



**Discussion on the proposed WBG Gender Strategy with the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation of the MFA of Belgium and Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency  
14 June 2023, virtual discussion**

On June 14, 2023, the World Bank Group (WBG) held a virtual discussion with Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and [Enabel](#), the Belgian Development Agency, on the proposed directions for the WBG Gender Strategy 2024-2030. The aim of this discussion was to engage, learn and better understand opportunities and challenges for gender equality and empowerment. Key inputs shared by participants are summarized below and will be considered in the development of the Strategy. A copy of the presentation made by the Enabel team during the meeting is available [here](#).

**Key Takeaways**

- Discussants supported the Strategy's emphasis on addressing gender **stereotypes, social norms, and transforming masculinities**, and asked questions about implementing this work.
- Participants noted the importance of **collective action and collaboration with other multilaterals** for promoting gender equality, particularly collaborating on **data**, emphasizing the importance of quality data for catalyzing social impact.
- Participants were briefed about the Umbrella Fund for Gender Equality (UFGE) and were interested in learning more about the **role of bilateral and multilateral partners**.
- Enabel shared that they have a Gender strategy from 2019-2023 which had objectives that will remain relevant even after the current strategy period and that gender and inclusion mainstreaming form part of the Key Performance Indicators of the Business Plan
- Enabel identified a few immediate **areas of common interest and potential collaboration**: Ending all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV); women's economic empowerment – including decent work, social protection, and entrepreneurship; and innovative financing.
- Discussants highlighted the importance of addressing **intersectionality and social norms**, particularly approaching these in ways that are sensitive and culturally appropriate.
- Enabel inquired about and underscored the value of communities of practice or other exchange platforms that could **bring partners together** around common interests and goals.