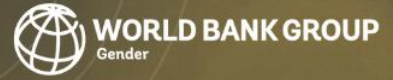




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FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2030 WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY

Consultation at the 21st meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - Development Assistance Committee Network on Gender Equality (OECD - DAC GENDERNET)

**November 13, 2023
OECD Conference Centre, Paris**

OVERVIEW

On November 13, 2023, the World Bank Group (WBG) held a consultation on the proposed gender strategy 2024-2030 with participants at the 21st meeting of the OECD [DAC GenderNet with partners](#). The aim of the discussion was to engage, learn, get feedback, better understand opportunities and challenges for gender equality and empowerment, and identify potential areas for collaboration. Key inputs are summarized below and will be considered in developing the strategy.

KEY THEMES AND FEEDBACK

- Participants congratulated the WBG on extensive consultations to develop the proposed strategy, and appreciated new areas of emphases, particularly the care economy. They appreciated that the proposed strategy would expand its focus beyond childcare to care for seniors, the disabled and others.
- A point was raised about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as a barrier to labor force participation and building human capital.
- A participant inquired whether the evolution of feminist development policy is shaping the thinking around the proposed strategy, including relevant macroeconomic tools and project level priorities.
- Many participants shared inputs regarding data:
 - Discussants appreciated the focus on collective action for addressing existing and emerging issues, and highlighted the importance of measuring gender poverty data, not just at the household but also at individual levels, aligned with The [Beijing platform for action](#).
 - The importance of sex disaggregated data for monitoring and accountability, and macroeconomic policy to address the drivers of inequality, was underlined.
 - It was recommended to expand the focus on data beyond program activities for monitoring, evaluation and learning, to also supporting core systems of gender data architecture. This was followed by a query about how the WBG is thinking about gender data aggregation within the institution and a suggestion to mobilize more gender data funding.



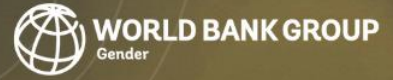
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- A question was posed about how the WBG's current data dashboard change would evolve, especially to include a non-binary category.
- Another participant lauded the ambition of the proposed strategy, addressing different forms of discrimination and adopting a human rights-based approach, as one World Bank Group. They suggested that gender equality could be reflected in the World Bank's evolution roadmap as well as in all operations, by working with partners.
- A point was raised about tracking expenditure in gender equality and alignment between the WBG Gender tag/flag and the OECD Gender marker, to support data comparability, improve knowledge sharing and collaboration.
- More discussants welcomed the focus on collective action and suggested engaging further with feminist movements. The intersection of gender and climate change was also highlighted.
- From the private sector perspective, gender lens investing was mentioned - moving capital in new and different ways for gender equality. A query was raised about how the private sector could be engaged and opportunities existed for gender lens investing. They added that such actions could be accompanied by robust criteria that go beyond women's representation and participation, for furthering gender equality.
- Participants appreciated that human rights, including women's rights, are well reflected in the proposed strategy. They underscored the need to take a holistic perspective on women's economic participation including by elaborating on advancing women's rights to land ownership, strong legal frameworks, and advancing human rights for women, girls, sex workers and sexual and gender minorities.
- It was stated that the proposed strategy was in line with various government partners' expectations. Participants appreciated addressing systemic and structural issues, focusing on priority issues, taking an intersectional approach, and acting collectively. A recommendation was made to consider not just wider but also deeper local partnerships. A follow up remark was made with respect to how the WBG will use the strategy to convene external coalitions on gender equality.
- A participant mentioned that the WBG covers a vast array of topics globally, all of which could not possibly be folded into the proposed strategy. This was followed by a query about what was not included strategy and how could partners support to fill gaps.
- The importance of implementation and accountability was underlined, and a recommendation made that gender could be mainstreamed across all aspects of WBG, not only in projects but also in the overall system.
- Discussants appreciated the acknowledgement of backlash, focus on rights, inclusive language, engaging women as leaders, engaging with women's rights organizations, and mention of technology facilitated GBV. It was suggested to address backlash at all institutional levels, mention indigenous people – especially given their relevance to climate action and strengthening the focus on conflict related sexual violence.
- Debt restructuring and forgiveness were underscored as necessary actions. A participant shared that the amounts dedicated to debt and interest payments by some low-income countries are more than the amounts dedicated to social assistance. They inquired how this debt crisis can be addressed for advancing



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gender equality. Another discussant asked if financial incentives could be used to encourage client countries to strive for greater equality.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- African Development Bank Group
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Asian Development Bank
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
- Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Austria's Permanent Representation to the OECD
- Austrian Development Agency
- Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Canada
- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
- Czechia Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Czechia Permanent Representation to the OECD
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Data2X
- Doria Feminist Fund
- Enabel Belgian Development Agency
- Equality Fund
- Estonia - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- European Commission, DG INTPA
- European Investment Bank
- Feminist Foreign Policy Collaborative
- Finland Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Foundation for a Just Society (FJS)
- France - Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères MFA
- Germany - Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
- Hungary
- Iceland Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA)



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WORLD BANK GROUP

- IDB Invest
- Inter-American Development Bank
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- International Monetary Fund
- International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)
- Ireland Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
- Islamic Development Bank
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- Lithuania
- Mama Cash
- MEXICO
- MIGA - Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs - Development Cooperation, Luxembourg
- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Netherlands Permanent Representation to the OECD
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- Open Society Foundation (OSF)
- Oxfam
- PARIS21/OECD
- Prospera - INWF
- SheDecides
- Slovenia Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
- UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- UN Women
- UNESCO
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Women's World Banking