

Draft for Discussion

The civil society members of the JFC seek the greatest possible input from interested civil society members on this TOR and the Discussion Paper. Comments and feedback are requested by 23 December, although inputs provided after that date will still be taken into account. Please contact Ian Plaskett at ian@civicus.org.

Civil Society Members of World Bank-Civil Society Joint Facilitation Committee

Action Aid*Amnesty International*Association for Women's Rights in Development* Caribbean Policy Development Centre*CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation* Europe and Central Asia (ECA) NGO Working Group*Global Movement for Children* Interaction* International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*Transparency International*World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP)*World Council of Churches*World Wildlife Fund*World Young Women's Christian Association*Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support*

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR DISCUSSION PAPER ON WORLD BANK – CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT: A PROJECT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS OF THE WORLD BANK-CIVIL SOCIETY JOINT FACILITATION COMMITTEE (JFC)

Background on the Joint Facilitation Committee

The World Bank–Civil Society Joint Facilitation Committee (JFC) is a transitional body comprised of senior representatives of national and international civil society networks and World Bank management. It was established in October 2003 to facilitate dialogue on how the World Bank could become more responsive to the concerns of civil society, and how its interactions with civil society could be made more transparent, accountable and democratic. Its overall objective is to lay the groundwork for deeper, broader and more meaningful opportunities for civil society engagement with the World Bank. The mandate of the committee runs until April 2005, at which point it will cease operations. Further information, including the TOR for the JFC, can be found at:

http://www.civicus.org/new/PG_world_bank-CSO_engagement.asp?c=FD8912

Discussion Paper

The civil society members of the JFC have agreed to produce a *Discussion Paper* as their proposal for improvement in World Bank policy and practices for engagement with civil society. The *Discussion Paper* will have three main objectives. First, it will provide perspectives on recent relations between the World Bank and civil society organizations, and identify some of the major issues and challenges in those relations. Second, it will formulate a set of recommendations for improving Bank practice with respect to its engagement with civil society organizations for consideration by the World Bank's management and Board. Third, it will propose a tentative set of principles that could guide future World Bank–civil society engagements.

In developing this *Discussion Paper*, the civil society members of the JFC will seek the greatest possible input from interested members of civil society, particularly in borrowing countries. We recognize that the range of issues potentially addressed in the *Discussion*

Paper is expansive and analytically complex, and that civil society perspectives on these issues will be diverse, multifaceted and, at times, contradictory. Therefore, the paper will not seek to articulate a comprehensive or unitary “civil society position” on the issues under review. Instead, the civil society members of the JFC will consult and solicit inputs from a broad range of civil society organizations, and will seek to fully capture the richness and diversity of these perspectives.

The *Discussion Paper* will be produced by the civil society members of the committee independently of the World Bank members. The civil society members will have complete authority over the methodology and content of the paper. The World Bank’s substantive involvement will be limited to providing documents, information and perspectives as requested. The findings and recommendations of the assessment will be discussed as part of a broader global policy forum tentatively scheduled for May 2005, to be hosted by the World Bank. The World Bank has also agreed to contribute to the budget for the paper.

Inputs

The civil society members of the JFC have commissioned two Senior Researchers to play a leading role in designing and drafting the *Discussion Paper*. To achieve the objectives of the paper, the authors will consider a broad array of primary and secondary source material, including:

- Civil society perspectives from a diverse sample of international, national, and sub-national engagements with the World Bank. These perspectives will be obtained through, at a minimum, surveys and written submissions from past participants in these engagements. These inputs will address both successful and unsuccessful engagements, and the extent to which civil society participants found them to be meaningful, worthwhile, or effective in influencing World Bank operations or policy, or in achieving broader civil society objectives.¹ The choice of the processes to be considered for review will be subjected to consultation with CSO members of the JFC and other civil society partners.
- Primary and secondary research on the World Bank’s overall policies, practices and terms of engagement with civil society.
- Interviews with civil society and World Bank actors at national, regional, and international levels.
- The outcomes of national-level consultative workshops. These consultations will provide an opportunity for a wider group of local and national civil society organizations to provide their perspectives and recommendations. These consultations will be arranged by JFC CSOs and other interested organizations, based on protocols developed by the senior researchers in order to ensure consistency.

¹ A more detailed description of the issues to be addressed in these submissions can be found in the forthcoming *Guidance for Submissions*.

- Other organizational or individual submissions on previous World Bank consultative processes, recommendations going forward, or any other relevant issue of concern to the contributor.