



Discussion on Gender Strategy with the World Bank Youth Summit delegates May 25, 2023

On May 25, 2023, the World Bank Group (WBG) held an interactive discussion on the WBG Gender Strategy with the [World Bank Group \(WBG\) Youth Summit](#) delegates. This event is the largest worldwide annual gathering of youth (18-35 years old) hosted by the WBG to engage participants from around the world on the most pressing topics facing their generation. The aim of this discussion was for the WBG to engage with and learn from youth in the process of drafting the WBG Gender Strategy 2024-2030. Audience members gave rich inputs during the discussion. Key takeaways are summarized below and will be considered in the development of the Gender Strategy.

Key Takeaways

- Participants queried about how the strategy will be followed up with **impact studies** to measure changes in women's empowerment. They added that indicators could go beyond how women's empowerment benefits the economy to measuring impact on children.
- Another audience member pointed out that countries receiving grants might not translate into **benefits for people at the grassroots**, and the WBG could consider measures to ensure intended populations benefit.
- A point was raised about how the strategy would ensure **gender equality in challenging political climates**, like autocracies.
- A participant mentioned that countries' economic advancement doesn't necessarily translate into gender equality due to cultural differences, and suggested that implementation could **take culture into account** to have an effect on outcomes.
- Discussants also highlighted the importance of **engaging with the informal sector**, specifically pointing out that lack of **childcare support** is a constraint for many women to access more opportunities.
- Lastly a point was raised about **engaging men** to mitigate resistance and making them part of the conversation to advance gender equality. It was mentioned that many projects separate men and women during implementation, which might not be helpful for gender equality.