# CIVIL SOCIETY POLICY FORUM*

April 4–15, 2022

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*Preliminary schedule, subject to change
**WEEK 1 April 4–April 8, 2022**

**An introduction to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for civil society**

*Monday, April 4, 2022*
8:00–9:30 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00-1:30 pm GMT)

Join Nisreen Farhan, Chief of the IMF’s Public Affairs Division in the Communications Department, as she runs you through an introduction for civil society organizations on the IMF, its mandate, how it works and how it is helping your countries in a context of crisis like the current pandemic. You will have the opportunity to ask questions during a 60-minute q/a session.

N.B: This session is not aimed for experts on the IMF, but for those who are starting to work on the Fund and are interested in developing their knowledge for their thematic or country work.

Watch Live Here: [https://www.imf.org/en/About/Partners/civil-society](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Partners/civil-society)

**An introduction to the World Bank Group (WBG) for civil society**

*Monday, April 4, 2022*
10:00–11:30 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00-3:30 pm GMT)

Join John Kellenberg, Environmental and Social Framework Implementation Manager, World Bank; Julia Oliver, Senior Communications Officer, IFC; and Li Lou, External Affairs Officer, World Bank; as they provide an introduction for civil society organizations on the World Bank Group, its structure, mandate, how it works and how it is helping countries in the context of the current pandemic. You will have the opportunity to ask questions during q/a. Jill Wilkins, Director, Partnerships & Practice Groups, External and Corporate Relations, World Bank, will deliver opening remarks.

N.B: this session is not aimed for experts on the Bank Group, but for those who are starting to work in this context and are interested in developing their knowledge for their thematic or country work.


**Rethinking African Accountability and Global Reforms: Options for use of SDRs for Post-COVID 19 Recovery**

*Tuesday, April 5, 2022*
8:00–9:30 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00-1:30 pm GMT)

*AFRODAD, TJNA, SEATINI, ACEP – Ghana, TPI – Kenya Chapter, Stop the Bleeding Consortium – Africa*

**Session abstract:** The biggest problem Africa is facing is the accountable use development financing resources including SDRs. Accountability is multifaceted and complex and include national to global level reforms. Previous experiences prove that accountability has been failing. This session will revisit and rethink the repertoire of methods for a credible African Accountability Mechanism to absorb development resources in ways that deliver prosperity to Africans.

• **Moderator:** Jason Braganza, Executive Director, AFRODAD
• **Panelist 1:** Abebe Aemro Selassie, Director, African Department, IMF
• **Panelist 2:** Ndinaye Sekwi Charumbira, Director, African Union
• **Panelist 3:** Prof Daniel Bradlow, University Professor, University of Pretoria
• **Panelist 4:** Jane S Nalunga, Executive Director, SEATINI - Uganda

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The WBG’s Investments in Private Healthcare Provision: What Implications for the Right to Health?

Tuesday, April 5, 2022
10:00–11:30 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00–3:30 pm GMT)

Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Global Justice Now, Initiative for Social and Economic Rights, OXFAM, People’s Health Movement-Europe (PHM-Europe), Public Services International (PSI), SID, STOPAIDS, Viva Salud, Wemos, Eurodad

Session abstract: While an important part of the WBG strategy to respond to Covid-19 consists in mobilizing private investment, private healthcare services pose challenges for equitable access. The session will present case studies showing how private sector engagement in healthcare might have negative impacts on the enjoyment of the right to health.

- Moderator: James Cole, Senior Advocacy Advisor, STOPAIDS
- Panelist 1: Marco Angelo, Global Health Advocate, Wemos
- Panelist 2: Rossella De Falco, Programme Officer on the Right to Health, GI-ESCR
- Panelist 3: Allana Kembabazi, Program Manager, Global Health Program, ISER


Synergies between the World Bank and the Escazú Agreement

Tuesday, April 5, 2022
12:00–1:30 pm Washington, D.C. time (4:00–5:30 pm GMT)

Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA), AIDESEP, DAR, Regional Coalition for Transparency and Participation, GREFI

Session abstract: This session proposes synergies between the World Bank and the Escazú Agreement, so that its policy and loans are aligned to the principles of the treaty, following the IDB precedent. It is based on the situation of the communities of Ucayali - Peru and the challenges of implementing the Development Policy Loan (DPL).

- Moderator: Nadino Calapucha, Coordinador técnico del Programa de Defensa de Defensores y Defensoras Indígenas (PDDD), COICA
- Panelist 1: José Gregorio Díaz Mirabal, Coordinator General, COICA
- Panelist 2: Miguel Guimaraes, Vice President, AIDESEP (TBC)
- Panelist 3: Sintiablanchuei Portocarreotamani, Lideresa, CORPIAA
- Panelist 5: Leoncio Ugarte Guerra, Coordinador del Proyecto FIP de Atalaya del Programa Nacional de Conservación de Bosques, Ministerio del Ambiente del Perú (MINAM)

**Conflict, Economic Crisis, and COVID-19 Nexus: Recovery Perspectives in the Middle East**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022**

8:00 – 9:30 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00-1:30 pm GMT)  
Syrian Centre for Policy Research (SCPR)

**Session abstract:** The Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) will moderate a discussion that demonstrates the impact of COVID-19 related policies and interventions adopted by local and international actors on conflict and crises dynamics in the Middle East. Specifically, the session will diagnose the impact on inequality, poverty, conflict economies and human security. The session also aims to critically assess the potential IMF/WB interventions for post COVID-19 recovery in such contexts, and suggests a civil society perspective for a recovery that counters conflict and crises’ foundations.

- **Moderator:** Dr. Rabei Nasser, Co-Founder and researcher, Syrian Centre for Policy Research
- **Panelist 2:** Dr. Marie-Noëlle AbiYaghi, Co-Director, The Centre for Social Sciences Research and Action
- **Panelist 3:** Dr. Harun Onder, Senior Economist, World Bank Group
- **Panelist 4:** Dr. Omar Dahi, Project Director, Associate Professor of Economics, Security in Context, Hampshire College


**MISSING RECEIPTS: How did DFIs’ COVID-19 Response Affect Human and Environmental Rights during the Pandemic?**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022**

10:00 – 11:30 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00-3:30 pm GMT)  
IAP, FARN, DAR, AWC, Eurodad, NGO Forum on ADB, Coalition for Human Rights in Development

**Session abstract:** In order to respond to the pandemic, the WBG and other DFIs positioned themselves as central players for the global economic and social recovery, committing billions of dollars. Civil society and communities have identified gross transparency and accountability gaps. Where has this funding gone? How have funds been utilized?

- **Moderator:** Leandro Gomez, Coordinator of Investment and Rights Program, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN) - Argentina
- **Panelist 1:** Gustavo Zullo, Researcher, International Accountability Project
- **Panelist 2:** Amy Ekdawi, Co-Director, Arab Watch Coalition
- **Panelist 3:** Denisse Linares Suarez, Amazon program Specialist, Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales – Perú

**Sustainable Infrastructure and the World Bank’s Green Resilient and Inclusive Development: Continuities, Changes and Alternatives**

**Thursday, April 7, 2022**

8:00 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00 am GMT)

*Reality of Aid, Eurodad, Bretton Woods Project, IBON International, Society for International Development, LATINDADD, AFRODAD*

**Session abstract:** This panel investigates the World Bank’s new GRID Approach and its impact on the provision of sustainable infrastructure. It seeks to contribute to an urgent discussion about the nature of and remedies to the infrastructure gap identified by middle and low-income countries, the UN and the World Bank.

- **Moderator:** Flora Sonkin, Policy Research Officer, Society for International Development
- **Panelist 1:** Adrian Chikowore, Policy and Research Consultant, AFRODAD
- **Panelist 2:** David Cruz, Researcher, Ambiente Y Sociedad
- **Panelist 3:** Jiten Yumnam, Secretary, Center for Research and Advocacy – Manipur
- **Panelist 4:** Vivien Foster, Chief Economist, Infrastructure Practice Group, World Bank


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**The Future is Public: Prioritizing Public Services in the Light of COVID and Climate Change**

**Thursday, April 7, 2022**

10:00 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00 am GMT)

*ActionAid, PSI, ITUC/GU, Oxfam, GI-ESCR, Eurodad, SID, TNI, WEMOS, ISER*

**Session abstract:** IMF and World Bank loans, policy advice and research profoundly affect the fiscal space available for investment in public services and the direction of public service reforms. What needs to change in the light of COVID-19 and the climate crisis? This session will share the latest research and explore alternatives.

- **Moderator:** Jean Saldanha, Director, EURODAD
- **Panelist 1:** Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Executive Director / former board chair / AU Goodwill Ambassador. Rozaria Memorial Trust / ActionAid International
- **Panelist 2:** Federico Davila, Vice-President, Public Services International (PSI)
- **Panelist 3:** Mauricio Soto, Deputy Chief, Expenditure Policy Division, Fiscal Affairs Department
- **Panelist 4:** Alberto Rodriguez, Director for Strategy and Operations in Human Development, World Bank

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**Did Pandemic Spending Go Towards a Feminist People’s Recovery in Africa and Latin America?**

*Friday, April 8, 2022*

8:00 – 9:30 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00-1:30 pm GMT)

Financial Transparency Coalition, Akina Mama wa Afrika, LATINDADD, TJN-A, SPII, Christian Aid, CBGA

**Session abstract:** Only a small proportion of pandemic stimulus spending in the global South has been mobilised to help people most impacted by the crisis. Recovery spending in both Africa and Latin America led to rising gender inequality. The role of the IMF is assessed concerning fiscal space and gender inequality.

- **Moderator:** Happy Pant, Policy Engagement Lead, Centre for Budget Governance and Accountability (CBGA)
- **Panelist 1:** Stella Agara, Economic Justice and Climate Action Lead, Akina Mama Wa Afrika
- **Panelist 2:** Klelia Guerrero, Economist, LATINDADD
- **Panelist 3:** Ishmael Zulu, Tax Justice Network Africa
- **Panelist 4:** Abebe Aemro Selassie, Director, African Department, IMF

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**Indigenous Rights, Safeguards, and Conflict Resolution: Successes, Failures and Lessons from Three World Bank Projects**

*Friday, April 8, 2022*

10:00 – 11:30 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00-3:30 pm GMT)

Bank Information Center, Accountability Research Center, Fundacion Tierra, Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana

**Session abstract:** The panel will share how effective engagement with Indigenous Peoples groups improved World Bank project design and outcomes in Peru, Bolivia, and Nicaragua. Panelists will share their experience and recommendations on how the Bank can use its influence to better support the role of Indigenous Peoples in WB-funded projects.

- **Moderator:** Rachel Nadelman, Policy Advisor, Accountability Research Center
- **Panelist 1:** Roberto Espinoza, Senior Technical Advisor, AIDESEP (Peru)
- **Panelist 2:** Mario Paniagua, Program Manager, Fundacion Tierra (Bolivia)
- **Panelist 3:** Carolina Juaneda, Program Manager, Bank Information Center
- **Panelist 4:** Gabriel Quijandría, ex Minister of Environment, MINAM Perú
- **Panelist 5:** Kennan W. Rapp, Sr. Social Specialist, LAC, World Bank

**Debt and Climate Finance: Faith Perspectives and Proposals**

**Monday, April 11, 2022**
8:00–9:30 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00-1:30 pm GMT)


**Session abstract:** Church and community leaders from climate-vulnerable countries will share lived experiences on the intersections between debt and climate change. In dialogue with the World Bank, they will bring proposals for responding to the debt crisis as well as financing climate change adaptation and resilience-building. The session will highlight the moral imperative to tackle the debt-climate nexus, prevent needless human suffering and promote planetary restoration.

- **Moderator:** Dr Barry Herman (USA), Member of Advisory Board, Social Justice in Global Development
- **Panelist 1:** Rev James Bhagwan (Fiji), General Secretary, Pacific Conference of Churches
- **Panelist 2:** Sofia Gebreyes (Ethiopia), Country Director, Lutheran World Federation - Ethiopia
- **Panelist 3:** Amb David Comissiong (Barbados), Barbados’ Ambassador to Caricom
- **Panelist 4:** Lea Hakim, Senior Economist, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment, World Bank
- **Panelist 5:** Valerie Hickey, Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice Manager, World Bank

[Watch Live Here](https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2022/01/07/civil-society-policy-forum-spring-meetings-2022)

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**The IMF’s Resilience and Sustainability Trust: Can an IMF-managed SDRs Trust Deliver Inclusive & Sustainable Recoveries?**

**Monday, April 11, 2022**
10:00–11:30 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00-3:30 pm GMT)

*BU GDPC, AFRODAD, BWP, Caritas Africa, CAFO, CAID, CEPR, Eurodad, FEMNET, FTC, GPF, GCAP, ISER, ITUC, JUBILEE UK, JUBILEE USA, LATINDADD, Oxfam Int, Recourse, SocDevJustice, TWN, WEED*

**Session abstract:** Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) have the potential to become a key mechanism for financing a just transition to climate-resilient economies and supporting the Covid-19 recovery. Following its historic allocation of $650 billion in SDRs, the IMF has proposed a Resilience and Sustainability Trust to facilitate the re-channeling of these resources to vulnerable countries. This panel will explore the Fund’s proposal, contrasting it with principles for fair SDR re-channeling set out in the CSO letter to the G20 in September 2021. The session will assess the value of SDRs, including through potential future allocations, in contributing to financing climate action and pandemic preparedness via meeting ambitious, nationally-determined goals.

- **Moderator:** Chiara Mariotti, Senior policy and advocacy officer, Eurodad
- **Panelist 1:** Sara Jane Ahmed, Finance advisor, Vulnerable 20 (V20), member of Taskforce on Climate, Development and the IMF
- **Panelist 2:** Andres Arauz, Senior Research Associate, CEPR
- **Panelist 3:** Fr. Charles Chilufya, Justice & Ecology Director, Jesuit Conference of Africa & Madagascar
- **Panelist 4:** Arnaud Buissé, Executive Director, France, IMF

[Watch Live Here](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Partners/civil-society)
A New Era of Accountability in Development: Realizing the Right to Remedy for Affected People

Tuesday, April 12, 2022
8:00 – 9:30 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00-1:30 pm GMT)
Inclusive Development International, Accountability Counsel, Bank Information Center (BIC), Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Oxfam America

Session abstract: The World Bank Group has long focused on safeguards to avoid harm from development projects, but now there is more attention to the need for mechanisms to ensure remediation when harms do occur. This session will discuss what an effective remedy framework would look like, informed by the experiences of affected communities.

• Moderator: Jolie Schwarz, Senior Policy Advisor, Development Finance, Oxfam
• Panelist 1: Mac Darrow, UN Representative, OHCHR
• Panelist 2: David Pred, Executive Director, Inclusive Development International
• Panelist 3: Margaux Day, Policy Director, Accountability Counsel
• Panelist 4: Piotr Mazurkiewicz, Lead FL Risk Officer, Environmental & Social Policy and Risk, International Finance Corporation


Are we Heading Towards an Austerity-based Recovery?

Tuesday, April 12, 2022
10:00 – 11:30 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00-3:30 pm GMT)
Oxfam International, ActionAid International, Latindadd, Fundacion SES, Bretton Woods Project, Center for Economic and Social Rights, WEMOS, Christian Aid, Arab Watch Coalition, Bawsala, Third World Network

Session abstract: In the third year of the pandemic, we are seeing a sudden and worrying roll back of crucial fiscal support that earlier helped cushion the devastating impact of the crisis with countries now adopting austerity measures before the pandemic is even over. Through its advice and conditionality, new evidence reveals the IMF is encouraging many countries down this path which consistently undermines the lives, rights and wellbeing of those most vulnerable. From Tunisia to Argentina, from Zambia to Nigeria, this panel will explore how the trend of austerity is materializing across the world and present alternatives for a fair recovery with a focus on taxing wealth.

• Moderator: Kate Donald, Director of Program, Center for Economic and Social Rights
• Panelist 1: Paolo Mauro, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF
• Panelist 2: Nadia Daar, Head of Washington DC Office, Oxfam International
• Panelist 3: Lionel Stiglitz, Research Coordinator, Fundación SES
• Panelist 4: Amine Bouzaïene, Fiscal Policy Lead, Bawsala

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The IMF Gender Strategy: Making the Economy Work for Women?

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
8:00–9:30 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00-1:30 pm GMT)

Session abstract: Leveraging new research, on-the-ground testimony, and diverse expertise, this panel will critically explore if the IMF’s new Gender Strategy can challenge the IMF’s traditional macroeconomic paradigm of debt and austerity to instead promote policies that support a gender-just recovery to build an economy that works for women and all genders.

• Moderator: Emma Burgisser, Economic Justice Lead, Christian Aid
• Panelist 1: Bhumika Muchhala, Senior Advisor on Global Economic Governance, Third World Network
• Panelist 2: Mariama Williams, Director, Institute of Law and Economics, Jamaica
• Panelist 3: Ratna Sahay, Senior Gender Advisor, IMF
• Panelist 4: Jessica Mandanda, Young Urban Activist, Malawi

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Towards a World Bank Private Sector Development Strategy that Puts People and Planet before Profit

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
10:00–11:30 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00-3:30 pm GMT)
Eurodad, The Bretton Woods Project, Christian Aid, ITUC and Oxfam

Session abstract: Last year, the World Bank announced the discontinuation of the Doing Business Report, which encapsulated its vision of private sector development. This session will examine the harmful legacy of the DBR, including the inconsistency with the WB’s mandate, and how this risks being replicated in the Business Enabling Environment project. It will also discuss an alternative vision of private sector development that supports poverty reduction and economic diversification, and properly values people and the planet. It will identify the steps that states can take to build an ‘enabling business environment’ consistent with such a vision and the implications for the WB’s work.

• Moderator: Luiz Vieira, Chair, Bretton Woods Project
• Panelist 1: Amanda Janoo, Economics and Policy Lead, Wellbeing Economy Alliance
• Panelist 2: Alejandra Scarpini, PODER
• Panelist 3: Chris Roberts, Canadian Labor Congress
• Panelist 4: Norman Loayza, Director of the Global Indicators Group, World Bank

**Exploding the Myths - World Bank Gas Finance and Recommendations to Shift Investment to Renewable Solutions**

**Thursday, April 14, 2022**
8:00 – 9:30 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00-1:30 pm GMT)

*Climate Action Network International, Christian Aid, OCI, E3G, Recourse, FoE_US, Big Shift Global*

**Session abstract:** Colleagues from countries where WBG is supporting gas will join this panel on World Bank gas finance. The panel will explode the myths around gas as a transition fuel, expose the impacts of ongoing WBG investment in gas and outline the arguments for leapfrogging to renewables.

- **Moderator:** Maria Pastukhova, Senior Policy Advisor, E3G
- **Panelist 1:** Haneea Isaad, Associate Researcher, Rural Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
- **Panelist 2:** Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri, Executive Director, Spaces for Change
- **Panelist 3:** Panelist from Mozambique or Ghana (TBC)


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**National and Global Debt Mechanisms towards Long Term Sustainability in a Post COVID-19 Recovery**

**Thursday, April 14, 2022**
10:00–11:30 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00-3:30 pm GMT)

*LATINDADD, APMDD, AFRODAD, JUBILEE USA, EURODAD*

**Session abstract:** Multiple crises have exacerbated Southern countries’ sovereign debt burdens and vulnerabilities, as well as increased the corporate debt. Global and national mechanisms are needed to be in place towards debt sustainability and an equitable recovery. This panel will address debt justice challenges with a view from the Global South.

- **Moderator:** Iolanda Fresnillo, Debt Justice Policy and Advocacy Manager, Eurodad and Eric Le Compte, Executive Director, Jubilee USA
- **Panelist 1:** Patricia Miranda, Global Advocacy Director, LATINDADD
- **Panelist 2:** Lidy Nacpil, Coordinator, APMDD
- **Panelist 3:** Jason Braganza, Executive Director, AFRODAD
- **Panelist 4:** Martin Cerisola, Assistant Director, Strategy, Policy and Review Department
- **Panelist 5:** Diego Rivetti, Senior Debt Specialist at Macroeconomics Trade and Investment (MTI) Global Practice, World Bank

Ensuring that People and Planet are at the Heart of Green Equity Approaches

Friday, April 15, 2022
8:00 – 9:30 am Washington, D.C. time (12:00-1:30 pm GMT)
Heinrich-Boell Foundation, Recourse, Bretton Woods Project, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, Centre for Financial Accountability

Session abstract: With the world facing a climate crisis, urgent action is required in ensuring adequate levels of climate-compatible finance to support mitigation and adaptation in the Global South. In this context, green equity approaches are gaining popularity among publicly-backed financial institutions such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) or the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The investment shift away from fossil fuels towards greener solutions is indeed welcome. However, instead of creating truly green outcomes for local communities and their environment, so-called green equity investments can also perpetuate an extractive and exploitative development model. This session will explore what needs to improve in order for green equity to become a powerful instrument to support a green and socially inclusive transformation – vital as all MDBs prepare their Paris alignment methodologies for indirect finance.

- Moderator: Richard Montgomery, World Bank Executive Director representing the UK (TBC)
- Panelist 1: Kate Geary, Co-Director, Recourse
- Panelist 2: Liane Schalatek, Associate Director, Heinrich-Boell Foundation
- Panelist 3: Atty. Aaron Pedrosa, National Coordinator, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice
- Panelist 4: Anuradha Munshi, Research Coordinator, Center for Financial Accountability


Examining the Gendered and other Impacts of IMF Surcharges

Friday, April 15, 2022
10:00–11:30 am Washington, D.C. time (2:00-3:30 pm GMT)
Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, Arab Watch Coalition, Bretton Woods Project, Centre for Economic and Policy Research

Session abstract: This session will explore the extent to which the IMF’s surcharge policy is consistent with its commitment to gender equality and a greener, smarter and fairer Covid-19 recovery. Examples of increased discrimination against women, and other negative impacts of the surcharge policy will be explored and actions to address the policy’s negative consequences.

- Moderator: Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics, Political Economic Research Institute; University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA
- Panelist 1: Christina Laskaridis, Lecturer in Economics, Open University, UK
- Panelist 2: Shereen Talaat, Co-Director MENA, Arab Watch Coalition, MENA
- Panelist 3: Salma Jrad, Executive Director, Al Bawsala, Tunisia

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