



Towards a World Bank Group Gender Strategy Consultation Meeting on June 3, 2015 Feedback Summary Tunis, Tunisia

The consultation meeting with **members from the Gender Commission of Parliamentarians** was held on **June 3, 2015 in Tunis**, Tunisia. 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: 7.

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

In developing the renewed gender strategy, the World Bank Group (WBG) should pay attention to the following:

- **Gender barriers to transport** as lack of mobility is a major constraint for women's access to the job market. The renewed strategy should explore different options to provide affordable, accessible and safe public transport.
- The legal framework and **the gap between good laws and faulty implementation**: The Tunisian Constitution of 2014 and the laws anchored into it are very progressive and do not make distinctions between sexes. However, it seems discriminatory practices against women are common and especially frequent in job recruitment practices.

- **Occupational sex segregation** is a problem in Tunisia, where women concentrate in low-remunerated sectors of the economy despite their level of skills.
- **Political participation:** The Tunisian Constitution of 2014 provides for gender parity in parliament and although this parity is respected in the national parliament, at the municipality level there gap between male and female participation is still large. It is important that women participate in politics at all levels and that is not reduced to an anecdotal participation at the national level.
- The lack of **childcare services** is a major constraint for women's participation in the economy. The renewed gender strategy should explore the existing public and private sector solutions and made recommendations for affordable care.
- **Gender-Based Violence:** it is important to calculate the financial cost of gender-based violence and use the business case to press the government to act on it.

The World Bank Group should also consider the importance of raising awareness in the following issues:

- **Women's rights:** many women are unaware of their legal rights and the protections provided in the laws in situations like that of divorce. Need to pay special attention to the rural areas where the lack of awareness is more acute.
- It is important to bring **gender-based violence** to the public discourse and give visibility to the rates of violence against women to sensitize the population about the gravity of the problem.

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

- The strategy could benefit of factoring in **territoriality:** there are significant differences between urban and rural areas that require different solutions.
- In WBG should consider looking at issues of **social class** and how they affect women's economic opportunities