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World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Tajikistan 2026–2031 Summary of Consultations with Development Partners (donors, international development organizations)

January 26, 2026

Business Center ‘Sozidanie’, 2nd floor conference room, Dushanbe

Consultations on the World Bank Group’s proposed Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026–2031 with development partners operating in Tajikistan brought together representatives from a range of organizations (see Annex for the list). Participants provided feedback and recommendations on CPF priorities, reform focus, analytical gaps, and coordination needs.

Key Points Discussed:

Data quality, spatial inequality, and subnational development

Partners highlighted constraints related to limited availability of granular, high-quality data, noting that many datasets remain outdated or of insufficient quality for policy decisions.

Concerns were raised about uneven spatial development and Dushanbe-centric investment patterns; partners encouraged stronger focus on lagging regions and more balanced territorial development. It is, however, worth noting that due to high infrastructure costs in remote areas, investing in people’ is usually the first step of sequencing interventions.

Human capital, youth, education quality, and gender equality

Participants emphasized Tajikistan’s demographic structure (large and growing share of children and youth) and the need to sustain and deepen investments in human capital, especially in early childhood development.

Improving education quality was raised as crucial after access has significantly been strengthened. The need for stronger use of digital tools was also emphasized, meaning the importance of enabling infrastructure such as digital connectivity and reliable electricity.

Partners recommended focusing jobs and private investment outcomes on youth labor market entry, employability, skills development, and expanding opportunities for girls and young women, including reducing the number of girls and young women in the NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) category.

Gender was highlighted as a transformational agenda, requiring structural changes and progress tracking.

Public administration reform and institutional capacity

Partners underscored the importance of public administration reform to retain qualified civil servants and managers, including in rural areas, as a foundation for implementing reforms and

improving service delivery. Subnational governance reforms and decentralization were flagged as salient for improving service delivery. However, with this end in view, conditional decentralization combining strengthened public financial management and capacity at local levels are critical based on worldwide experience.

Food security, climate change, environment, and water

Partners emphasized the importance of food security and nutrition, noting persistent vulnerabilities. They also highlighted climate change and environmental degradation as cross-cutting dynamics with major financial implications and asked how these would be reflected beyond the energy focus; water was noted as intersecting both climate and food security.

Participants encouraged more joint analytics and operationalization of key reports (e.g., Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR), air quality analytics) into policy and investment decisions.

Energy and Rogun HPP risk management

Participants took interest in how the CPF prioritizes energy security given the national and regional importance of the Rogun HPP. They emphasized that the project's success hinges on macro-fiscal sustainability, robust corporate government standards, and prudent revenue management. They requested details on risk mitigation measures and asked how regional interdependencies are being addressed—given that a large share of Rogun electricity production should be exported to neighboring countries in the future—and how these regional dimensions are integrated into the national CPF and the government's approach.

Business environment, inspections/licensing, taxation, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) constraints

Partners noted that SMEs face numerous licensing requirements, frequent inspections by multiple agencies, and administrative burdens that constrain enterprise growth.

Tax reform was also described as a continuous agenda and partners encouraged the WBG to maintain engagement, given its contribution to both foreign and local investors.

Coordination modalities and regional programming

Partners welcomed the emphasis on coordination and showed commitment to continue to strengthen it (including through Development Coordination Council (DCC) working groups).

Regional cooperation was encouraged, including the use of regional windows/operations for transboundary challenges. Remittances and reliance on labor migration were discussed as a macroeconomic vulnerability, with partners encouraging realism about the time required to substitute migration-driven income through domestic job creation.

Financing terms and allocation outlook

The WBG team explained the shift from grants to credit-based IDA terms as a rules-based transition linked to income status thresholds; and noted that credits remain highly concessional compared to market borrowing (long maturity and grace periods). The WBG indicated that allocations are determined by the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) and implementation performance (including possible reallocations for strong performers).

‘If reforms, then investment’ approach and use of instruments

The WBG team emphasized Development Policy Operations (DPOs) as an engine for reforms. Program-for-Results (PforR) were also highlighted as an increasingly used instrument to tie disbursement to verified results and incentivize behavior change.

For governance and public sector reforms, the Bank described a shift away from solely financing IT systems toward results-based approaches anchored in sector outcomes (e.g., health/education indicators) coupled with public financial management reforms.

Coordination and analytics operationalization

The Bank reiterated openness to suggestions on coordination formats and encouraged partners to engage directly with the Country Manager. A proposal was made to use DCC working groups to align around CPF outcomes, agree on priority reforms, and coordinate investment follow-up (‘reforms first, then investments’). The WBG team outlined the next steps in the CPF process. Ongoing consultations will continue encompassing Government, private sector and civil society and other key stakeholders.

Annex:

Number of Participants:	Organizations attending:
32 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asian Development Bank (ADB)• European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)• Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD)• Embassy of Germany• Embassy of the United States• International Monetary Fund (IMF)• International Organization for Migration (IOM)• Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)• Swiss Cooperation Office (SCO)• Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)• United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office• United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)• United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)• World Food Programme (WFP)