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# Foreword

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The *World Development Report 1999/2000*, the 22nd in this annual series, addresses the changing development landscape of the early 21st century. Development thinking has evolved into a broad pragmatism, realizing that development must move beyond economic growth to encompass important social goals—reduced poverty, improved quality of life, enhanced opportunities for better education and health, and more. Experience has also taught that sustainable progress toward these goals requires integrated implementation and must be firmly anchored in processes that are open, participatory, and inclusive. In the absence of a strong institutional foundation, the outcomes of good policy initiatives tend to dissipate. These lessons and insights are incorporated into the Comprehensive Development Framework, recently initiated by the World Bank to address the challenges of development in a more holistic, integrated way by bringing in aspects such as governance, legal institutions, and financial institutions, which were too often given short shrift earlier.

Looking ahead, this report explores the environment in which the major issues of the 21st century—poverty, population growth, food security, water scarcity, climate change, cultural preservation—will be faced. Many powerful forces, both glacial and fast-paced, are reshaping the development landscape. These include innovations in technology, the spread of information and knowledge, the aging of populations, the financial interconnectedness of the world, and the rising demands for political and human rights. The report focuses in particular on two clusters of change—globalization and localization—because of their immense potential impact. They open up unprecedented opportunities for growth and development, but they also carry with them the threats of economic and political

instability that can erode years of hard-earned gains.

Given their already present implications, it is not surprising that globalization and localization are a central preoccupation of policymakers around the world. Globalization is praised for bringing new opportunities for expanded markets and the spread of technology and management expertise, which in turn hold out the promise of greater productivity and a higher standard of living. Conversely, globalization is feared and condemned because of the instability and undesired changes it can bring: to workers who fear losing their jobs to competition from imports; to banks and financial systems and even entire economies that can be overwhelmed and driven into recession by flows of foreign capital; and, not least, to the global commons, which are threatened in many ways with irreversible change.

Localization is praised for raising levels of participation and involvement, and providing people with a greater ability to shape the context of their own lives. By leading to decentralized government where more decisions happen at subnational levels, closer to the voters, localization can result in more responsive and efficient local governance. National governments may use a strategy of decentralization to defuse civil strife or even civil war. However, when poorly designed, decentralization can result in overburdened local governments without the resources or the capacity to fulfil their basic responsibilities of providing local infrastructure and services. It can also threaten macroeconomic stability, if local governments, borrowing heavily and spending unwisely, need to be bailed out by the national government.

This report seeks neither to praise nor to condemn globalization and localization. Rather it recognizes them as forces that

bring new opportunities but also raise new or greater challenges in terms of economic and political instability. Containing this instability and providing an environment in which a development agenda can be implemented to seize the opportunities will be a major institutional challenge in the coming decades. The discussion in the report focuses on three main aspects of globalization: trade in goods and services, international flows of capital, and global environmental issues, such as the dangers of climate change and destruction of biodiversity. The focus of the discussion then shifts to three aspects of localization: the decentralization of political power to subnational levels of government, the movement of population and economic energy in developing countries toward urban areas, and the provision of essential public services in these growing cities of the future.

In discussing the appropriate institutional responses to the challenges and opportunities of globalization and localization, the report draws on a vast array of national examples and cross-country empirical evidence, including both development success stories and episodes of failure. There is no simple answer to dealing with globalization and localization. Instead, the insights are rooted in pragmatic judgments about how the existing conditions of society will affect which policy choices make sense, or how one sequence of policies is preferable to another, or how certain policies can complement and sustain each other. The commitments and actions of the national government remain central to any workable development strategy. However, the forces of globalization and localization imply that much of the institution-building for development will be taking place at either the supranational or the subnational levels. In both cases, countries will

need to focus on development strategies that are implemented through mutual consent, whether through international agreements between countries, or through constitutional and institutional arrangements between different levels of government and components of civil society within a country. At both the global and local levels, institutions based on partnership, negotiation, coordination and regulation would provide the basis for sustainable development.

Globalization and localization are not likely to disappear, or even to diminish in intensity. They are driven by powerful underlying forces like the new capabilities of information and communication technologies, and a rising sense among people all over the world that they are entitled to participate openly in their government and society. As globalization brings distant parts of the world functionally closer together, and localization multiplies the range of policy environments, it may well be that successful development policies will achieve results more quickly, while failed policies will have their consequences exposed more quickly and painfully as well. In such a world, exploring the institutional responses to globalization and localization, and disseminating the insights broadly, offers enormous potential for advances in development strategy—advances that can be of great and lasting benefit to the poorest people of the world.



James D. Wolfensohn  
President  
The World Bank

August 1999

This report has been prepared by a team led by Shahid Yusuf and comprising Anjum Altaf, William Dillinger, Simon Evenett, Marianne Fay, Vernon Henderson, Charles Kenny, and Weiping Wu. The team was assisted by Mohammad Arzaghi and Stratos Safioleas. The work was carried out under the general direction of Joseph Stiglitz. Throughout the preparation of this report Lyn Squire provided valuable advice and contributions. Timothy Taylor was the principal editor.

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### Definitions and data notes

The countries included in regional and income groupings in this report are listed in the Classification of Economies table at the end of the Selected World Development Indicators. Income classifications are based on GNP per capita; thresholds for income classifications in this edition may be found in the Introduction to Selected World Development Indicators. Group averages reported in the figures and tables are unweighted averages of the countries in the group unless noted to the contrary.

The use of the word *countries* to refer to economies implies no judgment by the World Bank about the legal or other status of a territory. The term *developing countries* includes low- and middle-income economies and thus may include economies in transition from central planning, as a matter of convenience. The term *advanced countries* may be used as a matter of convenience to denote the high-income economies.

Dollar figures are current U.S. dollars, unless otherwise specified. *Billion* means 1,000 million; *trillion* means 1,000 billion.

The following abbreviations are used:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>AIDS</b> | Acquired immune deficiency syndrome                    |
| <b>CDF</b>  | Comprehensive Development Framework                    |
| <b>FDI</b>  | Foreign direct investment                              |
| <b>GATT</b> | General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade                 |
| <b>GDP</b>  | Gross domestic product                                 |
| <b>GNP</b>  | Gross national product                                 |
| <b>NIE</b>  | Newly industrializing economy                          |
| <b>NGO</b>  | Nongovernmental organization                           |
| <b>OECD</b> | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| <b>PPP</b>  | Purchasing power parity                                |
| <b>WTO</b>  | World Trade Organization                               |