

**WORLD BANK CONSULTATIONS ON THE EVOLUTION PROCESS**  
**SOUTH ASIA REGION – MULTI-STAKEHOLDER**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023 || 4:00PM – 6:00PM INDIA TIME**  
**NEW DELHI, INDIA (HYBRID)**

**World Bank Group Representatives:**

**Akihiko Nishio**, Vice President, Development Finance, World Bank

**Auguste Tano Kouamé**, Country Director for India, World Bank

**Wendy Werner**, Country Head for India, International Finance Corporation

**Moderator:**

**Bidisha Ganguly**, Chief Economist, Confederation of Indian Industry

**Introduction**

The World Bank has been engaging in global consultations on the Evolution Process. The parameters of these consultations are outlined on this website [here](#) in an outreach plan. The first Evolution Roadmap Forum, held on April 11, 2023, at the Spring Meetings, kicked off the official consultations in parallel with the online multi-stakeholder consultation process. While participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage in the Forum in Washington, they underlined *the importance of taking the consultation on the road to global south stakeholders*.

Building on the Evolution Forum, this second phase of the WBG's public consultation period consists of **regional consultations** to take place in all seven regions of the Bank's work during the month of July 2023 (see full schedule in Annex 2).

This consultation with India stakeholders added to those held earlier in the month in Bangladesh for a full perspective on the South Asia Region.

**India Consultation**

This consultation targeted in-person stakeholders in Delhi along with additional participants joining virtually. Invitations were extended with the goal of ensuring a diverse and balanced representation of different types of organizations, including civil society, think tanks, academics, and the private sector.

World Bank Country Director for India, Auguste Tano Kouamé, opened the session by laying out India's context in relation to development and to its history as a Bank client. Moderator Bidisha Ganguly opened the discussion by welcoming the participants and sharing the rules of engagement. World Bank Vice President for Development Finance, Akihiko Nishio, also welcomed participants, provided a global overview on the consultations, and framed the local context for the discussion. In his presentation, Aki Nishio indicated that the World Bank is committed to a collaborative and inclusive process informed by the Bank's stakeholders, and provided an overview of the three main pillars of the Development Committee paper, which was shared with participants ahead of the consultations. The moderator then opened the floor for questions.

**Participants:** A total of 32 people attended, including 19 participating in person and 13 joining via zoom (see list of participants in separate file).

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

The discussion was substantive and participants demonstrated notable knowledge of the document for discussion and of the World Bank-India relationship. The main themes resonated around:

- **Climate change:** Adaptation has to go beyond a crisis response to pre-emptive planning. The World Bank can advise countries on how to do climate financing and also build capacity for energy transition. To win key political support in the country, policies should be framed in ways that bring development and climate together.
- **Mission and vision:** Most participants welcomed the roadmap, although some found it less radical than desired. As in other sessions, participants also brought up the tensions between global public goods and local priorities, and again emphasis was placed on country agendas. The relevance of the SDGs was questioned, since goals are still quite far and time is short. Similarly, the value of measuring poverty was challenged in favor of other livelihood parameters that consider not just income, but core expenses like healthcare of education.
- **Knowledge:** On the World Bank as a knowledge bank, there is room for efficiency and relevance, such as expanding the availability of its technical analyses and seeking out local partners so that the right research methodology can speak to the policy makers.
- **Financing model:** while the need to increase financing dramatically is agreed upon, there were many questions and worries about debt sustainability.
- **Role of civil society:** It is important for the Bank to engage and partner with civil society organizations, such as local think tanks and CSOs. The Bank can benefit from their inputs and also help strengthen their capacity.
- **Other:** The World Bank could consider creating a financial inclusion secretariat to enhance in countries that are lacking this and take more inputs from civil society organizations on subject-oriented approach.

## Annexes

Annex 1: Comments from Participants

Annex 2: Full Regional Consultation Schedule

## Annex 1: Comments from Participants

<b>Climate Change</b>	The WB has deep understanding on climate change issues and has built long-term partnerships on the multisector aspect of what contributes into climate challenge; this understanding, knowledge and capability need to be integrated into the new approach.
	The financial model for the public and private sector models needs to be assessed and recalibrated when it comes to climate change.
<b>Mission and vision</b>	The World Bank has three key roles: as financier, knowledge partner and development partner. How can these roles evolve keeping in mind the Bank's efficiency and relevance? Will more financing solve everything?
	There are tensions in this entire process (GPGs, local public goods, and climate justice). I'd urge the Bank to stare these in the face and take a position. Evading them is not going to build confidence.
	We need a negative list of investments that go against the new vision (related to sustainability, fossil fuels...) and not to fund projects that include elements of the negative list.
	I'm sad not to see inequality addressed as a major challenge.
<b>Knowledge</b>	When thinking about big infrastructure and energy transitions, one needs to also think about how this feeds into urban planning, SMES, infrastructure, energy use as we urbanize, agriculture, and rural development. The Bank is extremely well placed to initiate and pursue these conversations and build knowledge partnerships that are centered around these topics, else the political buy-in and shift in the ecosystem that the Bank is hoping for will not be achieved.
	Let's make Open Data in World Bank-funded programs a prerequisite. This will bring in a lot of transparency and accountability besides creating digital assets for the entire ecosystem.
<b>Financing Model</b>	How do you de-risk access to capital for emerging markets as they need stronger global financial safety nets?
	Are these measures sufficiently revolutionary or not enough to mobilize those trillions?
<b>Civil society</b>	In the operating framework in the various country partnerships, it is important to clearly articulate the active role of civil society organizations and institutions. This is so critical to ending poverty.
	The Bank needs to invest in building sustainable capabilities of both Govt and Civil Society institutions to ensure the funds are effectively deployed in the program and in future. This can go a long way to effective spending to meet our SDGs for resilience and sustainability.

## Annex 2: Full Regional Consultation Schedule

Region and Country	Management Representative	Dates
South Asia (Dhaka, Bangladesh), regional, online multi-stakeholder	Ed Mountfield, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services	July 5, 2023
South Asia (Dhaka, Bangladesh), country-focused in person multi-stakeholder	Ed Mountfield, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services	July 5, 2023
Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama City, Panama), regional, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director	July 10, 2023
Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama City, Panama), regional, private sector, in person	Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director	July 10, 2023
Africa West (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire), parliamentarians, hybrid	Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations	July 10, 2023
Africa West (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire), regional, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations	July 11, 2023
Africa West (Accra, Ghana), regional, private sector, hybrid	Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations	July 13, 2023
Europe and Central Asia (Tirana, Albania), regional, multi-stakeholder online	Ed Mountfield, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services	July 17, 2023
Europe and Central Asia (Tirana, Albania), country-focused, in person multi-stakeholder	Ed Mountfield, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services	July 17, 2023
East Asia Pacific (Indonesia, Jakarta), regional, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Aki Nishio, Vice President, Development Finance	July 17, 2023
East Asia Pacific (Indonesia, Jakarta), regional, private sector, hybrid	Aki Nishio, Vice President, Development Finance	July 17, 2023
Africa East (Washington, DC), regional, virtual*	Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director	July 20, 2023
Middle East and North Africa (Rabat, Morocco), regional, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Anshula Kant, Managing Director & Chief Financial Officer	July 24, 2023
South Asia (Delhi, India), country-focused, hybrid multi-stakeholder	Aki Nishio, Vice President, Development Finance Auguste Tano Kouamé, Country Director of India	July 27, 2023

\* The consultations were planned to be held hybrid out of Nairobi, but were relocated to Washington, DC, because mission travel was suspended, and staff asked to work from home at the advice of WBG Security.