

WORLD BANK CONSULTATIONS ON THE EVOLUTION PROCESS
ALBANIA SUMMARY - MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
TIRANA, ALBANIA (IN -PERSON)

World Bank Group Representatives:

Ed Mountfield, Vice President, Operations Policy and Country Services, World Bank
Emanuel Salinas Munoz, Country Manager, Albania, World Bank
Laureta Qorlazja, IFC Country Officer

Moderator:

Juliana Hoxha, Director of Partners Albania for Change and Development

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** that took place in all seven regions of the Bank's work during the month of July 2023 (see full schedule in Annex 2).

Albania Consultations

This in person consultation meeting hosted a diverse group of organizations, including civil society, foundations, think tanks, academics, development partners and the private sector.

The moderator opened the discussion by welcoming the participants and encouraging them to really engage and provide their views on the Evolution process. The World Bank's Country Manager for Albania, Emanuel Salinas Munoz, gave brief opening remarks, and acknowledging IFC's Country Officer, Laureta Qorlazja. In his presentation, Ed Mountfield, Vice President of Operations Policy and Country Services, indicated that the World Bank is committed to a collaborative and inclusive process informed by the Bank's stakeholders, and then 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 (see Annex for detailed comments and questions from participants).

Participants: A total of 36 people attended (see list of participants in separate file).

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

The discussion was substantive and the main themes resonated around:

- On **climate change**, more support for resilience and sustainability to be added to current mission and vision. Calls for more investments in renewable energy. Need private sector to help finance climate agenda.
- The **importance of establishing good governance** and need for policies that will help manage these risks.
- **More engagement with CSOs**. Currently, there is too much focus on the role of the private sector and less on involving CSOs in all stages of the project cycle.
- Need for more investments in **capacity building and skills development** to create experts in fields like mining in Albania.
- More expertise around **crisis response**.
- More focus and resources needed for **domestic resource mobilization**.
- In new operating model, more needed on **monitoring projects, faster implementation, and digital innovations**. More attention also to be placed on sustaining implementation efforts after reforms.
- More focus on **local government** and boosting areas like local economic development.
- **Partnerships** and doing **more joint analysis** in areas like human capital. Improvements in how knowledge is shared, which needs to be more action oriented rather than long reports.
- Requests for more **focus on inclusion**, especially for protecting the rights of children, persons with disabilities, and girls.
- Strengthen attention on **fragile states** and low-income countries.
- More support to **small and medium enterprises** and innovation funds.

Annexes

Annex 1: Detailed Comments from Participants

Annex 2: Full Regional Consultation Schedule

Annex 1: Detailed Comments from Participants

Resilience	Network of Association of Local Authorities in SE Europe (NALAS)	Good idea to refocus on resilience and sustainability. More attention should be given to local governance to be considered an integral partner. Local governments at the forefront of the crisis. They have the responsibility to re-build the community. Have huge responsibilities towards their constituencies.
	Balfin Group	The vision/mission and three pillars represent the status and needs.
Governance and Development	Cooperation and Development Institute	Good governance and civil society were mentioned in the point about partnerships. Inequality is increasing in the west as well. Most countries where the World Bank has operations rank high in the corruption index. There is a radical need for overhaul of the World Bank modus operandi. Bigger engagement with the private sector is needed, but increasing engagement with CSOs is also needed, in all stages of project cycle management and policy drafting. CSOs have experience and skin in the game. The World Bank now has competitors; need to exploit the Bank's comparative advantage, which is good governance, all the other comparative advantages are taken. WB should be more active in infrastructure projects. Promote WB experience in the Western Balkans as a petri dish where global gateway and the belt and roads initiatives overlap and find synergies. Should be promoted as a test case globally.
	Albanian Institute for Development Research and Alternatives	The political parameters of development need to be unpacked. In terms of incentive mechanisms, will they include open markets, open trade, democracy, and good governance of countries? What will be the role of the new political parameters in the new approach?
Domestic Resource Mobilization	Sustainable Economic Development Agency, Tirana	Politics need to be changed, as the SDGs are off track. The WB should focus more money and efforts on domestic resource mobilization; the targets have not yet been achieved. Need to build capacity within countries. Foreign experts are not always good, but countries do need technical advice. Albania doesn't have a crisis response toolkit. The new Operating Model should focus on DRM and crisis response toolkit.
Children	World Vision International	Three recommendations which overlap with all 3 pillars: (i) strengthen the attention and focus on children's rights. Update the ER to reflect the challenges that children face worldwide, especially refugee children, girls, children affected by hunger, crisis, and children with

		disabilities; (ii) make the process participatory and inclusive by hearing from children; (iii) strengthen the focus and attention on LIC and FCV countries which together cover 1 billion people.
Partnership	UN System Coordinator	UN Secretary General active in discussions with the WB on the Evolution Roadmap. WB needs to reorient its focus on the poorest countries. SDG stimulus is very important. Human development had been increasing for 32 years, only recently regressed due to COVID, war in Ukraine, and increasing climate risks. Albania is not insulated from any of the above. Would just make a plea for joint analysis. Getting investment in development programs, particularly around building human capital in the education and health sectors where there are poor outcomes. What are the climate risks and how can we change the economic growth model?
Renewable Energy	Volitalia	We are a company specializing in renewable energies. Current investment project with EBRD and the IFC. The World Bank Group is on the right road in supporting renewable energy projects. The Foreign Investors Association of Albania has founded an energy industry council working with the Government to shape the framework for more renewable energy projects. The Government has adopted a law on renewable energy in March 2023, which stipulates the right objective of further increasing the share of renewable energies in overall energy consumption, and 54.4% shall be achieved by 2030. Can the IFC contribute further?
Private Sector	Urban Research Institute	When the WB refers to inclusion of the private sector, what does it mean? Do you mean individuals? Albania has public services supplied by individuals but at a higher cost. Individuals may not have as much impact.
	Embassy of Sweden	Supportive of climate and resilience focus. Resilience is important, if we don't fight for resilience, any other gains will be lost. Re the operational and financial model, it would be good to follow the general concept of financing for development and expanding the writ out to the private sector. Development is a shared responsibility and the private sector has a strong role to play and would be a positive addition of resources.
	Balfin Group	Have experience working with IFC, which has been beneficial in terms of capital and technical assistance and experience sharing. Private sector is benefiting from expertise that WB and IFC is bringing with their partners. Would like to recommend some flexibility in terms of entering and supporting SMEs. Sharing practical solutions for SMEs in developing countries will help speed up development. WBG could provide specific and practical guidance by giving specific examples.

Innovation	Duapune.com	Is innovation part of the building blocks in the ER? Climate concerns should be addressed together with innovation; we may be able to find solutions to global challenges.
Operating Model/Bank Operations	USAID Albania	Reacting to looking at incentives. So much focus on reforms being the end goal, the end state. Reforms being the end state of our assistance, and then the implementation falling apart after our assistance comes to an end. As we continue to look at data and be data driven, make sure we are not just looking at the data point of x number of reforms were undertaken, but also how they were implemented in terms of sustainability. Data and monitoring play roles.
	GIZ	Concern about timing. We must be faster and quicker. Hope this affects the operating model. We are implementers, everybody wants faster. Must find ways to speed up the process. Project implementation takes a long time. Hoping that the new operational model will help increase efficiency. Need to share more analytics.
	Konfindustria	Assessing WB support in Albania over the last 30 years, would suggest better work can be done in terms of selection of projects, Tourism project especially problematic. Poor implementation generally. Three issues which complicate Albania's situation: (i) competition; (ii) corruption (state capture and common/primitive corruption) and (iii) environmental related issues.
	SIGAL UNICA Group Austria	First, being in the insurance industry for 30 years, and experience in the region, insurance is the poorest industry compared to the banking system. Banking better development although focused on stricter set of services. In my view, giving priority to such an industry to protect the financial interests of the citizens, will create room for the development industry. As far as the WB, there should be programs that focus on the development of the northern and eastern areas of the country, because they are being abandoned and are turning into deserted areas.
	Network of Association of Local Authorities in SE Europe (NALAS)	In the new operating model, perhaps more attention should be given to local governments, to consider them an integrated partner with the national government. Local economic development: issues such as tourism, connected to local economic development and local governments play the key role in those cases. Last point on regional knowledge sharing, generated at country and regional level, would be great to have more structured opportunities to share and learn from those so mistakes are not made twice.

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.