

## RISK FACTORS

*The following section does not describe all the risks (including those relating to each prospective investor's particular circumstances) with respect to an investment in the Notes of a particular series, including the interest rate, exchange rate or other indices, relevant specified currencies, calculation formulae, and redemption, option and other rights associated with such Notes or when the investor's currency is other than the Specified Currency of issue or in which the payment of such Notes will be made. Prospective investors should refer to and carefully consider the applicable Final Terms for each particular issue of Notes, which may describe additional risks associated with such Notes. The risks in the following section and the applicable Final Terms are provided as general information only. IBRD disclaims any responsibility to advise prospective investors of such risks as they exist at the date of this Prospectus or Final Terms or as such risks may change from time to time. Prospective investors should consult their own financial and legal advisors about risks associated with an investment in an issue of Notes. Certain Notes are complex financial instruments and may not be suitable for all investors. Prospective investors should have the financial status and sufficient knowledge and experience in financial and business matters to evaluate the information contained in this Prospectus and the applicable Final Terms and the merits and risks of investing in a particular issue of Notes in the context of their financial position and particular circumstances. Prospective investors should have the ability and expertise, and/or access to the appropriate analytical resources, to analyze such investment, to evaluate the sensitivity of such investment to changes in economic conditions, interest rate, exchange rate or other indices, the relevant calculation formulae, the redemption, option and other rights associated with such investment, and other factors which may have a bearing on the merits and risks of such investment, and the suitability of such investment in such investor's particular circumstances. In addition, prospective investors should have the financial capacity to bear the risks associated with any investment in such Notes and should review, among other things, the most recent audited and unaudited financial statements of IBRD incorporated by reference into this Prospectus when deciding whether or not to purchase any Notes. Words and expressions defined or used in "Terms and Conditions of the Notes" shall have the same meaning in this section.*

### **Notes linked to the performance of interest rate indices are subject to risks not associated with a conventional debt security and which may result in the reduction of the interest, principal and/or premium payable on Notes**

An investment in Notes, the principal or premium of which is determined by reference to one or more interest rate indices, either directly or inversely, may entail significant risks not associated with similar investments in a conventional debt security, including the risk that the resulting interest rate will be less than that payable on a conventional debt security issued by IBRD at the same time and that the investor could lose all or a substantial portion of the principal of its Note or that no premium may be payable thereon. The secondary market for such Notes will be affected by a number of factors independent of the creditworthiness of IBRD and the value of the applicable interest rate index or indices, including the volatility of such interest rate index or indices, the method of calculating the index, principal or premium, the time remaining to the maturity of the Notes, the outstanding nominal amount of the Notes and market interest rates. The value of any applicable interest rate indices should not be taken as an indication of the future performance of such interest rate indices during the term of any Note.

### **Notes are subject to exchange rate and exchange control risks if the investor's currency is different from the Specified Currency**

Notes may be denominated or payable in one of a number of currencies. For investors whose financial activities are denominated principally in a currency (the "Investor's Currency") other than the Specified Currency or where principal of, premium (if any) or interest on Notes is payable by reference to a Specified Currency index other than an index relating to the Investor's Currency, an investment in the Notes entails significant risks that are not associated with a similar investment in a security denominated in that Investor's Currency.

Such risks include, without limitation, the possibility of significant changes in the rate of exchange between the Specified Currency and the Investor's Currency and the possibility of the imposition or modification of exchange controls by the country of the Specified Currency or the Investor's Currency. Such risks generally depend on economic and political events over which IBRD has no control. In recent years, rates of exchange have been volatile and such volatility may be expected to continue in the future. Fluctuations in any particular exchange rate that have occurred in the past are not necessarily indicative, however, of fluctuations that may occur in the future. Depreciation of the Specified Currency against the Investor's Currency would result in a decrease in the Investor's Currency equivalent yield on a Note denominated in that Specified Currency, in the Investor's Currency equivalent value of the principal payable at maturity of such Note and generally in the Investor's Currency equivalent market value of such Note. An appreciation of the Specified Currency against the Investor's Currency would have the opposite effect. In addition, depending on the specified terms of a Note denominated in, or the payment of which is related to the value of, one or more currencies, changes in exchange rates relating to any of the currencies involved may result in a decrease in such Note's effective yield and, in certain circumstances, could result in a loss of all or a substantial portion of the principal of a Note to the investor.

Governments have imposed from time to time, and may in the future impose, exchange controls which could affect exchange rates as well as the availability of a Specified Currency at the time of payment of principal, premium (if any) or interest in respect of a Note. Even if there are no actual exchange controls, it is possible that the Specified Currency for payment on any particular Note may not be available when payments on such Note are due.

**Structured Notes are subject to risks that are not associated with a conventional debt security including changes in interest rates and exchange rates which may result in reduction in the interest, principal and/or premium payable on Structured Notes**

An investment in a Structured Note issued by IBRD entails risks (which may be significant) not associated with an investment in a conventional debt security issued by IBRD. A "Structured Note" is a Note with principal, premium (if any) or interest determined by reference to one or more interest rate indices or currency or currency units (including exchange rates and swap indices between currencies or currency units), or one or more stock market, commodities or other indices or formulae (each an "Applicable Index") (other than a single conventional interest rate index or formula, such as LIBOR) or features such as embedded options, caps or floors. Such risks may include, without limitation, the possibility that an Applicable Index may be subject to significant changes, that changes in an Applicable Index may not correlate with changes in interest rates or exchange rates generally or with changes in other indices, that two or more indices or formulae that may be expected to move in tandem or in any other relation to each other may unexpectedly converge or diverge or otherwise not move as expected, that the resulting interest rate may be less than that payable on a conventional debt security issued by IBRD at the same time or that no interest may be payable, that the repayment of principal may occur at times other than that expected by the investor, that the investor may lose a substantial portion of the principal of its Note (whether payable at maturity, upon redemption or otherwise), that the amount of premium based on appreciation rights payable may be substantially less than anticipated or that no such premium is payable, that Structured Notes may have more volatile performance results, and that the effects of currency devaluations and (as discussed under "Risk Factors — Notes are subject to exchange rate and exchange control risks if the investor's currency is different from the Specified Currency") the imposition or modification of exchange controls by authorities with jurisdiction over a relevant currency may be greater for Structured Notes than for conventional debt securities issued by IBRD. Such risks generally depend on a number of factors, including financial, economic and/or political events over which IBRD has no control. In addition, if an Applicable Index used to determine the amount of interest payable contains a spread or margin multiplier or if the Applicable Index used to determine the principal, premium (if any) or interest payable is subject to some other leverage factor, the effect of any change in such Applicable Index on the principal, premium (if any) or interest may be magnified. If an Applicable Index includes, or is subject to, a

maximum (“cap”) or minimum (“floor”) interest rate limitation, the interest or principal payable on such Structured Note may be less than that payable on a conventional debt security issued by IBRD at the same time. Two issues of Structured Notes issued at the same time and with interest rates determined by reference to the same Applicable Index and otherwise comparable terms may have different interest rates and yields when issued and thereafter if the frequency of interest rate adjustments for each issue is different. In recent years, certain interest rates, currencies, currency units, exchange rates and stock market, commodities or other indices have been highly volatile and such volatility may continue in the future. Fluctuations in any particular interest rate, currency, currency unit, exchange rate or such other index that have occurred in the past are not necessarily indicative, however, of fluctuations that may occur in the future.

The timing of changes in the level of an Applicable Index may affect the actual yield to an investor, even if the average level is consistent with the investor’s expectation. In general, the earlier a change in the level of an Applicable Index occurs, the greater the effect on an investor’s yield. This is especially the case with Structured Notes providing for repayment of principal at one or more times prior to maturity. As a result, the effect on an investor’s yield of an Applicable Index level that is lower (or higher) during earlier periods than the rate anticipated by the investor may not be offset by a later equivalent increase (or reduction).

Any optional redemption feature of Notes is likely to affect the market value of such Notes. During any period in which such Notes are subject to redemption at the option of IBRD, their market value generally will not rise substantially above the redemption price because of the increased likelihood of redemption by IBRD, and this also may be true prior to any such period. IBRD may be expected to redeem such Notes in circumstances where IBRD’s cost of borrowing is lower than the interest rate on such Notes. At such times, an investor generally would not be able to reinvest redemption proceeds at an effective interest rate which is as high as the interest rate on such Notes, and such reinvestment might only be at a significantly lower rate. Investors should consider the related reinvestment risk in light of other investments that may be available to such investors. A partial redemption of an issue of Notes also may adversely affect liquidity for the remaining outstanding Notes of such issue.

Prospective investors should consult their own financial and legal advisors about risks associated with an investment in an issue of Structured Notes. Structured Notes may be complex financial instruments and may not be suitable for all investors.

**There may be no secondary market for Notes and, even if there is, the value of Notes will be subject to changes in market conditions**

Notes may not have an established trading market when issued. There can be no assurance of a secondary market for any Notes or the liquidity of such market if one develops. Consequently, investors may not be able to sell their Notes readily or at prices that will enable them to realize a yield comparable to that of similar instruments, if any, with a developed secondary market. This is particularly the case for Structured Notes that are especially sensitive to interest rate, currency or other market risks, that are designed for specific investment objectives, or strategies or that have been structured to meet the investment requirements of limited categories of investors, which may have a more limited secondary market and less or no liquidity and may experience more price volatility than conventional debt securities. Illiquidity may have a severe adverse effect on the market value of Structured Notes.

Depending upon the type of Notes, market conditions and other factors, investors seeking to sell relatively small or relatively large amounts of Notes may not be able to do so at prices comparable to those that may be available to other investors.

The secondary market for an issue of Notes also will be affected by a number of other factors independent of the creditworthiness of IBRD and the value of any Applicable Index. These factors may include the complexity and volatility of such Applicable Index, the method of calculating the principal,

premium (if any) or any interest to be paid in respect of such Notes, the time remaining to the maturity of such Notes, the outstanding amount of such Notes, any amortization or optional redemption features of such Notes, the amount of other securities linked to such Applicable Index, the amount of such Notes being sold in the secondary market from time to time, any legal restrictions limiting demand for such Notes, the availability of comparable securities, and the level, direction and volatility of market interest rates generally. Such factors will also affect the market value of the Notes.

No investor should purchase Notes unless such investor understands and is able to bear the risk that certain Notes may not be readily saleable, that the value of Notes will fluctuate over time, and that such fluctuations may be significant and could result in significant losses to such investor. This is particularly the case for investors whose circumstances may not permit them to hold the Notes until maturity.

In addition to the foregoing considerations, the following additional considerations, among others, relate to the Notes indicated below.

The market value of Notes bearing interest at a Floating Rate with caps or floors generally is more volatile than that of Notes bearing interest at a Floating Rate linked to the same Applicable Index without caps or floors, especially when the Applicable Index approaches the cap or floor. Similarly, the prices of Notes bearing interest at a Floating Rate with an Applicable Index containing a rate multiplier or other leverage factor greater than one generally are more volatile than those for Notes bearing interest at a Floating Rate linked to the same Applicable Index without such a rate multiplier or other leverage factor.

In the case of Notes bearing interest at a Floating Rate with an interest rate equal to a fixed rate less a rate based upon the Applicable Index, the interest rate will vary in the opposite direction of changes in such Applicable Index. The prices of such Notes typically are more volatile than those of conventional floating rate debt securities issued by IBRD based on the same Applicable Index (and with otherwise comparable terms). This increased volatility is due to the fact that an increase in the Applicable Index not only decreases the interest rate (and consequently the value) of such Note, but also reflects an increase in prevailing interest rates, which further adversely affects the value of such Note.

In the case of Notes that bear interest at a rate that IBRD may elect to convert from a Fixed Rate to a Floating Rate, or from a Floating Rate to a Fixed Rate, the ability of IBRD to convert the interest rate will affect the secondary market and the value of such Notes since IBRD may be expected to elect such conversion when it would be expected to produce a lower overall cost of borrowing to IBRD. If IBRD elects to convert from a Fixed Rate to a Floating Rate, the Margin may be lower (if being added to the Applicable Index) or higher (if being subtracted from the Applicable Index) than prevailing spreads or margins at the time of such conversion on other floating rate securities issued by IBRD with comparable maturities using the same Applicable Index, and the interest rate at any time may be lower than that payable on other securities of IBRD. Conversely, if IBRD elects to convert from a Floating Rate to a Fixed Rate, the Fixed Rate may be lower than prevailing interest rates on other securities of IBRD.

The prices at which zero coupon instruments, such as Zero Coupon Notes, interest components and, in certain cases, principal components, trade in the secondary market tend to fluctuate more in relation to general changes in interest rates than do such prices for conventional interest-bearing securities with comparable maturities. This also is generally true in the case of other instruments issued at a substantial discount or premium from the nominal amount payable on such instruments, such as Notes issued at a substantial discount to their nominal amount or Notes issued with significantly above-market interest rates. Generally, the longer the remaining term of such instruments, the greater their price volatility as compared to that for conventional interest-bearing securities with comparable maturities.

#### **Investment in Notes may not be legal for all investors**

Investors should consult their own legal advisors in determining whether and to what extent Notes constitute legal investments for such investors and whether and to what extent Notes can be used as

collateral for various types of borrowings. In addition, financial institutions should consult their legal advisors or regulators in determining the appropriate treatment of Notes under any applicable risk-based capital or similar rules.

Investors whose investment activities are subject to investment laws and regulations or to review or regulation by certain authorities may be subject to restrictions on investments in certain types of debt securities, which may include Notes. Investors should review and consider such restrictions prior to investing in Notes.

**Changes in creditworthiness of IBRD's borrowers may affect the financial condition of IBRD**

IBRD makes loans directly to, or guaranteed by, its member countries. Changes in the macroeconomic environment and financial markets in these member countries may affect their creditworthiness and repayments made to IBRD. IBRD's Articles limit its outstanding loans, equity investments and guarantees to the total amount of its subscribed capital, reserves and surpluses.

**Investors may need to purchase more Notes to ensure that they hold an amount equal to one or more Specified Denominations**

In relation to any issue of Bearer Notes which have a denomination consisting of the minimum Specified Denomination plus a higher integral multiple of another smaller amount, it is possible that the Notes may be traded in amounts in excess of the minimum Specified Denomination that are not integral multiples of the minimum Specified Denomination. In such a case a Noteholder who, as a result of trading such amounts, holds a principal amount of less than the minimum Specified Denomination will not receive a definitive Bearer Note in respect of such holding (should definitive Notes be printed) and would need to purchase a principal amount of Notes such that it holds an amount equal to one or more Specified Denominations.