



Review and Update of the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies Phase 2 Consultations – Feedback Summary

Date: October 30, 2014

Location: Beirut, Lebanon

Audience: Lebanese, Jordanian and Iraqi Government Representatives

Overview:

Bank representatives welcomed the Lebanese, Jordanian and Iraqi participants present in Beirut, consisting of Government Officials, from the various Ministries.

Following welcoming remarks, Bank representatives provided an overview of the process undertaken to date on the review and update of the policies and presented the draft “Environmental and Social Framework: Setting Standards for Sustainable Development.” Participants were then invited to ask questions and to express their views.

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders
1. General Comments
<p><i>Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participant commended the Bank for the transparent consultation process undertaken worldwide. • A participant expressed concern that the Bank might be interfering in matters that should be handled by specialized agencies such as the issue of “children’s rights” which should be tackled by UNICEF and not the World Bank. • Issue was raised of discrimination/inequity created when Bank standards differ from national law. <p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development is one of the pillars of Sustainable Development. Participants asked to what extent the Bank could cover capacity building that promotes economic development of societies. • Participants asked for clarifications on the budget and financial implications required to comply with the standards. • Clarification is sought on whether the new policies would apply to existing projects as well as those under negotiations. <p><i>Recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arabic translation of the framework should be revised. • A participant recommended that the proposed framework be reviewed and adapted to the SDGs once they get adopted in 2015. • The new framework does not fulfill the objective of reducing poverty. Additional poverty reduction measures should therefore be introduced in the framework.

<p>Specific Feedback from Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants stressed that the Bank should take into account and respect the human rights of sexually discriminated individuals. • The Inspection Panel (IPN) is an important tool for people to raise their concerns. Therefore the IPN should also revise its mandate to be in line with the new proposed framework.
<p>2. A Vision for Sustainable Development</p>
<p>3. World Bank Environmental and Social Policy</p> <p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants sought clarity on what is required of the Borrower in paragraph 45 of the policy, when consent is not reached amongst Indigenous Peoples. • A participant sought clarification on the new classification requirements and how they would differ from the current A,B,C risk categorization. <p><i>Recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In paragraph 56, the policy states that “ <i>World Bank Chief Officer, Environmental and Social Standards, is responsible for formulating, updating and interpreting the Environmental and Social Framework</i> “. The participant recommended that the responsibility be expanded to a committee rather than only designating one person.
<p>4. Environmental and Social Standard 1 (ESS1): Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Bank requires environmental and social assessments and case studies, which are not required by national laws, there will be a risk of disparity. <p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participant sought clarification on the type of projects that would require environmental and social assessment.
<p>5. Environmental and Social Standard 2 (ESS2): Labor and Working Conditions</p> <p><i>Recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more explicit recognition of international conventions (see other MDBs., IFC)
<p>6. Environmental and Social Standard 3 (ESS3): Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participant commended the Bank for taking into account and addressing new issues in the framework and also for taking a more holistic approach and introducing the policy as a framework. The participant urged the Bank to link the different tools of the policies. • A participant raised attention to terms and notions introduced in the framework that cannot be quantified, such as the 25,000 tonnes of CO2 mentioned in paragraph 6 of ESS3. <p><i>Recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries like Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan comply with the international convention on water. Participants recommended the Bank to include the international water convention in the new framework and make it the basis of ESS3.
<p>7. Environmental and Social Standard 4 (ESS4): Community Health and Safety</p>

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders
8. Environmental and Social Standard 5 (ESS5): Land Acquisition, Restriction on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement
<p><i>Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participant encouraged the World Bank to help countries fill any gaps in their national laws with regards to the rights of affected people. <p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participant requested more clarification on the definition of “affected persons” as mentioned in paragraph 27: “<i>The Borrower will not resort to forced evictions of affected persons.</i> “. The participant wished to know how the Bank would handle the problem of persons who identify themselves as affected in order to benefit from World Bank projects. • Definition of “forced eviction” in footnote 5 needs further clarification. • A participant expressed concern about “affected people” and the problem of discrimination. Some people will get special treatment, for example, illegal squatters. The participant asked further clarification on how the Bank would deal with this issue. • A participant inquired whether Bank policy or national law prevails on the subject of land appropriation. • In the case where land laws are different from national laws and gaps were in fact identified, clarification was sought on what the Bank’s approach would be; and especially in the case where both parties cannot reach consensus, which laws would prevail. • A participant explained that in most cases compensation of land gets delayed. They further referred to paragraph 11 in ESS5 and asked whether compensation can be dispensed before project implementation.
9. Environmental and Social Standard 6 (ESS6): Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources
10. Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS7): Indigenous Peoples
<p><i>Recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participant recommended revising the wording in paragraph 2 of ESS7 to “This ESS recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have identities and aspirations that could or might be distinct from mainstream groups” instead of are distinct.
11. Environmental and Social Standard 8 (ESS8): Cultural Heritage
12. Environmental and Social Standard 9 (ESS9): Financial Intermediaries
<p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to clarify which policies would prevail when the Bank is involved in a co-financed project. • Need to clarify how financial intermediaries are linked to environmental and social issues.
13. Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10): Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement
<p><i>Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question of participation and stakeholder engagement is important.

Safeguard Policies Review and Update - Phase 2 Consultations Feedback Summary

The Bank representatives thanked everyone for their inputs and encouraged participants to submit inputs in writing, in particular on topics that were the subject of much discussion during the consultation, in particular land acquisition, squatters and compensation.

The address for submitting feedback is:

<https://consultations.worldbank.org/forums/forum-review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>

Additional information, including links to the policies, fact sheets on the Framework and a Q&A, can be found at: <http://consultations.worldbank.org/consultation/review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>