

STAKEHOLDER GROUP (S): GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIA

Location of consultation: Oslo, Norway

Date: January 27, 2010

Participants:

(See Annex below for full list)

Henrik Harboe, Deputy Director General, Head of Multilateral Bank and Finance Section, World Bank IDA Deputy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs – *Moderator*

Haakon Vennemo, Development Practitioner, Vista Analyse – *Speaker*

Asbjorn Eide, Professor of Human Rights, University of Oslo Norwegian Centre for Human Rights - *Speaker*

Desmond McNeill, Center for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo - *Speaker*

World Bank Participants and Role:

Ms. Yewande Awe, Senior Environmental Engineer, Environment Department, World Bank

Mr. Jakob Kopperud, Senior External Affairs Officer, World Bank Paris Office

M. Jeff Brez, Senior Communications and Knowledge Management Officer, Environment Department, World Bank

What were the key issues/themes raised by participants?

There is strong justification for an Environment Strategy so that due attention continues to be given to helping countries address traditional environmental challenges.

The new Environment Strategy should be underpinned by an ambitious and compelling vision that is communicated well through the document and buttressed by staff training to achieve effective implementation for results that will be reported on.

The WBG should lead the developing world in developing a low carbon economy by playing a unique role in shaping the understanding of what a low carbon economy would entail.

If achieving low carbon economies becomes the objective of the new Strategy, then it is important to keep in focus why countries need low carbon economies.

WBG needs to make choices about which strategic areas it focuses on and leave other agencies to take care of remaining areas. WBG does not have to do it all.

Due to increasing competition and the relatively small size of the World Bank Group relative to world markets, it needs to be strategic and nimble in identifying priorities and deploying its comparative advantage.

The WBG should link its knowledge more closely to project work – there is currently a weak link to its operations – and strengthen its role in promoting the sharing of good practices across countries.

The Strategy should be guided by the concept of preventing the impoverishment of the south: the food, financial and climate change crises are affecting the poor of the south most.



WBG needs to address political economy considerations, including vested interests, winners and losers, in achieving sustainable development.

The World Bank must shed its tendency for staff to work in sector/department silos and coordinate much more effectively internally for greater synergies and impact on environmental issues.

Implementation of a new Strategy will require increase in competence of WBG staff.

Respondent Type	Consultation Response ¹	Preliminary World Bank Group Response* (may be addressed in final reporting back)
1. What should the role of the WBG be in helping developing countries in achieving environmentally sustainable development?		
Government	The WBG should increase spending on biodiversity, underlining the genetic basis of ecosystems for food security, the role of forests in climate regulation, etc.	
Academia	The WBG should be poised to address possible new environmental challenges brought about by the financial crisis.	
Development Practitioner	Good policies do not necessarily lead to good practices: the WBG needs to understand the political economy of where vested interests are opposing good practices and take that into account.	
Academia	The WBG has a key and crucial role to play as thought leader in demonstrating where co-benefits are achievable in pursuing a low carbon economy	
Academia	WBG should increase focus on rural. While slightly more than half of the world population lives in urban areas, the majority in Asia and Africa still live in rural areas.	
2. What should the role of IFC and MIGA be in helping private sector stakeholders address environmental sustainability?		
Academia	There should be a section in the Strategy that spells out clearly how IFC and the Bank will work together	
Academia	The Bank Group should get out of coal and specialize in RE and EE.	
3. What should be the balance in the Bank Group's role in addressing country/client- specific priorities and global public goods agendas?		
Government	The World Bank must shed its tendency for staff to work in sector/department	

¹ Summary of main points raised. All participants and stakeholders are invited to send more detailed comments, or rectifications to this summary if deemed necessary, via the website. Please provide your name, title and organization if you would like your comments to be posted on the external consultations website.

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	silos and coordinate much more effectively internally for greater synergies and impact on environmental issues (for example, the WBG can simultaneously finance REDD and projects that support drivers of deforestation; or address climate change through projects that address sustainable land use management).	
Academia	The WBG has a legitimacy problem with regard to being a conduit for GPG funding due to its relationship with its clients.	
Government	Energy access for development is crucial: the bank should not close the door on coal for its clients when it can support the cleanest deployment of coal in cases where there is no affordable/feasible alternative.	
Academia	The global should not be emphasized at the expense of the local. Where GPGs agendas are compatible with country-specific priorities, they should be prioritized.	
	The WBG should promote awareness in countries of the co-benefits and 'win-wins' of addressing the GPG agenda.	
Academia	WBG's role in environmental governance should be through developing countries.	
Academia	Exploring a "regional public good" category may be a helpful concept in addressing GPG issues including financing and governance implications.	
Development Practitioner	WBG has a unique role to play in shaping countries' understanding, through knowledge and products, of what a low carbon economy would entail.	
Development Practitioner	Projects should be selected and designed using a low carbon economy lens.	
Academia	GHG emissions should be allowed to increase in the South.	
4. How can the WBG put in place a systematic approach to assess environmental sustainability in sector portfolios?		
Development Practitioner	The WBG needs to link projects and operations much more to its analytical work and knowledge role.	
5. How should short term and long term trade-offs between growth and environmental sustainability be balanced?		
Government	Ecosystem services approaches can support synergies that reduce trade-offs between development and sustainable development – the Strategy should	



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	promote them.	
Academia	The WBG should expand sanitation and water management activities, and promote better use of biofuels for local consumption (not for export).	
Government	Adaptation in the short term will strengthen access to food, energy and water for the future. Adaptation should therefore be a priority in developing countries in the short term.	
6. Any other issues?		
Government	The WBG should continue in its role as broker, providing a middle way for greener development in developing countries through dialogue.	
Academia	Strategies that go against the interests of the highest emitters' interests are impossible at the WBG.	
Academia	WBG should prevent impoverishment in developing countries.	

Annex – List of Participants

Name	Organization	Country
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Dan Banik	Center for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo	Norway
Jon H. Aas	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Norway
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