

# IDA21

## GLOBAL IDA FORUM

*October 22, 2024 || Washington, DC*

### **Closing Remarks by Sheku Sambadeen Sesay IDA21 Independent Co-Chair**

Thank you very much, Rev. Eugene Cho, for giving me the floor.

Distinguished Members of the Civil Society.

Members of the World Bank / IDA Management led by the Managing Director and WBG Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Anshula Kant.

Development Finance team led by Vice President, Mr. Akihiko Nishio, and Director, Mr. Dirk Reinermann.

Operations Policy and Country Services team led by Vice President, Mr. Edward Mountfield, and Director, Ms. Paloma Casero.

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is an honor to provide closing remarks to this Global IDA Forum. Allow me to start by expressing my admiration on behalf of IDA clients for the great work civil society organizations do. Your passion to help humanity and to protect the planet we call home is truly inspiring.
2. Together, the Civil Society constitutes the social conscience of the world. Your partnership makes IDA stronger, and the world will be better for it.
3. When I had the honor to address this forum six months ago during the Spring Meeting, I highlighted the challenges we are facing in this replenishment. On one hand, the needs are very high.
4. IDA Countries are facing poly-crisis that has upended decades of development progress, increasing geopolitical tensions, declining access to essential services for the people, growing threat of climate change and violence, and debt vulnerabilities and fiscal sustainability.

5. On the other hand, the donors are constrained, in part due to events beyond their control such as geopolitics and exchange rates which make the environment difficult.
6. I have since travelled and engaged more CSOs and I have learnt a lot yet I remain very encouraged:
  - In Nairobi-Kenya I engaged with CSOs from Eastern and Southern Africa in April where I met Madam Ruth Kagia and you heard her share today when she shared some perspectives.
  - In Kathmandu-Nepal I engaged with South Asia CSOs.
  - In Paris and London two weeks ago, I interacted with more CSOs and met some of you there.
  - I have also read reports of the other regional IDA forums.
7. My take is that CSOs have done a commendable job so far. You were fully engaged in the Evolution process to ensure that we have a better bank, and by extension, a better IDA.
8. You have engaged to help ensure that IDA focusses on areas where it is needed most and where IDA can make the greatest and demonstrable development impact. I assure you that IDA listens. We seek and get feedback, and we act on it.
9. The final phase is now to ensure IDA is sufficiently replenished to deliver the depth and breadth of work we have agreed upon under IDA21.
10. We are now in the final preparatory stages for the replenishment. We have so far held three of the five formal replenishment meetings, and we will hold the fourth one next week. We will then head to Seoul, Korea for the pledging session in early December.
11. So, these are the final moments. The last mile. Time is quickly running out. Let us use this moment to make the final push to mobilize support for a strong replenishment. Remember, we are all in this together. All of us.
12. In closing, I thank you for accompanying us on this noble journey. We have laid a strong foundation. Let us do everything within our powers to finish the replenishment strong. As the world's moral conscience, IDA clients count on your support.

I thank you all.

***Forum Moderator: Rev. Eugene Cho, President and CEO, Bread for the World***