**Mongolia**

**Consultation meeting with Development Partners on draft World Bank Group**

**Country Partnership Framework**

**February 1, 2019**

*This is a brief, informal summary of the issues raised during the meeting. If you were present and wish to make a correction or provide further information, please email to wbmongolia@worldbank.org.*

The World Bank Group (WBG) met with 13 representatives of the development partners on February 1, 2019 to exchange views and recommendations as it prepares the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Mongolia. The CPF identifies and prioritizes critical areas where the World Bank Group support would have the biggest impact in promoting sustainable poverty reduction and shared prosperity, from 2019 to 2024.

The discussions focused on four guiding questions:

1. In your view, what should the principal objective of the World Bank’s strategy in Mongolia be for the next five years?

2. Do you think that the areas of engagement identified by the World Bank are appropriate? If not, what three principal development priorities would you propose?

3. What are the main risks that are likely to impede the implementation of the World Bank’s support in Mongolia?

4. Are there areas where you think the WBG should not engage in Mongolia?

Several development partners noted similarities of the proposed draft partnership framework of the WBG with their own country partnership documents. Therefore, many noted that closer coordination between development partners should be put in place, especially that the funding is becoming scarce. They suggested to look into complementarities in the areas where they are working on. All participating agencies shared information on their key operational areas in Mongolia.

Development partners also suggested that the World Bank would benefit from their experiences in sectors where some of them have long experience working in, e.g. some agencies have worked with herders for more than ten years which would benefit the upcoming World Bank loan project in agriculture.

A number of partners concurred that governance should be stressed as priority issue. Development policies are not coherent – sectoral plans do not link to each other and they don’t link to the Sustainable Development Vision (SDV) 2030. Also, implementation gap of policy document was noted as a major issue in Mongolia. Thus, SMART indicators could help quantify and make clearer the government commitments.

Wealth distribution, a fundamental problem in the last thirty years, is an area where Mongolia needs support going forward. Another important development area is budget allocation to support policy priorities as well as efficient use of funds.

Anticorruption issues also need to be looked at more seriously. Anti-money laundering and Financing of Terrorism issues following the FATF recommendations are the opportunity to move the agenda now. Country’s new leadership is open and willing to tackle these issues. Transparency and CSO engagement in corruption related agencies would be needed. Capacity of independent oversight agencies is very critical.

Several partners said they were encouraged to see addition of climate change in the WBG strategy. Air pollution is spreading to rural areas due to mining and distribution of brown coal.

On health, clearer explanation on why the WBG is phasing out of health amid air pollution impacts on health and other major health problems needs to be provided.

Overall, it was suggested that the WBG CPF could benefit from the clearer reference to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Mongolia’s Sustainable Development Vision.