



Inputs for World Bank Group (WBG) Gender Strategy: Multilateral Development Banks Working Group on Gender (MDB WGG)

24 April 2023, Virtual

On April 24, 2023, the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) met with partners in the MDB WGG to present early thinking on and discuss the 2024-2030 WBG Gender Strategy. Key takeaways and questions posed by attendees are summarized below and will be considered in the development of the Strategy.

Participating organizations:

- African Development Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- Caribbean Development Bank
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- European Investment Bank
- Inter-American Development Bank and IDB Invest
- International Monetary Fund
- Islamic Development Bank

Suggestions and Insights:

- In light of a greater focus on intersectionality and inclusion including sexual orientation and gender identity, the WBG could consider the rationale for focusing on a “gender strategy” rather than a “gender and social inclusion strategy”.
- The WBG is well positioned to address “pink washing” through a strong understanding of what works and what is meaningful in promoting gender equality. The WBG can also play a big part in supporting country ownership and accountability for results.
- The Strategy could better reflect how the challenges of gender equality in changing times – including climate change, digitalization, and fragility – fit vis-à-vis the overarching priorities.
- The focus on outcomes and strategic engagement is important, including how to measure and integrate this across investments and projects. There is an opportunity to go beyond client engagement and bring in the voices of employers, lenders, and service providers to shape policy reforms.

- The focus on men and boys (as well social norms) is welcome, but there is uncertainty across institutions on how best to do this and how to integrate men and boys into solutions.

Opportunities for strengthening MDB collaboration:

- There is an opportunity for collaboration on the labor market and enhancing women's roles in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields; also to better understand role of men and boys.
- MDBs could consider deepening their collaboration on promoting gender equality in economic and social governance, in the bonds issued by governments, in bringing private sector clients into policy dialogue. For example, could countries come up with strong gender inclusive strategies that meet a bar signaled by MDBs?
- Suggestion that IMF and the WBG work closely together in countries to align priorities and actions. It will be important to highlight this collaboration at different levels. This can be more concrete at the country level: finding more common countries, prioritizing the same countries each year in sequence.
- MDBs could commonly explore *how* we engage on social and gender norms and how this best works in our engagement with clients, including on equal opportunity action plans as well as at the policy and program levels.