Civil Society Participation in the WB / IMF
2012 Annual Meetings in Japan

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The 2012 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (Bank and Fund) will be held in Tokyo on October 12-14, 2012. Each year, the Annual Meetings bring together thousands of delegates from the Bank and Fund member governments, private sector business, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, and journalists along with Bank and Fund officials to review the work of these two multilateral institutions, and to discuss current topics of interest on the global development agenda.

As in the previous years, the Civil Society Teams of the IMF and World Bank will be organizing, a Civil Society Program from October 8 – 14 which is geared to promoting substantive dialogue and exchange of views between Bank/Fund staff, civil society representatives, government officials, academics, and others. It will include an Orientation Session on the IMF and WB Group, CSO Townhall with senior IMF and WBG managers, meetings with Executive Directors, and a Civil Society Policy Forum which will be held from October 10 – 14. The CS Program will be held at the Tokyo International Forum (TIF) in central Tokyo.

As with previous Annual Meetings, the Bank and Fund welcome interested CSO representatives to request accreditation and attend. With Tokyo as the host city for the 2012 Bank/Fund Annual Meetings, CSOs from Japan and East and South Asia regions have a unique opportunity to participate in a major global policy event to interact with decision-makers from across the region and around the world. Information about how CSOs can apply for accreditation will be posted on the Bank’s website at www.worldbank.org/civilsociety on July 2, 2012.

The Bank and Fund are interested in ensuring that the perspectives and voices of CSOs from developing countries are well represented at the 2012 Meetings. With this in mind, the WB and IMF Civil Society Teams (CST) will attempt to sponsor some 45 - 50 CSO representatives, particularly from the East and South Asia regions to attend the Annual Meetings. Bank and Fund staff will also work with interested CSOs to organize a Civil Society Program at the Meetings, which will hopefully include meetings with Executive Directors, senior Bank and Fund managers, and the Civil Society Policy Forum. There will also be an attempt to identify civil society speakers for the Program of Seminars.

It will be important to establish a good working relationship with key CSOs in advance of the Meetings, in order to enlist their participation in planning the Civil Society Program. This approach proved to be quite useful in previous overseas Annual Meetings held in Singapore (2006) and Istanbul (2009), where active involvement of CSOs in the planning process helped to generate greater civil society interest and participation.
**Bank - CSO Planning Process**

In order to achieve these goals, an informal CSO Planning Group (CSO Group) composed of Bank / IMF and CSO representatives will be established to enlist them in the planning process for the 2012 Annual Meetings. The objective of the CSO Group will be to assist the Bank and Fund Teams to organize the Civil Society Program. The CSO Group would be composed by representatives of the WB and IMF CST and some 12 – 15 CSO representatives from the following countries and regions: Japan, East Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. There will also be several representatives from international CSO networks. The CSO Group participants from developing countries will be selected by the Bank / IMF Civil Society Teams, in collaboration with country or regional offices.

The CSO Group will convene via an initial conference call during which its objectives and expected activities will be discussed and confirmed. It will further carry out its planning activities via conference calls (as needed) and ongoing email exchange to provide assistance to the Bank / Fund Teams. The Group members will be expected to assist with the planning of the CSO Program by: suggesting topics and organizing policy dialogue sessions during the CS Forum and suggesting names of CSO speakers for Program of Seminar panels.

It is expected that the members of the planning group will be available to consult with Bank and Fund staff throughout the period of June - October through conference calls and email, and will also be expected to attend the Meetings in Tokyo. Those participants from developing countries will be sponsored to travel to Tokyo for the Annual Meetings for the period of October 7 through October 14, and the Bank and the Fund will cover the travel, hotel, and per diem costs.

**Expected Outcomes**

The expected outcomes of this process will include:

- Ensure a diverse and representative level of civil society participation at the Annual Meetings, with broad participation by representatives from Japan, and the East and South Asia regions.
- Provide CSOs with the opportunity to frame the agenda at the Policy Program and ensure a substantive and productive level of policy dialogue.
- Provide CSOs with a level of ownership for the successful outcome of civil society participation at the Annual Meetings.

**Timetable**

**June:**

Bank and Fund identify and invite CSOs to join the Bank/Fund - CSO Planning Group.

**July:**

Group participants confirmed and hold initial conference call.

**July-September:**

Ongoing planning by the CSO Group through conference calls and emails.

**October 7 - 14:**

CSO Group Participants attend the Annual Meetings.