



Global Partnership For Enhanced Social Accountability Consultation Note and Plan

The World Bank Group (WBG) is considering the development of a **Global Partnership for Enhanced Social Accountability**. The objective of the Partnership is to strengthen beneficiary feedback and participation, including through supporting civil society capacity to engage with governments to improve development outcomes. The partnership would focus on supporting civil society working in the area of social accountability.

1. Background

The Partnership is being examined in response to increasing evidence that development outcomes can be improved through the involvement of beneficiaries and other stakeholders in the design, monitoring and evaluation of public service delivery and resource management. In his speech at the Peterson Institute for International Economics on April 6, 2011, World Bank President Robert Zoellick called for the Bank to “examine, with its Board and shareholders, whether the Bank needs new capabilities or facilities that could leverage support from countries, foundations and others to strengthen the capacity of CSOs working on accountability and transparency in service delivery.” An internal working group was organized to explore ideas for providing such support. A series of early discussions with civil society thought leaders, held between April and November 2011, have resulted in the drafting of a set of preliminary concepts and principles to shape the proposed Partnership.

Feedback received during these early discussions has indicated that support and resources over the long-term are needed to enhance civil society’s capacity to fully engage with governments in key areas of development. Civic groups could benefit from a knowledge platform for sharing experience and innovation, and from opportunities for greater engagement with governments in support of shared development objectives.

2. Objectives of the Consultations

The objectives of the consultation process are to:

- Create a space for dialogue and participation of stakeholders so that the proposed Partnership can benefit from different perspectives.
- Solicit feedback and input from civil society, bilateral and multilateral organizations, governments, private sector and any other stakeholder on the governance, scope and operational details of the Partnership.
- Expand and deepen channels for ongoing engagement with key stakeholders beyond the Partnership concept development phase into implementation.

3. Process

The consultation period runs from January to June 2012.

- **From January through end of February 2012**, the WBG will seek feedback on key concepts and principles that will help shape the conceptual framework for the Partnership and begin to tackle some of the operational details. A PowerPoint presentation has been prepared as the basis for this discussion, as well as an online questionnaire.

Channels for consultation in this period will include: (1) selected regional face-to-face meetings in countries and regions complemented by video conferencing; (2) face-to-face meetings during or alongside global conferences; and (3) online feedback through a dedicated consultation web platform.

- In March 2012, a summary of input received will be posted and fed into the development of a conceptual framework for the Partnership, which will be presented to the WBG's Board of Executive Directors in mid-April.
- **Subject to Board approval in April, consultations and conversations will continue from May through June 2012 to go** deeper into the operational details of the Partnership in different country contexts.

4. Transparency, Notification and Language

The consultation page (www.worldbank.org/gpesa) provides information related to the development of the Global Partnership, including the consultation plan, schedule of meetings, meeting agendas, participant lists, summary of views from consultation meetings, online questionnaire and other relevant information.

All comments received during face-to-face meetings and online will be summarized and shared through the consultation page along with participant lists and other relevant information.

Consultation meetings will be announced with as much advance notice as possible in order to facilitate participation from a diverse set of stakeholders.

Translation of selected documents in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian will be posted as they become available. All other consultation materials, including summaries of meetings and participant lists, will be made available in English.

5. Scheduled Partnership Development and Consultations Timeline

Period	Partnership Development Milestones
Mid Apr–Mid Nov 2011	Early discussion with key stakeholders to seek initial input
15 Dec 2011	Briefing with the Board Technical Advisers on key concepts and emerging ideas for a possible partnership
Late Dec 2011	Launch of consultation website
January - Feb	Public consultations. Web-based and selected regional face-to-face meetings to seek

2012	feedback on the key concepts and emerging operational elements of the Partnership
March 2012	Consolidate input and feedback and prepare the conceptual framework from the Partnership Post the summary of feedback received during the consultations
Mid April 2012	Board of Executive Directors discusses proposed partnership
End April – Mid June 2012	Public consultations and conversation continue on more in depth operational details of the partnership in different country contexts
July 2012	Partnership initial implementation begins

6. Contacts

Questions about the consultation process should be directed to the Partnership team at gpesa@worldbank.org.