

NOVEMBER 6-10 | WASHINGTON DC

**LAW, JUSTICE AND  
DEVELOPMENT WEEK 2017**

GENDER, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT

**INFORMATION NOTE**

**LJD** | LAW,  
JUSTICE and  
DEVELOPMENT

 **WORLD BANK GROUP**

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## Title

Law, Justice and Development Week 2017  
Gender, Law and Development

## Date

November 6-10, 2017

## Venue

World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC

## About Law, Justice and Development Week

LJD Week is the only event of its kind, bringing together the global community engaged in using law and legal tools to contribute to development. It is organized by the legal functions of the World Bank Group, in collaboration with partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development and other international finance, knowledge and innovation actors.

The event draws over 1,000 participants and convenes a broad community of development professionals, including those attending the General Counsel Roundtable bringing together either general counsel or heads of the legal departments of over 40 International Financial Institutions, and partners of the Global Forum.

## Theme – Gender, Law and Development

Each year, the Law, Justice and Development Week focuses on a unique overarching theme. This year, the theme is “**Gender, Law and Development**” and will address the role of law and justice as instrument for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal # 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.

Gender refers to the social, behavioral, and cultural attributes, expectations, and norms associated with being a woman or a man. Gender equality refers to how those aspects determine how women and men relate to each other and to the resulting differences in power between them (World Development Report 2012, The World Bank).

Over the past two decades the world has witnessed significant progress in reducing the inequality between women and men, with constant expansion of international and national legal frameworks protecting women's rights. Yet, all around the world gaps persist. The World Bank in 2016 identified four priority areas to achieve gender equality: i) human endowments, notably remaining gaps in health and education; ii) economic opportunity, by increasing participation in the labor force, boosting access to better jobs and increasing earnings; iii) access to and control of key productive assets; and iv) voice and agency as expressed in freedom from violence, the ability to have voice and influence in governance and political processes, and the ability to exercise control in key decisions such as marriage, sexual activity, and child bearing. Those four pillars are strongly interconnected.

For example, women are still only half as likely as men to have full-time paid jobs. Those who have paid jobs, earn up to one-third less than men, due in part to occupational sex segregation. 123 countries have legislations on the books against domestic violence, nevertheless gender-based violence remains pervasive. From a demographic point of view, approximately 200 million women are missing worldwide and this gendercide brings along other related problems such as trafficking. Despite impressive gains in female enrollment in primary education between 2000 and 2006, girls still account for 55% of the out-of-school population. Over 580 million women are illiterate (twice the number of illiterate men) and more than 70 million girls are not in school. In several countries, child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other illegal practices are largely widespread due to the loopholes in their respective legislations and/or limited enforcement.

United Nations Member States have reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality as a Sustainable Development Goal in and of itself (SDG5), as well as a key element to achieving each of the other 16 Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving these ambitious goals requires concerted action and the time to act is now. Strategic collaborations have to be created across sectors and entities to scale up implementation and generate impact. This includes opportunities for building partnerships between Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), International Organizations, private sector and civil society; engaging men's networks, social protection networks and women's groups, inter alia to combat gender-based violence; and working with parliamentarians, governments, and human rights commissions. It is crucial to increase commitment from the public and private sector to reducing gaps between men and women, as the benefits extend far beyond individuals to their communities, to societies and economies at large.

## Objectives

1. Discuss legal and regulatory frameworks critical to the achievements of the SDGs:
  - a. Formulating, revising and enforcing relevant national and international laws, programs, policies and National Strategic Plans on gender equality.
  - b. Removing barriers to women's access to health, education, jobs, ownership and control of productive assets, like land and housing and access to finance, technology and insurance services needed to make these assets productive; and
  - c. Enhancing women's voice and agency – that is, women's capacity and opportunity to act independently. This includes engaging men and boys to more effectively tackle challenges related to child marriage, gender-based violence, social norms, and women's participation in governance.
2. Share good practices in advancing gender equality among MDBs, National Development Agencies, International Organizations, private sector actors, Civil Society Organizations and others stakeholders.
3. Enhance capacity building and institutional strengthening.

## Expected Outcomes

Identify feasible solutions to resolve fragmentation of women's rights and to enforce laws.

- Discuss innovative mechanisms to create an effective access to justice for all women
- Recognize which legal and regulatory frameworks that matter the most based on women's needs.
- Recognize synergies and strategies for strengthening cooperation among MDBs, National Development Agencies, International Organizations, private sector actors, Civil Society Organizations and others stakeholders in the protection and promotion of gender equality.

## Key Messages

- Reform laws discriminating against women and enact legislation enabling gender equality across labour, employment, property, family, inheritance and nationality provisions, and on preventing, addressing and redressing all forms of violence and harassment against women.
- Expand social protection coverage for all, according to principles of equity, efficiency and sustainability, based on national circumstances.
- Create an enabling legal environment for informal (and agricultural) workers, extending workers' rights and entitlements and recognizing rights to secure housing and land tenure and access to public space, raw materials, natural resources, transport and basic infrastructures and services.
- Increase women's access to justice through increasing legal awareness, providing legal aid and legal advice and creating simplified or special procedures and specialized courts and dispute resolution bodies.
- Gender equality is both good practice and good for business (examples of profitable gender-based private sector projects, link between corporate board diversity and profitability).

## Structure

Sessions will be organized in four main tracks:

- Gender Days – Monday and Tuesday
- International Financial Institutions Day – Wednesday
- World Bank Group Day – Thursday
- Legal Vice Presidency Day – Friday



## Monday and Tuesday, November 6-7 Gender Days

Gender Days will focus on the role of law and justice in creating an enabling environment for gender equality. This can only be achieved through legal reforms to reduce discrimination and promote positive changes in social norms; public policies; better enforcement of existing laws, and women's equal access to justice. All of these efforts should take into account the intersectionality of women's age, origin, religion, sexual orientation, disabilities, ethnicity, and social economic context, among others.

Tentative list of subthemes

- **Creating an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment** (Protection for informal workers and self-employed; Labor rights and equal pay; Women in business; Women in mining; Gender and Procurement; Agriculture and Community-Driven Development; Land use and ownership; Climate change and water; Access to finance; Access to property and assets).
- **Gender Link with Profitability in Private Sector Projects** (Women in Transport-related Infrastructure Projects; Women in Energy-related Infrastructure Projects; Corporate Board Diversity Correlation with Profitability and Stronger Governance).
- **Reform, enforcement, strengthening institutions** (Engaging men and boys in gender equality and violence prevention; Access to education, including boys and girls' dropouts; Improving maternal health and eliminating maternal mortality).
- **Women's ability to exercise their rights** (Access to justice; Alternative Dispute resolution and Gender; Interacting with public institutions private and public spaces; Safe Transport and infrastructure).
- **Fragility, Conflict and Violence** (Addressing issues of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS); Rape; Sexual exploitation and abuse; Gender-based violence (GBV), restitution, truth and reconciliation).



### *Wednesday, November 8* **IFI Day**

The IFI Day will explore issues common to International Financial Institutions, with a focus on gender related matters and selected news topics.

The Gender stream of the IFI day will provide an opportunity for different IFIs to share:

- their gender-related development strategies;
- their experiences of gender in programs and projects they support, whether they are gender specific projects (for instance, gender-linked financial institution projects, such as Banking on Women, and Gender Bonds) or have a particular focus on the treatment of gender in projects in any sector; and
- their gender-related “corporate” policies and practices.

The “What’s New” stream will be an opportunity for IFIs to discuss novelties in their organizations and operations, on selected topics of particular interest to IFIs.

The IFI Day will also include a General Counsel closed session.

### *Thursday, November 9* **World Bank Group Day**

The WBG Day will address themes relevant to lawyers and staff in WBG institutions, and issues that cut across organizational boundaries. They will revolve around infrastructure financing by the WBG and accountability.

### *Friday, November 10* **Legal Vice Presidency Day**

This day will offer training, learning sessions and regional retreats for World Bank Legal Vice Presidency staff.





*Monday, November 6 to Thursday November 9*  
**Exhibits**

This year the exhibition will focus on gender-related strategies, programs, projects and practices. We expect development organizations to share their knowledge and practices using exhibition booths throughout the entire week to facilitate interaction and among participants, speakers and sponsors.

**Notional Schedule (indicative)**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Gender Day</b>	<b>Gender Day</b>	<b>IFI Day</b>	<b>WBG Day</b>	<b>LEGVP Day</b>
<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	Registration and Coffee	Registration and Coffee	Registration and Coffee	Registration and Coffee	Registration and Coffee
<b>9:00 - 10:30</b>	Opening Remarks/ Keynote Speaker	Session	Session	Session	Session
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	Networking break	Networking break	Networking break	Networking break	Networking break
<b>11:00 12:30</b>	Session	Session	Session	Session	Session
<b>12:30-2:00</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
<b>2:00 3:30</b>	Session	Session	Session	Session	
<b>3:30-4:00</b>	Networking break	Networking break	Networking break	Networking break	
<b>4:00 - 5:30</b>	Session	Session	Session	Session	
<b>6:00</b>	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	

**Target Audiences**

- World Bank Group staff and consultants from all sectors and areas of practice.



- World Bank Group Legal alumni.
- International Gender and Development Community.
- General Counsel and legal staff of International Financial Institutions.
- Partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.
- Government officials.
- Judges, prosecutors, lawyers.
- Legal scholars, professors and students.
- Civil society organizations and development practitioners.

## Partners

### External

- Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development
- International Financial Institutions
- United Nations Agencies and other International Organizations
- National Development Agencies
- Bar Associations

### Internal

IBRD/IDA, IFC, MIGA and ICSID, and in particular:

- World Bank Group Cross-Cutting Solution Areas
  - Gender
  - Jobs
  - Fragility, Conflicts and Violence
- World Bank Global Practices
  - Education
  - Finance and Markets
  - Governance
  - Health, nutrition, and population
  - Poverty
  - Social protection and Jobs
  - Trade and Competitiveness
- World Bank Development Economics Vice Presidency

## Evaluation

The event will utilize a mobile device application that will allow interaction among participants including poll, chat, evaluation and expressions of interest for future LJD weeks, etc. Interns from partner Law Schools will also take interviews from participants collecting comments and feedbacks.

## Contact

For additional information, or to become involved in preparations for LJD Week 2017, please contact Marco Nicoli at [mnicoli@worldbank.org](mailto:mnicoli@worldbank.org) or call (+1) 202-473-1561.

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