

**WORLD BANK CONSULTATIONS ON THE EVOLUTION PROCESS
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION
SUMMARY OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING - HYBRID
TIME 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (PANAMA TIME)
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023**

World Bank Representatives:

- **Axel van Trotsenburg**, Sr. Managing Director, World Bank
- **Michel Kerf**, Country Director for Central America and Dominican Republic, World Bank
- **Joelle Dehase**, Operation Manager for Central America and Dominican Republic, World Bank
- **Juan Francisco Ron**, Sr. Country Officer, IFC Central America, Panama

Moderator:

Janibeth Miranda, Sr. External Affairs Officer for Central America and Dominican Republic, World Bank

Context: 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** that are taking place in all seven regions of the Bank’s work during the month of July 2023 (see full schedule in Annex 2). The hub for Latin America and Caribbean region was Panama City, Panama, which held a meeting with members of Civil Society on Monday, July 10.

Participants: A total of 90 people attended – 36 in-person and 54 online (see list of participants in separate file).

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mission and vision:** Participants welcomed the roadmap and there was overall support on the new mission and vision of the World Bank. Participants recognized the sharper focus on global challenges. They noted eradicating poverty and boosting prosperity is a positive mission, but more attention should be given to social inclusion and citizen and beneficiary engagement in all its forms. This includes not only in gender, but economic, ethnic, social.
- **Sustainability and climate change:** Several issues on sustainability and climate were raised, including emphasis on the difference between climate and biodiversity crises seen

as intertwined challenges; that the World Bank should work closely with indigenous peoples on issues related to climate; and to stay focused on sustainability when working with the private sector, across all areas of production and consumption.

- **Financing:** Participants expressed support on the principles to increase financial capacity of the World Bank and the use of concessional financing for middle-income countries for investments that contribute for global challenges. Furthermore, it was recognized that the Bank can play a bigger role in reducing the risks of significant investments that can catalyze private sector participation and asked for more innovative financing methods – for example, Biodiversity Credits Market. Views were shared on the reduction of the Bank’s equity-to-lending ratio from 20 to 19% as insufficient without a capital increase.
- **Technology:** Empowering women in technology would provide solid gains in the mission to fight poverty. Participants also spoke about new technologies like artificial intelligence should be prioritized.
- **Governance:** Participants repeatedly highlighted governance as deficient in the region and to make processes more agile, to encourage early citizen participation in projects, to take decentralization further when working with subnational governments, and to carefully monitor and evaluate Project for Results. Issues on better coordination between international institutions and sharing strategies and goals were also raised. Furthermore, it was emphasized that it is critical to enhance governments capacity for a result-based implementation to improve transparency and efficiency.

Annexes

Annex 1: Comments from Participants

Annex 2: Full Regional Consultation Schedule

Annex 1: Comments from Participants

Inclusion & Equality	University of Panama	We agree with the mission of fighting poverty and achieving shared prosperity, but the roadmap mentions the global challenges that have been selected, and that's where we have some concerns. For example, there's no mention of inequality, e.g., ethnic, region, income inequalities and inequalities for people with disabilities. Climate change is a priority, but the issue of inequality is also a priority.
	National Federation of People with Disabilities, Panama	Agree with everything that's been said but do you know what inclusion means? You've talked a lot (women, indigenous) but inclusion means "everybody." Disabled people are ignored. Presidents change every five years and none of them execute a program for people with disabilities. The president of our organization was not invited to this session. It's important that this is mainstreamed across everything. Poverty among disabled people is extreme.
	Youth for Climate, Panama	The inclusion approach needs to be intergenerational and intersectional.
Climate change & environmental issues	Representative of Indigenous Peoples of Panama	We know that there are different circumstances at the country level, but regarding climate change this conversation should go directly from the Bank to the indigenous people, because climate change is so close to us. We want the discussion to reach the indigenous leadership.
	Fedesarrollo, Colombia	The World Bank must distinguish between the climate change crisis and the biodiversity crisis. Referring to the challenge of financing these operations, I welcome the use of concessional financing for middle income countries. The Bank can play a big role there in reducing the risks of significant investments. Colombia and other LAC countries have obtained great results in the social aspects. Similar investments can be made in the environmental aspects. To be successful, we need two things: 1) institutions that are willing to make high risk investments, and 2) solid monitoring and assessment mechanisms. I would also invite you to use other forms of financing, like the biodiversity credit market.
	Fundación Ayuda en Acción, Honduras	Welcome this focus, although each country is in a different situation. We need a prospective look at 2030 and beyond. Also welcome the focus on immigration.
	Fishing Association, Costa Rica	We are making progress on preserving the oceans, such as in Panama, Ecuador, and Columbia. Regarding the recovery from COVID, the long-term vision should be focused on recovering the protective basis of the ecosystem, such as the health of the soil.

Capacity building	International Rescue Committee	There are at least two topics that need special attention from the Bank: 1) adequate technical support. The Bank should work harder to adapt the technical support to the actual needs of the country; 2) the Bank needs to support the development of local resources.
	Fishing Association, Costa Rica	There needs to be larger investments in the scientific and technical capacity of the countries, which can help accelerate private capital investments and create better conditions in the countries.
	Movimiento Nueva Generación, Panamá	Increase the countries' capacity in results-based management and results-based budget.
Governance and accountability	Fusades in El Salvador	Institutional strengthening requires accountability and transparency, both of which have been a problem in many of our countries. There could be valuable initiatives from the Civil Society.
	University of Panama	Public administration in our countries is not suitable for this century. We need to change as well, not just the Bank. We cannot keep working with such heavy organizations.
Human capital	Movimiento Nueva Generación, Panamá	The Bank should integrate the educational component in all its operations to bridge all the challenges identified here.
Women's empowerment	Iguals Foundation, Bolivia	This approach should pay attention to women in technology. We should try to focus on empowering women and giving them equal access to technology.
Poverty reduction	Fundación Getulio Vargas, Brazil	The Bank is proposing a vision that moves from poverty to include other challenges like climate change. But it is vague about future challenges that affect us all, such as the implications of AI.
Private sector	Iguals Foundation, Bolivia	The Bank should consider emerging actors when it thinks about cooperating with the private sector.
	CINVE, Uruguay	We risk going backwards in the development of international trade especially in low- and middle-income countries. The Bank has to help avoid this.
	Santiago Herrera, Honduras	We have a lot of informal jobs in Honduras. Many women are not in the workforce. Don't know if the Bank's effort is going to be enough. We need harmonization to tackle the poverty challenges in our countries. Governments are often bad executors of budgets. Any initiative to create jobs needs to be executed with the private sector because the government can't do it.
	Center for Competitiveness, Panamá	Social issues are not going to give the companies the profit they are looking for. So the redistribution of the risks can help incentivize private sector participation. Response time from the public sector might improve if there was more participation of the private sector.

	International Center for Development, Panama	It's important for the private sector to be more involved in sustainable production of their goods. Durable goods, not contaminating, recyclable... No local or central government can keep producing so much waste.
	University of Panama	Cascading will be very useful at a subnational level. Global demands require more resources, we agree with that and that we need to be ready to use other ways of financing.
Concessional Financing	Fundación Getulio Vargas, Brazil	<p>The Evolution proposals are very welcome. The Bank has managed to sustain a high level of ratings because of its careful handling of its operations.</p> <p>Other solutions may also be welcome to accelerate the access to capital in the region. For instance, products that have taxes marginally below the market rates that might help mobilize the capital and accelerate investments.</p> <p>MIGA is an important catalyst for new funding. But its presence in the region is limited.</p>
Knowledge	Center for Competitiveness, Panamá	The Bank is an organization that has a lot of information to share, which can help us make better decisions.
	CINVE, Uruguay	The Bank has clear strength in its knowledge in financing.
Bank operations	Fundación Ayuda en Acción, Honduras	We still need more efforts in decentralization.
	Fishing Association, Costa Rica	The operational model that is response oriented is a very good change, a sign of progress. But it needs to take into account that the M&E processes in the national counterparts in our countries are not used to using the results-based approach.
	Fusades in El Salvador	Regarding the operating model, it is important to talk about the challenges for the WB when elevating countries' awareness of the level of urgency for change. It is also important to involve the civil society.

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.