

March 2023

### NEWS

#### [WBG-IMF Spring Meetings Update](#)

The 2023 Spring Meetings will take place on April 10-16 in Washington DC. At the heart of the Meetings are gatherings of the joint WBG/IMF Development Committee and the IMF International Monetary and Financial Committee, where progress on the work of the institutions is discussed. The [Civil Society Policy Forum](#) is the key platform for CSOs and will have hybrid viewing components for registered attendees as well as a livestream for unregistered viewers. Other featured events include regional briefings, press conferences, and a program of events focused on priority development issues. Information on the schedule and registration is available [here](#). [Registration](#) closes on March 30.



#### [WBG Evolution Roadmap Consultation Process Will Begin](#)

Led by the Board of Directors and shareholders, the World Bank Group has embarked on a process to evolve our vision and mission, operating model, and financial capacity. This process, known as the Evolution Roadmap, starts its formal consultation process just before the Spring Meetings. We will be engaging and listening to stakeholders across the development spectrum to ensure an inclusive and collaborative process. See more [here](#) and check back for updates.





### [Invitation to Participate in FCV Strategy Consultation](#)

The Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Group of the World Bank invites CSOs to participate in a virtual consultation on Monday April 3, 9-11 EDT to share feedback on the implementation and operationalization of the [Strategy on Fragility, Conflict and Violence, 2020-2025](#), which has now reached its mid-point. This consultation will inform a Mid-term Review Board Paper that will identify areas for adjustment. RSVP to [fcv\\_outreach@worldbank.org](mailto:fcv_outreach@worldbank.org) with your name, organization, and title to participate.



### [Paris Alignment: “The Climate is Changing and So Are We”](#)

Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank Managing Director of Operations, outlines how the Bank will focus on reshaping development for a new era with a focus on climate change. The Bank’s journey to integrate climate into its development programs began decades ago and has evolved to help developing countries deal with the intensifying impacts of climate change. The next step on this journey is Paris Alignment. Read [more](#).



### [Calls for Proposals| Pandemic Fund](#)

The Pandemic Fund opened its first Call for Proposals in March and is now encouraging interested eligible countries, regional entities, and implementing entities to develop full proposals for potential projects to be supported by this initial funding. The proposals can be submitted via the submission portal starting early May and closing on May 19, 2023. The Pandemic Fund finances critical investments to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacities at national, regional, and global levels -- with a focus on developing countries. For more information, click [here](#).



### [First Comprehensive Global Assessment of Potential GDP Growth Rates](#)

This week, the World Bank published the first comprehensive global assessment of potential GDP growth rates in the aftermath of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. These rates—essentially the speed limit for non-inflationary growth—are likely to be considerably lower for the remainder of this decade, casting a cloud on key development objectives. The report also offers important insights on how systemic banking crises and

recessions affect potential growth rates. Read [press release](#), [full report](#).

### [Pace of Reform Toward Equal Rights for Women Falls to 20-Year Low](#)

A new report, *Women, Business and the Law 2023*, assesses 190 countries' laws and regulations in eight areas related to women's economic participation—mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, assets, and pensions. The data offer objective and measurable benchmarks for global progress toward legal gender equality. Today, just 14 countries—all high-income economies—have laws that give women the same rights as men. Access [press release](#), [report](#), [data](#).



### [What You Need to Know about how CCDRs Estimate Climate Finance Needs](#)

The World Bank Group's new core diagnostic report, the Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs), analyze how each country's development goals can be achieved in the context of mitigating and adapting to climate change. This core diagnostic is being rolled out in every country where the Bank Group works. Through this series we explore different aspects of CCDRs—from their analytical underpinnings to how they are shaping Bank Group operations. Read [more](#).



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## DEVELOPMENT PODCAST

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### [Why Have Smaller States Been Hit So Hard by Economic Shocks?](#)

The recently released *Global Economic Prospects* report warns that the global economy is dangerously close to a recession, with worldwide economic output projected to be just 1.7% in 2023. While the outlook for all economies is quite grim, the edition takes a special focus on the plight of 37 small states—countries with a population of 1.5 million or less—that are already vulnerable to shocks stemming from the pandemic, climate change, disruptions to tourism, and more. Listen [here](#).

### [Challenges Without Borders: Confronting Crises around the World](#)

In this episode of *The Development Podcast*, we mark one year of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and explore the depth and breadth of fragility, conflict and violence (FCV) around the world. What are the spillover effects of war as we see increased displacement of populations, high energy and food prices, shocks to natural disasters and more? What is the Bank Group's position and long-term strategy on FCV? And how can we begin to tackle some of these challenges we face head on? Listen [here](#).

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## VIRTUAL EVENTS

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### [Overcoming Debt, Generating Growth: 2023 Spring Meetings \(Tuesday, April 11 1:00–2:00 pm EDT\)](#)

Rising interest rates and slowing global growth are tipping a growing number of countries into debt crises. Yet global initiatives to help countries overcome these vulnerabilities have proved insufficient. See [more](#).

### [Governing Effectively During Challenging Times: 2023 Spring Meetings \(Wednesday, April 12 09:00–10:00 am EDT\)](#)

Overlapping crises, from COVID-19 and debt to climate change and conflict, are challenging many governments to operate differently, prioritizing the delivery of essential public goods and services to their people while protecting the most vulnerable. See [more](#).

### [Transforming Transportation 2023: Accelerating Toward Green & Inclusive Mobility](#)

Today's global challenges are putting serious pressure on transport systems. From climate change and COVID-19 to conflict and macroeconomic instability, what are the implications of the current context for transport, and for the people and businesses that rely on it? Learn [more](#).

To see more World Bank events, please click [here](#).

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## BLOGS, STORIES, PUBLICATIONS & MORE

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### [Remembering the Lessons of COVID-19 to Build Resilience for Future Shocks in Europe and Central Asia](#)

Europe and Central Asia were severely hit by COVID-19, facing among the highest excess death rates in the world. As we start to mask less and come together more, we should reflect on the ramifications of COVID-19 and how we are helping the most vulnerable in Europe and Central Asia address the human capital losses it induced. Read [more](#).

### [Penny for your Thoughts? Why Coordination among Creditors is Key to Sustainable Debt](#)

Prudent debt can power economies and pave the way for a resilient future—allowing countries to focus on important investments in people and economic growth. Read [more](#).

### [New Food Security Update: Response to Rising Food Insecurity](#)

Our latest food security update shows that domestic food price inflation remains high around the world, with inflation levels above 5% in 94.1% of low-income countries, 86% of lower-middle-income countries, and 87.0% of upper-middle-income countries and many experiencing double-digit inflation. The countries affected most are in Africa, North America, Latin America, South Asia, Europe, and Central Asia. Read [more](#).

### [Ukraine Recovery and Reconstruction Needs Assessment](#)

A new joint assessment by Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, and the UN estimates that the cost of reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine has grown to \$411 billion. The cost of reconstruction and recovery is expected to stretch over 10 years and combines both needs for public and private funds. This second Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment quantifies the direct physical damage to infrastructure and buildings and describes the impact on people's lives and livelihoods. Read [assessment](#), [press release](#).

To read more blogs, click [here](#).

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This newsletter is produced by the Civil Society Team of the World Bank in collaboration with other units. It highlights policies, programs, events, and initiatives of the World Bank Group which may involve or be of interest to CSOs. Please send your comments and feedback to: [civilsociety@worldbank.org](mailto:civilsociety@worldbank.org).

The World Bank Civil Society Team

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