and discussed at the SG following these discussions.

3. AOB: The Administrator informed the SG that a discussion on the World Bank's approach to corruption in its operations would be scheduled shortly. The Administrator would also request the SG to share any frequently asked questions on this topic, to aid in the preparation of a briefing note.