

TAX MATTERS

United States Internal Revenue Service Circular 230 Notice: To ensure compliance with U.S. Internal Revenue Service Circular 230, prospective investors are hereby notified that: (a) any discussion of U.S. federal tax issues contained or referred to in this Prospectus or any document referred to herein is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used by prospective investors for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed on them under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code; (b) such discussion is written for use in connection with the promotion or marketing of the transactions or matters addressed herein; and (c) prospective investors should seek advice based on their particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

The following is a summary of the provisions of the Articles concerning taxation of the Notes and of certain anticipated United States federal income, withholding and estate tax consequences resulting from the ownership of the Notes. This summary does not cover all of the possible tax consequences relating to the ownership of the Notes and the receipt of interest thereon, and it is not intended as tax advice to any person. It addresses only holders who are initial purchasers of the Notes at the initial offering price and hold the Notes as capital assets, and does not address special classes of holders, such as dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings, banks, tax-exempt entities, life insurance companies, persons holding Notes as a hedge or hedged against interest rate or currency risks or as part of a straddle or conversion transaction, or holders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar. Investors who purchase Notes at a price other than the offering price should consult their tax advisor as to the possible applicability to them of the amortizable bond premium or market discount rules. This summary is based upon the United States federal income, withholding and estate tax laws as currently in effect and as currently interpreted and does not include any description of the tax laws of any state, local or foreign government that may apply.

Prospective purchasers of Notes should consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of the United States federal income, withholding and estate tax laws, as well as the possible application of the tax laws of any other jurisdiction, to their particular situation.

This summary is only a general description of certain U.S. federal income, withholding and estate tax considerations associated with ownership of the Notes and does not discuss any special anticipated United States federal income, withholding or estate tax consequences associated with any particular issue of Notes, including, for example, Notes issued at a discount, Notes issued at a premium, Notes with a maturity of one year or less, Notes with variable maturities or interest payment dates, instalment Notes, reverse dual currency Notes, optional dual currency Notes, Partly-paid Notes, or Notes providing for principal or interest payments that are variable or contingent for United States federal income tax purposes. Prospective purchasers of such Notes should consult with their own tax advisors concerning the application of the United States federal income, withholding and estate tax laws with respect to their investment in such Notes. Any special anticipated United States federal income, withholding or estate tax consequences associated with a particular issue of Notes may be discussed in the applicable Final Terms.

Taxation of the Notes in General

The Notes and the interest thereon generally will be subject to taxation, including United States federal income taxation. Under the Articles, however, the Notes and the interest thereon are not subject to any tax by a member country of IBRD (i) which tax discriminates against the Notes solely because they were issued by IBRD, or (ii) if the sole jurisdictional basis for the tax is the place or currency in which the Notes are issued, made payable or paid, or the location of any office or place of business maintained by IBRD. The imposition of United States federal income tax in the manner described herein is not inconsistent with the Articles.

United States Federal Income Taxation

Bearer Notes

Notes issued as Bearer Notes under this Facility may, in certain circumstances, be treated by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as registered notes and not as bearer notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Any reference to “Bearer Notes” in this section assumes that such Bearer Notes will be treated as bearer notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Treatment of Qualified Stated Interest

Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), a holder of a Note who or which is (i) a United States citizen or resident alien individual, (ii) a United States domestic corporation, (iii) an estate otherwise subject to United States federal income taxation on a net income basis in respect of a Note or (iv) a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust’s administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust (a “U.S. Holder”) will be taxable on the qualified stated interest accrued or received on such Note in accordance with such U.S. Holder’s method of accounting for United States federal income tax purposes. Qualified stated interest is interest that is payable at a single fixed rate at least annually. Notes bearing interest other than qualified stated interest and Notes issued at a discount may be subject to the original issue discount provisions of the Code.

If an interest payment is denominated in or determined by reference to a currency other than the U.S. dollar (a “foreign currency”), the amount of income recognized by a cash basis U.S. Holder will be the U.S. dollar value of the interest payment, based on the exchange rate in effect on the date of receipt, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. Accrual basis U.S. Holders may determine the amount of income recognized with respect to such interest payments in accordance with either of two methods, in either case regardless of whether the payments are in fact converted into U.S. dollars. Under the first method, the amount of income recognized will be based on the average exchange rate in effect during the interest accrual period (or, with respect to an accrual period that spans two taxable years, the partial period within the taxable year).

Under the second method, an accrual basis U.S. Holder may elect to translate interest income into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in effect on the last day of the accrual period (or, in the case of an accrual period that spans two taxable years, at the exchange rate in effect on the last day of the partial period within the taxable year). Additionally, if a payment of interest is actually received within five business days of the last day of the accrual period or taxable year, an electing accrual basis U.S. Holder may instead translate such accrued interest into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in effect on the day of actual receipt. Any election to use the second method will apply to all debt instruments held by the U.S. Holder at the beginning of the first taxable year to which the election applies or thereafter acquired by such U.S. Holder, and will be irrevocable without the consent of the Internal Revenue Service.

Upon receipt of an interest payment (including a payment attributable to accrued but unpaid interest upon the sale or retirement of a Note) denominated in, or determined by reference to, a foreign currency, an accrual basis U.S. Holder will recognize ordinary income or loss measured by the difference between (x) the average exchange rate used to accrue interest income, or the exchange rate as determined under the second method described above if the U.S. Holder elects that method, and (y) the exchange rate in effect on the date of receipt, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars.

The United States Treasury Department has issued to IBRD rulings dated May 4, 1988 and May 5, 1989 (the “Rulings”) regarding certain United States federal tax consequences of the receipt of interest on securities issued by IBRD. The Rulings provide that interest paid by IBRD on such securities, including payments attributable to accrued original issue discount, constitutes income from sources without the United States.

Because, under the Rulings, interest and original issue discount on the Notes is treated as income from sources without the United States, interest paid by IBRD would ordinarily not be subject to United States federal income tax, including withholding tax, if paid to a nonresident alien individual (or foreign estate or trust not subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from a Note) or to a foreign corporation (a “non-U.S. Holder”), whether or not such person is engaged in trade or business in the United States. However, absent any special statutory or treaty exception, such income would be subject to United States federal income tax in the following cases: (a) such interest is derived by such person in the active conduct of a banking, financing or similar business within the United States, and such interest is attributable to an office or other fixed place of business of such person within the United States or (b) such person is a foreign corporation taxable as an insurance company carrying on a United States insurance business to which such interest is attributable.

Purchase, Sale and Retirement of the Notes

A U.S. Holder’s initial tax basis in a Note will generally be its U.S. dollar cost. The U.S. dollar cost of Notes purchased with foreign currency will generally be the U.S. dollar value of the purchase price on the date of purchase or, in the case of Notes traded on an established securities market (within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.988-2(a)(2)(iv)) purchased by a cash basis U.S. Holder (or an electing accrual basis U.S. Holder), on the settlement date for the purchase. A U.S. Holder’s initial tax basis in a Note may be adjusted in certain circumstances, such as, in the case of an accrual basis U.S. Holder, the accrual of interest income.

A U.S. Holder generally will recognize gain or loss on the sale or retirement of a Note equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale or retirement and the adjusted tax basis of the Note. The amount realized on a sale or retirement for an amount in a foreign currency will be the U.S. dollar value of such amount on the date of sale or retirement or, in the case of Notes traded on an established securities market (within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.988-2(a)(2)(iv)) sold by a cash basis U.S. Holder (or an electing accrual basis U.S. Holder), on the settlement date for the sale. Except to the extent described in the next succeeding paragraph or attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, gain or loss recognized on the sale or retirement of a Note will be capital gain or loss. Capital gain of a non-corporate U.S. Holder that is recognized in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011 is generally taxed at a maximum rate of 15 per cent. where the holder has a holding period greater than one year.

Gain or loss recognized by a U.S. Holder on the sale or retirement of a Note that is attributable to changes in exchange rates will be treated as ordinary income or loss. However, exchange gain or loss is taken into account only to the extent of total gain or loss realized on the transaction.

A United States person generally will not be entitled to deduct any loss sustained on the sale or other disposition (including the receipt of principal) of Bearer Notes (other than Bearer Notes having a maturity of one year or less from the date of issue) and must treat as ordinary income any gain realized on the sale or other disposition (including the receipt of principal) of Bearer Notes (other than Bearer Notes having a maturity of one year or less from the date of issue).

A non-U.S. Holder generally will not be taxable on gain or loss on the sale or exchange of a Note unless ownership of the Note is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States or, in the case of a nonresident alien individual, such individual is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the sale or exchange and certain other conditions are met.

Exchange of Amounts in Foreign Currency

Foreign currency received as interest on a Note or on the sale or retirement of a Note will have a tax basis equal to its U.S. dollar value at the time such interest is received or at the time of such sale or retirement. Foreign currency that is purchased will generally have a tax basis equal to the U.S. dollar value of such foreign currency on the date of purchase. Any gain or loss recognized on a sale or other disposition

of a foreign currency (including its use to purchase Notes or upon exchange for U.S dollars) generally will be ordinary income or loss.

United States Federal Withholding Tax

Under the Articles, IBRD is not under any obligation to withhold or pay any tax imposed by any member on the interest on the Notes. The Rulings confirm that neither IBRD nor an agent appointed by it as principal for the purpose of paying interest on securities issued by IBRD is required to withhold tax on interest paid by IBRD. Payments of interest and accrued original issue discount on the Notes will therefore be made to the Global Agent without deduction in respect of any such tax.

United States Federal Estate Tax

In the case of United States federal estate tax, the Rulings determined that, unless an applicable death tax convention with a foreign country provides otherwise, securities of IBRD are deemed to be situated without the United States for purposes of the United States federal estate tax and are not includible in the value of the gross estate for purposes of such tax in the case of the estate of a nonresident of the United States who is not a citizen of the United States.

United States Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

IBRD is not subject to the reporting requirements that generally are imposed by United States law with respect to certain payments of interest or principal on debt obligations, nor is it subject to backup withholding obligations imposed, in certain circumstances, by United States law with respect to such payments. While temporary regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service confirm that the backup withholding requirements do not apply to any paying agent of IBRD with respect to the Notes, the Fiscal Agent and the Global Agent may file information returns with the Internal Revenue Service with respect to payments on the Notes made within the United States to certain non-corporate United States persons as if such returns were required. Under the bookentry system as operated by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, no such information returns will be filed by the Fiscal Agent with respect to Fed Bookentry Notes.

Brokers, trustees, custodians and other intermediaries within the United States are subject to reporting and backup withholding requirements with respect to certain payments on the Notes received by them for the account of certain non-corporate United States persons, and foreign persons receiving payments on the Notes within the United States may be required by such intermediaries to establish their status in order to avoid information reporting and backup withholding by such intermediaries in respect of such payments.