

## **World Bank IDA Regional Forum – MENA**

**15 July 2024, 13:30 GMT+1**

**Introduction:** The forum began with a keynote speech from Mr. Ousmane Dione, World Bank Regional Vice-President for the MENA. Dione emphasized the collective commitment to improving lives in the face of global challenges such as climate change, COVID-19, and the lack of opportunities for youth and women.

**Themes and Stakeholder Participation:** The forum included participation from diverse NGOs representing Climate Change, Education, Employment, Children and Families, Sustainable Development, Academia, Humanitarian aid, and Youth Development.

### **Common Themes and Main Points discussed:**

#### **1. Empowerment and Inclusion:**

Women Empowerment:

- Focus on projects around women's empowerment, especially in agriculture.
- An expressed need for IDA to support women's cooperatives in agriculture to contribute to the impact.

Role of CSOs in the development process:

- Better CSO representation in design and implementation, owing to the grounding of realities on the ground.
- Ensuring assurances by the government of CSO's participation in IDA processes.
- The importance of citizen engagement was highlighted, and corruption should be addressed for IDA to function effectively.

Support to Vulnerable Groups:

- Specific strategies that support single mothers.
- IDA should also focus on children who are experiencing extreme poverty, especially in the MENA and in fragile context and conflicts.
- Foster collaboration between local organizations and IDA.

#### **2. Support, Resources, and Partnerships:**

Financial and Technical Assistance:

- NGOs require financial and technical assistance from IDA.

Consider how NGOs can be engaged throughout the IDA project cycle.

Make the private sector more effective:

- Strengthen the technical and financial support that IDA provides to the private sector so that it can operate effectively and efficiently, especially given its vital role in contributing to reforms.

Climate change and biodiversity funds:

- IDA's role in managing the new fund for loss and damage established at COP28?
- Prioritizing funds relevant to climate change and biodiversity for projects, and whether the IDA benefits from these WB funds.

Direct funding opportunity to NGOs:

- Diversify Partnerships.
- Diversify IDA partnerships to include CSOs as contributors.
- Project Tailoring to fit IDA priorities with CSO participation.

### **3. Graduation, Impact, and Operational Models:**

Graduation from IDA:

- Criteria for countries to graduate from IDA.
- The role of CSOs in graduated countries and how they can benefit from IDA mechanisms.

Impact and New Operational Models:

- Measuring the success of new operational models by IDA
- Detailed success rates and significant changes in IDA operations.

Sustaining Poverty and Conflict:

- Transferring the geography of poverty to conflict areas.
- Bridging relations between governments and CSOs for poverty alleviation.

Academia and Sustainable Development:

- Reorienting the vision with IDA 21 to be in tune with sustainable development goals.
- Conditional grant based on sustainable development achievements.
- The importance of global-sharing experience in fighting severe challenges like chronic drought in Morocco through good resource management.