

*2015 Development Policy Financing Retrospective
Consultation Meeting*

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Date:	June 18, 2015
Location:	Brussels, Belgium
Total Participants:	25

The World Bank held consultations with stakeholders in Brussels (see list in Annex) on the preliminary findings of the 2015 Development Policy Financing (DPF) Retrospective. The objective of the consultation meeting was to seek feedback on the early emerging findings of the analysis, and share experiences and lessons. After brief opening remarks by Massimiliano Paolucci (Special Representative to the European Union, World Bank), Edward Mountfield (Manager, Operations Policy and Country Services) presented the initial findings in a PPT. The meeting was moderated by Massimiliano Paolucci.

Main issues raised

DPF's Contribution to Country Results and Ways of Enhancing their Engagement

- There should be closer cooperation between donors on budget support, i.e. alignment and harmonization. This is also important for the dialogue that donors have with beneficiary countries. An assessment of the budget support of just one donor is not particularly effective.
- It is difficult to assess the effectiveness of budget support in the context of individual operations. There should be joint assessments of several operations from different donors. After the experiment of the joint IEG-EC evaluation of budget support to Uganda, the evaluators should try this joint approach in other countries. There is also a need for donors to look towards doing joint programming.
- In an ideal situation donors should do country diagnostics together. The whole project chain, i.e. design, implementation and evaluation should then be jointly conducted.

- There is a need to look at the effectiveness of the policy and political dialogue as well as technical assistance, and not just at the resource transfer, when assessing DPF.
- The success rate of the DPF instrument and improved M&E framework have been quite impressive.
- DPF should be based on country owned reformed programs.
- The Retrospective findings should take in account all information and analysis available on DPF. In this regard, how will the findings of the IEG learning products be taken into account?
- The Retrospective should examine the WBG's selectivity criteria of prior actions. It should be noted that the fact there are fewer prior actions does not mean that there is now an increased selectivity of the most critical actions.
- More details on how prior actions are concretely defined between governments and the World Bank should be provided. This should spell out what the politically sensitive topics are.
- DPF should be reorganized in a way that mobilizes private sector funding for SDGs.

Strengthening the Bank's Risk Management in the Context of DPF

- The Retrospective should elaborate on the challenges faced in Systematic Risk Rating. Why are there so few high risk projects for Africa?

Environmental and Social Aspects of the Reforms Supported by DPF in Countries

- Gender equality should feature more prominently in the assessment.
- Furthermore, there is a need to improve the assessment of the social impacts. One cannot be sure that negative short-term effects of prior actions always lead to positive results in the long run.
- World Bank DPF tend to be more focused on economic reforms. But the Bank should also consider other issues, such as more democratic governance, employment, social and economic rights. These issues are not discussed in detail in the assessment.

Other ways of Enhancing DPF Contribution

- There should be more information on how marginalized communities are identified, and on how consultations are organized with local stakeholders.
- Why are MICs receiving more DPF financing than poor countries?

Annex



2015 Development Policy Financing Retrospective Roundtable Discussion

PARTICIPANTS LIST

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