

WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY

CONSULTATION PLAN

The World Bank Group is preparing a new gender strategy, which is expected to be finalized and discussed by the Board of Executive Directors later this year. The strategy is being developed to help the World Bank Group support countries achieve gender equality as one pathway to ensuring lasting poverty reduction and shared security and prosperity. In developing the strategy, the World Bank Group is consulting with stakeholders worldwide to seek their input on country and regional perspectives, global lessons learned and good practices to reduce key gender gaps. The Concept Note along with a presentation is available on a dedicated web page and will be used as background information during the consultation process.

1. CONSULTATIONS

The development of the strategy includes a global consultation process to elicit input and feedback from interested stakeholders in a broad, inclusive and transparent manner through a combination of country based face-to-face meetings, and an online platform. Inputs are solicited from a diverse group of stakeholders, both specific individuals, groups and parties, and open to all interested in contributing.

A. Objectives. The objectives of the consultation process are to:

- Shape and inform the development of an operational strategy for gender equality that will benefit multiple stakeholders.
- Build a base for dialogue between the World Bank Group and its stakeholders so that implementation of the strategy will continue to benefit from diverse perspectives.

B. Stakeholders

The consultative process seeks the views of a diverse range of external stakeholders including, but not limited to the following:

- Representatives of borrowers;
- Private sector representatives;
- Development-oriented organizations and foundations;
- United Nations agencies;
- Multilateral and bilateral development partners;
- Civil society organizations at international, national and local level involved in advocacy or service delivery.
- Labor organizations and professional societies;
- Academic and applied research institutions;

C. Consultation Process

The World Bank Group is seeking input and views on the Concept Note and directions for the development of the strategy from mid- April until early July, 2015.

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To help shape the institution's thinking on the future gender strategy, input from a variety of stakeholders will be solicited on key topics that the Bank should consider in the course of the strategy development. Areas for discussion include – but are not limited to – the following:

- Aspects of the gender strategy that the World Bank Group should consider to support countries to achieve gender equality as a pathway toward lasting poverty reduction and shared prosperity;
- additional constraints to gender equality that should be considered at country level;
- recommendations to remove differential constraints to economic and social opportunities for women and girls and men and boys;
- recommendations on what cross-cutting approaches, policies and programs (used by either public or private institutions) are most effective at improving economic opportunities for females and males;
- recommendations and examples of diagnostic tools that can be used to help the understanding of constraints to gender equality;
- recommendations on how services and markets can be made more accessible and safe;
- recommendations on what are the key gender data gaps and how to improve the availability, quality of data to measure improvements for males and females in economic opportunity; and
- how the Bank can better support borrowers in their efforts to strengthen their systems and institutions with respect to gender equality to yield more sustainable results on the ground.

The input collected will inform the development of a strategy to be presented to the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors for its consideration, which is expected to be in late 2015.

Channels for consultation will include: (1) face-to-face meetings with stakeholders; (2) face-to-face meetings during or alongside global, regional, or bilateral conferences starting from end of April; and (3) online feedback through a dedicated consultation web platform.

Face-to-face meetings will be held at country level; whenever possible multiple sites will be connected via video-conferencing to reach as many countries as possible. Selection of countries where the face-to-face meetings will be held will take into account the following criteria: a) balanced coverage of constituencies of the World Bank Group Boards; b) a balanced representation of middle, low income and fragile economies; c) a combination of existing portfolios and operations; and d) opportunities to apply solutions to eradicate gender gaps.

Consultation meetings could include a combination of formats: **(i) single constituency** meetings with governments, private sector, or bilateral and multilateral organizations; **(ii) multi-stakeholder meetings** bringing together different constituencies as per country's needs and practice.

2. TRANSPARENCY, NOTIFICATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND LANGUAGE

A dedicated consultation web page (www.worldbank.org/genderconsultation) will provide a platform for stakeholders to provide input, and contribute to the strategy development. Through this platform all interested individuals and parties can provide written comments online via a survey form. Input and comments can also be sent by downloading a Word version of

the questionnaire available on the webpage and sending it by email to genderconsultations@worldbankgroup.org. Individuals and parties can also indicate their interest in joining scheduled multi-stakeholder face-to-face meetings by signing up on the webpage.

The webpage includes information related to the review and timeline, consultation process, relevant background information, related resources, the schedule – as it is confirmed - of face-to-face meetings, and other relevant information as the consultation process progresses.

Key consultation documents (e.g., the Concept Note, the consultation plan, the strategy) will be made available in **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish**.

Participant lists, summaries of views and input (with no attribution) from country-based face-to-face meetings, online questionnaire, will be shared through the web page on a continuous basis through the consultation period to provide information on contributions to the process.

Consultation materials, including summaries of meetings, and participant lists, will be made available in the language in which the meeting is conducted.

Consultation meetings will be announced with as much advance notice as possible to facilitate informed participation of a diverse set of stakeholders.

A summary of all input and feedback received during the consultation period will be prepared after the period is completed, along with a document outlining how the issues raised during the consultations were addressed in the drafting of the strategy. This document will be presented when reporting to the Board of Executive Directors.

3. TIMELINE

Dec 2014-March 2015	Internal consultations and Drafting of Concept Note
April 8, 2015	CODE (Committee on Development Effectiveness) Meeting on Concept Note
Late April – early July, 2015	Consultations with stakeholders seeking input on opportunities, emerging directions, and options to inform drafting of a gender strategy. Mix of online, face to face meetings.
August 2015	Report summary of all views received during external consultations and post on the web page
Mid-July- October 2015	Drafting strategy and internal review process
Last Quarter 2015	Board Discussion. The strategy will include a document outlining how the issues raised during the consultations were addressed in the drafting of the strategy. Disclosure of the strategy document following Board Discussion.

4. CONTACTS

Questions about the strategy development and consultation process should be directed to the Gender Strategy team at genderconsultations@worldbankgroup.org.

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