

**WORLD BANK CONSULTATIONS ON THE EVOLUTION PROCESS
AFRICA EASTERN AND SOUTHERN REGION
SUMMARY OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING - VIRTUAL
TIME 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM KENYA TIME
THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023**

World Bank Representatives:

Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director, World Bank
Victoria Kwakwa, Vice President, Africa Eastern and Southern, World Bank

Moderator:

Aly-Khan Satchu, Chief Executive Officer, Rich Management

Introduction

The World Bank has been engaging in global consultations on the Evolution Process. The parameters of these consultations are outlined on this website [here](#) in an outreach plan. The first Evolution Roadmap Forum, held on April 11, 2023, at the Spring Meetings, kicked off the official consultations in parallel with the online multi-stakeholder consultation process. While participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage in the Forum in Washington, they underlined *the importance of taking the consultation on the road to global south stakeholders*.

Building on the Evolution Forum, this second phase of the WBG’s public consultation period consists of **regional consultations** that are taking place in all seven regions of the Bank’s work during the month of July 2023 (see full schedule in Annex 2).

The consultation for the Africa Eastern and Southern region took place on July 20, 2023. The consultations were planned to be held hybrid out of Nairobi, but were relocated to Washington, DC, because mission travel was suspended, and staff asked to work from home at the advice of World Bank security.

Eastern and Southern Africa Specific Consultations

This virtual event hosted a diverse group of organizations, including civil society, foundations, think tanks, academics, development partners and the private sector. In total, 86 people connected from country offices in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, plus an additional 95 people connected through Zoom.

The moderator opened the discussion by welcoming stakeholders and sharing ground rules for discussion. The World Bank’s Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, **Victoria Kwakwa**, provided a global overview of the consultations around the WBG’s Evolution Roadmap and encouraged participants to share their views on how the World Bank can be even more impactful in the region. **Axel van Trotsenburg**, Sr. Managing Director, offered context around the changes for discussion in this session. He then opened the floor for questions (see Annex for specific comments from participants).

Participants: A total of 139 people attended (see list of participants in separate file).

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

The discussion was substantive with active engagement and the main themes resonated around:

- The new **mission and vision** for the WBG is overall welcome, as is the focus on climate change. However, possible tensions were flagged between the mission-vision and the new financing model that enhances private sector participation.
- Some saw risks of increased support to MICs resulting in lower assistance to LICs, or that financing would focus on de-risking investments for the **private sector** instead of investing in public goods.
- Issues of **governance, accountability and transparency** persisted through the session as a top concern. Governance and anti-corruption are not present in the Development Committee paper and they should be prominent. The Bank needs to improve its approach to governance and strongly consider accountability indicators when offering finance to a country. The need for standards and accountability extends to the mobilization of private sector finance.
- **Civil society** can help the Bank in ensuring accountability, from providing national context prior to project design, to facilitating the inclusion of beneficiaries in project consultations and to monitoring government implementation. The World Bank needs to involve CSOs more closely at all stages of project development and look for ways to provide them with funds.
- Investments in **human capital** remain a priority that should eventually lead to having better public servants and develop self-reliance. The HC agenda could be blended with those of climate change and gender, with a focus on children and youth.
- Linked to this, there is a huge opportunity to promote **youth** integration in development and support entrepreneurship projects for young people that can lead to employment. The Bank strategy should be much more intentional about the integration of youth.
- The focus on **climate change** is very welcome, as it is a key factor in extreme poverty, but the impression was that the Bank has so far focused much more on adaptation than on resilience.
- Need to make sure that the attention to global or national issues doesn't leave a gap loss in **regional responses**, and there is interest in seeing the Bank collaborate with other development institutions.

Annexes

Annex 1: Specific comments from Participants

Annex 2: Full Regional Consultation Schedule

Annex 1: Detailed Comments from Participants

Financing	On concessionality and public resources, as much as we try to add to the firepower, we implore the Bank to develop standards and criteria for mobilizing private sector finance, and establish accountability measures.
	With the enhancement in vision and enhancement of private sector involvement, would the Bank not be pulling in different directions? The private sector is expensive while government offers concessional public services. As the Bank enhances private capital facilitation, we should not relegate investments in public goods.
	I want to caution that the financing of MICs doesn't come at the expense of fragile LICs.
Vision/Mission and Operating Model	While we appreciate an increase in development assistance, it is not commensurate with the reduction in poverty. The question is whether these interventions are empowering enough, making beneficiaries self-reliant and sustainable. How do we de-colonize development assistance?
	Might it [operating model] pull in a different direction than the mission? It privileges private capital to achieve development outcomes. My deep concern hinges on that operating model, dismissing public investment in the achievement of public goods. In the US, the highly financialized economy crashed in 2008.
	Protect IDA so that it is always available to support the most vulnerable.
Governance	What is the balance between the economic needs of countries and how they're performing in their governance duties, to allow for accountability? Do you make a determination of whether a country can use the funding in an accountable manner?
	WBG should consider the shrinking civil space while promoting public participation and transparency in governments and countries in Africa.
	Let's rethink the role of the public sector and think about its role beyond being a facilitator of public capital.
	To see results, resource scale up is important but WB needs to think more critically about accountability, and that doesn't happen without transparency.

Youth	The model needs to be very intentional about the integration of youth, particularly in Africa where young people are a big share of population. Oftentimes, youth inclusion is very informal, in part due to the red tape around getting funding, which youth can't meet. You should not leave out a lot of the population that could help push the development dividend.
	WBG should focus on project sustainability and inclusivity and public participation in governance while supporting entrepreneurship. This is especially to support youth employment.
Civil Society	Civil society is very excited to be part of this process. But looking at some of the interventions listed in the operating model, it's important that the WB gives many resources to CSOs, not just to government. We get asked about operations, but we don't even get resources to manage checks and balances.
	There's little involvement from civil society in projects and programs, but we're the people these are designed for.
	How will consultations be done at the community level for projects, especially since they affect mostly rural communities who don't have the option to access meetings like this one? How are marginalized groups being included? How are we going to incorporate all that?
Human capital	The change in mission and vision will underpin the crucial role the Bank plays in social safety nets for children. Ending health pandemics will require more equity in health care by enhancing public health systems.
	Instead of funding us to build big bridges, export raw materials, etc., help us train quality engineers who will build and maintain the same bridges. Instead of investing first in exporting our resources, help us to train people with the skills to exploit and transform our resources domestically.
	Depression and mental health are slowly becoming a major cause of death and disability in the world at large. By 2030 depression may be the lead cause of death worldwide. To enhance human capital production can we integrate mental health in health responses?
Regional responses	How does the World Bank plan to work with other development institutions? Ajay Banga mentioned his intention to do this soon after he joined the Bank.
	How can we improve on regional responses e.g. war in Sudan?

Annex 2: Full Regional Consultation Schedule

Region and Country	Management Representative	Dates
South Asia (Dhaka, Bangladesh), regional, online multi-stakeholder	Ed Mountfield, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services	July 5, 2023
South Asia (Dhaka, Bangladesh), country-focused in person multi-stakeholder	Ed Mountfield, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services	July 5, 2023
Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama City, Panama), regional, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director	July 10, 2023
Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama City, Panama), regional, private sector, in person	Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director	July 10, 2023
Africa West (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire), parliamentarians, hybrid	Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations	July 10, 2023
Africa West (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire), regional, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations	July 11, 2023
Africa West (Accra, Ghana), regional, private sector, hybrid	Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations	July 13, 2023
Europe and Central Asia (Tirana, Albania), regional, multi-stakeholder online	Ed Mountfield, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services	July 17, 2023
Europe and Central Asia (Tirana, Albania), country-focused, in person multi-stakeholder	Ed Mountfield, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services	July 17, 2023
East Asia Pacific (Indonesia, Jakarta), regional, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Aki Nishio, Vice President, Development Finance	July 17, 2023
East Asia Pacific (Indonesia, Jakarta), regional, private sector, hybrid	Aki Nishio, Vice President, Development Finance	July 17, 2023
Africa East (Washington, DC), regional, virtual*	Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director	July 20, 2023
Middle East and North Africa (Rabat, Morocco), regional, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Anshula Kant, Managing Director & Chief Financial Officer	July 24, 2023
South Asia (Delhi, India), country-focused, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Aki Nishio, Vice President, Development Finance Auguste Tano Kouamé, Country Director of India	July 27, 2023

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