

World Bank Safeguard Policies Review and Update
Expert Focus Groups on Emerging Areas
TERMS OF REFERENCE

The World Bank has begun a two-year process to review and update its environmental and social safeguard policies. These policies embody core values of the institution and are the cornerstone of the Bank's efforts to protect people and the environment and to ensure sustainable development outcomes. This review and update provides an opportunity for the Bank to build on the core principles of the current safeguard policies; improve coverage of environmental and social risks; deliver better environmental and social outcomes in the projects and programs it supports; and help strengthen country systems and institutions to deliver sustainable results on the ground.

Some stakeholders have asked the Bank to consider a number of emerging areas that are not addressed under the current set of Safeguard Policies. These are:

- Climate change
- Disability
- Free, prior and informed consent of indigenous people
- Gender
- Human rights
- Labor and occupational health and safety
- Land administration, tenure and natural resources.

The safeguards review process includes an examination of if and how the Bank can best address these emerging areas through internal dialogue, consultations with shareholders and external stakeholders, as well as through a global series of focus group dialogues with external experts.

Expert Focus Groups

The Bank will hold focus groups with international experts in the seven emerging areas. The purpose of these expert dialogues is to inform the safeguards review on how the Bank can address the emerging areas through an integrated safeguards framework—either at the level of principles, policies and procedure—or through other approaches outside of the safeguards ambit.

Each focus group will include 10-12 participants, invited based on the following **criteria**:

- Internationally or regionally recognized policy or technical expertise or significant hands-on implementation experience in the relevant emerging area
- Familiarity with work of the World Bank Group.

Participants will be invited based on recommendations from World Bank experts. In addition, the Bank will also consider recommendations from shareholders and stakeholders. Efforts will be made to ensure that the composition of each focus group reflects a balance of perspectives in terms of gender, regions, and the types expertise represented.

Each focus group is advisory in nature with participants contributing in their personal capacity, and their views will not represent official positions of their institutions. Participation will not entail any remuneration from the World Bank. However, the Bank will cover travel and accommodation expenses.

The locations, dates and participants of the focus group meetings will be posted on the [safeguards review consultation website](#) in advance of the meeting and the summary of each discussion will be posted shortly after the meeting. Participants' comments will not be attributed by name in the summary report.