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## EDITORIAL

### Creating a World Free of Poverty on a Livable Planet

We are all acutely aware that the world is grappling with an intricate web of interlinked crises that are disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable, especially in Western and Central Africa.

The **World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings 2023 being held in Africa after 50 years** was a powerful statement highlighting the urgency of addressing the development challenges in the region. This is a critical time for global and regional action, with no time to lose. As World Bank President Ajay Banga put it in his remarks during the Annual Meetings plenary **“when development is delayed – development is denied.”**

I would like to take the opportunity to share a few reflections:

- There is a broad recognition that we must do more by improving our operational efficiency and effectiveness to address various crises. The World Bank Evolution Roadmap offers pathways to address critical development challenges and the new playbook emphasizes delivering impact at scale for our client countries.
- Dealing with the crisis means working on two speeds and be ready to provide in time response and relief to people, while also continuing to be focusing on medium term solutions and creating the conditions for normal development trajectory.
- Scaling up action on development challenges will require significant financing. The [International Development Association](#) (IDA21) replenishment will be more crucial than ever with 75% of IDA's resources going to Africa, one of the largest sources of development assistance for these countries. On December 6-8, 2023, IDA deputies will gather in Zanzibar, Tanzania, for a Mid-Term Review of IDA20 programs (the 20th replenishment) and discuss their relevance against a backdrop of overlapping crises.
- There's a necessity to be selective and engage on transformational programs. With its robust blend of financing, knowledge, and convening power, the World Bank brings valuable resources. However, the World

Bank cannot single-handedly eradicate poverty. It will take everyone working together and achieve our new vision: **ending poverty on a livable planet.**

- We've heard from our client countries - remaining engaged and strengthening our partnerships even further are crucial for the success of our programs. Collaboration with countries in Western and Central Africa and partners is vital as we embark on an ambitious mission for our operations and financing model. Regional integration and inclusive development will lead to progress. Our [partnership with the OCP group on agricultural development](#) and the [West African Development Bank \(BOAD\) on various programs](#) (affordable housing, climate, and SME finance) are good examples.
- My exchanges with organizations like the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), World Trade Organization (WTO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB), Agence française de développement (AFD), and African Development Bank Group (AfDB) confirm that many want to work together to provide solutions.

As we embark on this journey, our focus areas are **People, Prosperity, Planet, Infrastructure, and Digital**. It is through collective efforts and collaboration that we can overcome the challenges faced by the region and create a better tomorrow for generations to come.

**Ousmane Diagana**

## ANNUAL MEETINGS 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



### Remarks by World Bank Group President Ajay Banga at the 2023 Annual Meetings Plenary

World Bank Group President Ajay Banga delivered a landmark address at the 2023 WB-IMF Annual Meetings in Marrakech, Morocco. He spoke about the World Bank's new vision to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet, and the roadmap to achieve it. [Read the speech](#) | [Watch the replay](#)

## More Jobs through Investing in Human Capital

More than 84% of the world's workforce lives in developing countries. This share continues to grow. Africa must generate two million jobs each month by 2040 to meet its growing workforce needs. In South Asia, over one million people reach working age every month. [Watch the replay](#)

## Building Foundations for an Inclusive Digital Future

Being able to learn, work and transact digitally and online has never been more important to the daily lives of people around the globe. Even though basic digital access is the foundation for addressing many of the world's most pressing challenges, nearly 3 billion people were still offline in 2022, 1.4 billion people remain unbanked, and 850 million people have no official identification. [Watch the replay](#)

## More Annual Meetings Event Replays

During the World Bank Group-International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings that took place from October 9-15, we brought you live events that focused on what it would take to end poverty on a livable planet. You can revisit these discussions with the hashtag #WBmeetings and watch the event replay in English, Arabic, French and Spanish. [Event replays](#)

### AFW IN THE NEWS



## Ousmane Diagana: Recent interviews

- October 6 - RFI/Jeune Afrique: **Ousmane Diagana: "Proud of what the World Bank is doing in Africa"**. [Interview replay](#) (french)
- October 7 - Jeune Afrique: **In Marrakech, the transformation of the World Bank will be announced**. [Interview replay](#) (french)
- October 14 - TV5 Monde: **Economy: "There's a real debt crisis!"** [Interview replay](#) (french)

## PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST: PROJECTS THAT CHANGE LIVES



### West and Central Africa – Harvesting hope: small farmers take on food insecurity

West Africa is facing its worst food crisis in ten years. Meet Tatiana and Victoria, two rice growers in the Central African Republic and Togo respectively, to find out how the provision of seeds, fertilizers, equipment and training have played a decisive role in boosting production [To read more](#)



### Putting Food on the Table: How are Central Africans responding to the food crisis?

Food security in the Central African Republic has tipped to the point of emergency. Estimates show that approximately 2.4 million people suffer from food insecurity and nearly 300,000 children under five are estimated to suffer from severe acute malnutrition. [To read more](#)



### Cabo Verde's Ambitious Plan to Break the Cycle of Extreme Poverty by 2026

Located 500 km off the coast of West Africa, the island nation of Cabo Verde has embarked on an ambitious goal: being the first country in Western and Central Africa to eradicate extreme poverty by 2026. [To read more](#)



### Ghana: How Ghana Is Improving Learning for Every Child

During her visit to Ghana, Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations at the World Bank, visited an elementary school benefiting from the Accountability for Learning Outcomes (GALOP) project. [To read more](#)



### Nigeria: A financial incentive scheme is bringing girls back to school

The Government of Nigeria launched the Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE). The project is currently being scaled up to 11 additional states and will reach more than 15 million beneficiaries. [To read more](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?



# PLASTIC POLLUTION

fight of our era

## **“We are losing our treasure”:** the West African coastal areas tackle plastic waste

“These bags are some of the five million plastic bags that Dakar inhabitants use every day before discarding them in the streets”. Wearing his bizarre outfit made of plastic waste collected from the streets, Modou Fall, also known as Mr. Plastic, has been building awareness on plastic pollution for years. [To read more](#)

## RESOURCES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL



### **Africa's Pulse: Delivering Growth to People through Better Jobs**

Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to slow to 2.5 percent in 2023 from 3.6 percent in 2022. It is projected to increase to 3.7 percent in 2024 and 4.1 percent in 2025. However, in per capita terms, the region is projected to slightly contract over 2015-2025. The region faces many challenges, including a "lost decade" of sluggish growth, persistently low per capita income, mounting fiscal pressures exacerbated by high debt burdens, and an urgent need for job creation. [To read more and download the publication](#) | [Watch the replay](#)

### **Republic of Congo Country Climate and Development Report - Diversifying Congo's Economy: Making the Most of Climate Change**

The Republic of Congo (RoC) CCDR is a new World Bank core diagnostic report that integrate climate change and development considerations. It is intended to help the country prioritize the most impactful actions that can boost adaptation and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, while delivering on broader development goals.. [To read more and download the publication](#).

### **Other recent World Bank reports:**

- [World Bank Annual Report](#)
- [More reports](#)

## JOBS AND CAREERS



### Job opportunities at the World Bank Group

The World Bank Group's recruitment policy is to hire staff of the highest caliber, on as wide a geographical basis as possible, with preference to nationals of WBG member countries or countries of operations.

[Current job positions](#) | [Programs and Internships](#)

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