



**Discussion on the upcoming launch of the draft of the 2024-2030 World Bank Group (WBG) Gender Strategy with Bretton Woods Project and partners
12 July 2023, virtual event**

On July 12, 2023, the World Bank (WB) held a virtual discussion with representatives of the Bretton Woods Project and partner and watchdog organizations on WB Gender Strategy 2024-2030. The aim of this discussion was to thank participants for their engagement thus far and provide an overview of the forthcoming draft Strategy and formal consultation process. Key inputs shared by participants are summarized below and will be considered in the development of the Strategy.

Participating Organizations

- Bretton Woods Project
- Oxfam
- CARE International
- Gender Action
- International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
- Kvinna till Kvinna
- Sightsavers
- Recourse
- Third World Network
- Bank Information Center
- Center for Global Development

Key Takeaways

Draft Strategy and Consultations

- A summary of some key elements of the forthcoming strategy draft was provided by the WB, highlighting the fact that this is a new strategy, not an update of the previous one, and outlining the ambition, objectives, drivers of change, the WB's comparative advantage in promoting gender equality, and the ways in which the WB can reinforce the vision of the strategy through its own practices.
 - The drivers of change include: Innovating; Financing; and Acting Collectively
- The WB noted that there is still a long road ahead and acknowledged that there is more work required to elaborate the strategy's implementation and in developing a results framework.
- As the WB moves into the process of formal consultations, it is looking to partners for suggestions of platforms and opportunities to engage with local CSOs in countries where it will be holding consultations.

- The consultation process will run from July through November 30, 2023, and will include outreach across a number of areas: an online survey, using virtual and partner platforms for outreach, and in-country consultations to engage with local actors.
- The WB noted two retrospectives being published alongside the Strategy—one on gender-based violence; and one on the Bank’s and Gender work over the past decade—to help inform the Gender Strategy.
- The WB also highlighted the new Results for Outcomes approach; and noted the importance of complimenting ongoing gender tagging and flagging by incorporating indicators, including in DPOs, with new emphasis on metrics during project implementation and completion, beyond just project design. These indicators will be reflected at country level, integrating analysis of poverty and equity reviews (i.e. within CCDRs, SCDs, etc.) to ensure that at country level there is rigorous integration and change in the gender dimensions over time.

Questions and Feedback

- Participants requested clarification on the phrasing “client countries” in the context of macro-economic policy. WB clarified that it refers to countries where the WB is active, including not only countries that are receiving loans, but also countries where the WB is providing lending assistance, analytics, and other reimbursable services—a wider range of countries than those that have an active lending portfolio.
- Participants also requested more information about how they, as CSOs, can help the World Bank in its consultation process. The WB expressed that CSOs provide feedback on how the WB is engaging on gender equality as a whole, to identify weaknesses and places for improvement, as well as things that it is doing well, and bring it to its attention. When it comes to consultations, the WB requested partners reach out with suggestions for platforms for engagement, proposals for thematic events, and recommendations for partners to consult, especially local CSOs. The WB discussed looking beyond the Strategy to ongoing, long-term partnerships in making progress on gender equality.
- One participant expressed appreciation for the fact that this is a new WB Gender Strategy, rather than an update, noting that it seems to meet the moment. They also positively reacted to the focus on rights-based approaches, the links to intersectionality (noting too the importance of making links between gender equality and disability) and the focus on jobs of the future and broader care issues, as well as women’s leadership.
- Participants requested more information about the framing of care in the Strategy, especially whether there was discussion of investments in care and generating care work. The WB noted that the Strategy is a short document, and that a forthcoming thematic brief will have more detail on the care approach, but there is a proposed focus in the Strategy on childcare and care services more broadly, the need for investment in the care economy, the recognition of the role of government in this area, and the need for further investment in evidence and knowledge around care.
- Participants inquired whether the discussion of “jobs of the future” was linked to climate change. The WB noted that both jobs of the future and leadership are linked to climate change in the Strategy, and highlighted the forthcoming jobs flagship report that is linked to climate and has a strong focus on gender outcomes. The Strategy highlights the need to engage in innovative approaches to the climate crisis and gender equality.
- Participants requested more information about the role of women’s rights organizations as they relate to the framing of leadership in the Strategy. The WB noted that leadership is an area that

the WB can focus on across operations in many different sectors (e.g., education, energy, water). WB representatives expressed interest in engaging further on the involvement of women's organizations in leadership.

- Participants expressed interest in seeing further how the Strategy will frame and define macro-economic issues and the impacts of these policies as they relate to gender equality, as well as how the Strategy will frame its engagement with the private sector.
- Participants also expressed interest in seeing how the Strategy will approach investments in public services and essential public goods needed to engage in care work and other work that underpins society.
- Participants expressed a desire for more clarity on the planned consultations on the Gender Strategy. This includes a request for a timeline, planned countries, and any planned thematic engagements.
- Participants questioned whether there had been changes made to the draft Strategy between its presentation to the WB Board Committee on Development Effectiveness and its publication. The WB replied that few changes had been made, and that there is overall strong endorsement from the WB Board Committee on Development Effectiveness of the draft.