



Towards a World Bank Group Gender Strategy Consultation Meeting July 20th, 2015 Feedback Summary Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

The consultation meeting with representatives from the **African Development Bank** was held on **July 20th, 2015** in **Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire**. After a presentation by the World Bank Group Gender Team on the background, intended scope and process for the strategy, the floor was open for participants' comments and recommendations. The summary below captures the main points and recommendations raised during the meeting.

Total Number of Participants: 48.

Feedback from Stakeholders

1. KEY GENDER GAPS THE WORLD BANK GROUP SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION AS PRIORITY TO HELP COUNTRIES REDUCE POVERTY AND PROMOTE MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETIES

- **Data and statistics:** The Bank Group should help governments improve their national statistical offices and their ability to collect data, analyse it and integrate it in policy development. It should make available the data, the tools and the instruments as better diagnostics inform better interventions. The WBG has a comparative advantage in statistical capacity and should help unpack existing data as more disaggregated data is needed. For example, to have disaggregated data by type of women – e.g. adolescents, young adults, elderly, etc.– would help understand better the different problematic each group face. In Africa it would be interesting to have more disaggregated data about girls education by sub-regions not only by countries.

- **Fragility:** One dimension missing in the Concept Note and that is very important in the African context is the issue of fragility and conflict situations (FCS). The renewed strategy should clarify how it will work in the FCS context and how will address the different types of fragility with their specific challenges: extreme fragility and issues of security and access to justice and security; moderate fragility and issues of formal vs. informal institutions and impact of institutional reforms.
- Other issues that the WBG should also consider addressing:
 - **Economic capacity, the transition from informal to formal economy:** in many countries of East and West Africa, their formal economic markets are nearly operating at full capacity.
 - **Nomadic tribes and pastoralism:** and the impact in equality of opportunity for boys and girls as most boys and more broadly on gender equality.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE WORLD BANK GROUP CAN BETTER SUPPORT COUNTRIES AND COMPANIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS WITH RESPECT TO GENDER EQUALITY TO YIELD MORE SUSTAINABLE RESULTS

- **Contextualization:** in developing the renewed gender strategy the WBG should acknowledge the unique experiences and circumstances of each country and provide mechanisms to adapt the strategy as needed. The issue of context is fundamental when addressing fragility and violence, both for better situational analysis and project design. In Africa, what works in one country does not necessarily works in the neighbouring country and often, you cannot have the same approach even in communities within the same country.
- **Selectivity:** the WBG's selectivity approach is welcomed and the two topics of focus – i.e.; more and better jobs and access to assets - are considered the right ones. In Africa, however, it will be difficult to focus exclusively in those two issues as the continent is very diverse and so are the gender gaps across it. The Bank Group should also introduce the principle of selectivity not only to topics but also to countries to increase efforts in countries that are struggling to push the gender equality agenda.
- **Enhanced collaboration:** the WBG, the AfDB as well as the rest of development partners should explore opportunities for greater collaboration whether through joint strategies, evaluations or data sharing platforms. Partnerships should be done based on everyone's comparative advantage. In the case of AfDB that comparative advantage resides in sectors like transport, infrastructure and private sector development whilst for the WB is on economics and policy dialogue.

3. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS.

- The strategy needs to clarify the definition of **household** used for the purpose of this strategy. In Africa, we need to change the use of household as a single unit because there are different dynamics going on within a household and they should be factored in.
- **WBG internal reform in terms of gender:** the renewed strategy needs to address the internal transformation required within the Bank Group to operationalize the strategy across the portfolio.