

Africa Group I Constituency

Newsletter

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The Search for a New President of the World Bank Group

On January 7, 2019, the World Bank Group (WBG) President, Dr. Jim Yong Kim, took the world by surprise when he announced that he would be leaving the institution on February 1, 2019. The announcement came three-and-half years ahead of the end of his tenure. In his statement to the WBG, Dr. Kim stated that he had decided to leave the WBG to follow a path which would lead him to make the largest impact on major global issues, such as climate change and infrastructure in emerging markets. Dr. Kim further stated in his resignation statement that he was leaving with full confidence that the WBG had once again established its strong leadership in the world of global development. He promised to ensure a smooth transition to the interim President, who would take over until the WBG Executive Directors appointed a substantive President. Traditionally, the Americans and Europeans have led the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, respectively, since the creation of the two Bretton Woods Institutions. The Board of Executive Directors nominated Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, the World Bank Group's Chief Executive Officer, as the WBG's interim President.

Following the resignation of Dr. Jim Yong Kim on February 1, 2019, the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group (WBG) commenced the selection process for a new President. The Board of Executive Directors assured the Bank's clients and global partners that the selection process will be open, meritocratic and transparent. They also stated that it would be imperative to select a candidate who is committed to the sustenance of the

WBG as a leading multilateral institution and the implementation of its vision to deliver on the twin goals: *Eliminating Extreme Poverty by 2030 and Boosting Shared Prosperity*. Nominations for the Presidential candidate opened on February 7, 2019 and will close on March 14, 2019. Three candidates will be shortlisted for interview. It is expected that the process in terms of appointing the WBG President will be completed before the 2019 IMF/WBG Spring Meetings. At the end of February, two candidates, Mr. David Malpass of the United States and Mr. Ziad Alexandre Hayek of Lebanon, had their names put forward as candidates for the position of the President of the WBG.

Demystifying the Board: a conversation with women on the Boards of the World Bank Group

Women from diverse backgrounds and leading change have been at the forefront of gender inclusion in multilateral institutions such as the WBG. The journey of many of these unsung heroes is seldom shared. Many have championed gender equality in their respective countries and professional fields; pioneered change and overcome complex barriers to women's participation in leadership. These women include five Executive Board Members who shared their unique stories, of whom the Constituency's Executive Director, Ms. Anne Kabagambe, was one.

In her address, Ms. Kabagambe spoke about the unique opportunity that education affords women and its transformative value. She spoke of the unique positioning of women at the intersection of prejudice. The overlapping challenges faced by women, in terms of gender, race, disability and other social issues, cannot be

ignored. These challenges continue to hamper women's progression and fester intentional or unintentional bias.



Panelists: Ms. Anne Kabagambe; Ms. Jeehan Abdul Malik; Ms. Aparna Subramani; Ms. Yvonne Tsikata; Ms. Christine Hogan and Ms. Minwen Zhang.

Ms. Kabagambe urged women to be representatives of other women whose voices may not be heard. She strongly encouraged women to claim their seat at the decision-making tables and to be prepared to respond to the myriad of responsibilities and circumstances that they may face in their leadership journeys. Ms. Kabagambe advised that when women are met with resistance and denied a seat at the table, they must bring folding chairs suitable for their respective approach to the environment in which they find themselves.

The panel, despite its diverse backgrounds, emphasized in one voice, the need for women to be more deliberate about nurturing their leadership capabilities. They all endorsed authenticity, integrity, respect and having an inclusive approach to leadership as untradeable qualities which all leaders must espouse. The panel of incredible leaders agreed that institutions thrive when leadership and decision making are predicated on merit, facts, evidence and public interest, with a healthy dose of professional competence.

Zambia Gets a New Five-Year Country Partnership Framework

The joint Boards of the WBG endorsed a new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for the Republic of Zambia that will guide the WBG's engagement till June 2023. Building on the findings of the Zambia Systematic Country

Diagnostic and aligning with the Government's *Seventh National Development Plan*, this CPF will support efforts to promote opportunities and jobs for the rural poor, invest in human capital, and build climate resilience.

The CPF is expected to stimulate dialogue with the Zambia Government on stemming rising debt vulnerabilities, improving public investment management, strengthening public financial management and addressing governance risks in Africa's second largest producer of copper. It is also expected to help reduce the infrastructure gap, increase access to electricity, and water and sanitation. The CPF will support regional integration, strengthen access to financial, health and education services, as well as ongoing social protection programs, including on gender.

The WBG's program of engagement will be aided by a 70 percent increase in IDA resources for the IDA18 period to approximately US\$575.0 million and the strong commitment by IFC to seek out opportunities in the agriculture and energy sectors as well as to scale up support to Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SMEs). Based on lessons learnt from the previous Country Partnership Strategy (FY13-FY17), the Government and the World Bank have established a high-level committee, structured as a mechanism, to monitor performance and promptly address hurdles to effective project implementation.

Mission to the Republic of Kenya



Meeting with Mr. Henry Rotich, Cabinet Secretary of the National Treasury and Planning for the Republic of Kenya.

The Executive Director, Ms. Anne Kabagambe, accompanied by her Advisor, Ms. Naomi Rono, undertook an official mission to the Republic of Kenya in December 2018 to consult with Government officials and the private

sector on the Republic of Kenya's development agenda and to discuss ways to strengthen engagement with the World Bank Group (WBG). The mission also provided the opportunity to brief the Governor for Kenya in his new capacity as Chair of the Africa Group 1 Constituency.



The Executive Director and Country Director, Mr. Joshua Mwaniki visit to Andela, a pan-African company supported by the IFC.

The Executive Director discussed with the Cabinet Secretary of the National Treasury and Planning, Hon. Henry Rotich, issues pertaining to Kenya's overall development agenda. Ms. Kabagambe also paid a courtesy call to the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, Dr. Patrick Njoroge, where she received an update on Kenya's monetary and economic landscape. The Executive Director also met with women entrepreneurs during a round table event hosted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), where she emphasized that investments in women had proved to be the most sustainable way of stimulating long term economic growth. She encouraged the participants to engage the IFC to access the resources available including those earmarked for women such as the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi). The Executive Director had a chance to witness why Kenya is referred to as the "Silicon Savannah" by visiting the iHub, a center that serves as an incubator for technology startups and that has developed a robust community of digital entrepreneurs. The center was established through a grant from the World Bank as seed capital to the currently thriving enterprise that has attracted the interest of several African Countries seeking to benchmark and learn from its success.

Mission to the Republic of Uganda

Ms. Anne Kabagambe, accompanied by her senior advisor, Ms. Solome Lumala, undertook a mission to the Republic

of Uganda in December 2018 to consult with the Government of Uganda on the country's development agenda and utilization of IDA18, as well as prepare for the planned visit by a group of Executive Directors. The Executive Director held meetings with the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Governor to the WBG, Hon. Matia Kasaija, and the Chief Justice, Hon. Bart Katureebe. She also held consultations with Mr. Antony Thompson, the Country Manager, Kampala Country office.



Meeting with the Chief Justice of High Court of Uganda, Hon. Justice Bart Katureebe.

The Executive Director noted that the EDs group visit would provide an opportunity for the Executive Directors to appreciate the country's development challenges, including the huge fiscal and social burden of hosting refugees, particularly in providing refugees with education and utilities services. Further, the group of Executive Directors would be able to witness the progress made in the management of environmental and social challenges faced in the implementation of development projects. The Meeting also noted other areas for support from the WBG under IDA18, including infrastructure (particularly roads and energy), agriculture and human capital development.

The Executive Director also held a meeting with Hon. Bart Katureebe, the Chief Justice, to follow up on matters discussed during the Law, Justice and Development Week 2018 held during November 5-9, 2018 in Washington D.C. and to explore areas of possible World Bank support. It also highlighted the possibility of a regional project across the East African Community and access to the IDA18 regional window for prevention of gender-based violence. Further, it was also noted that the forthcoming visit by a group of Executive Directors would be an opportunity to highlight the challenges that the Judiciary faces in responding to cases of gender-based violence and possible areas of support from the World Bank, including for the provision of judiciary services to refugees.

African Society Reception for Africa Executive Directors

The African Society hosted a reception to honor the late Executive Director for Angola, Nigeria and South Africa, Mr. Haruna Mohammed and to welcome the two new African Executive Directors, Mr. Jean Claude Tchatchuoang and Ms. Anne Kabagambe. In attendance were the WBG's Interim President, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, and the Africa Vice President, Mr. Hafez Ghanem.



African Society Executive Directors' welcome reception

The President of the African Society, Mr. Moses Wasike, in his welcome remarks, shared that the Executive Directors' offices have played a key role in supporting Staff from Sub-Saharan Africa. He highlighted the challenges African Staff faced at the World Bank and how the Executive Directors have been fully supportive in addressing their concerns. In her remarks, Ms. Kabagambe paid tribute to the late Executive Director Haruna Mohammed from Nigeria. Ms. Kabagambe spoke of Haruna's fervent advocacy for a continent he fully understood and cared about. She urged all present to learn from leaders such as the late Executive Director, Haruna Mohammed, and asked that as children of Africa, it is imperative to take responsibility and continue in the fight towards a better future for Africa and the world. She thanked the IMF-WBG Staff African Society for hosting the reception in their honor. She addressed the World Bank Group's diversity and inclusion agenda, which has been a recurring issue in the Memoranda of African Governors to the WBG President. She noted that progress has been made on the increase of Sub-Saharan Staff at managerial positions. What is still missing is the representation at the middle level. She concluded her remarks by urging management to continue to work collaboratively with the African Society to address Sub-Saharan Staff welfare concerns.

The Power of Investing in Girls: A glimpse on Tanzania

On January 2019, the WBG released an 11th edition of the Tanzania Economic Update titled '*The Power of Investing in Girls: Educating Girls and Ending Child Marriage in Tanzania*', highlighting the potential economic success of Tanzania's investment in girls. The report discussed trends in girls' education, child marriage and early childbearing. In its analysis, the WBG conducted study highlighted specific interventions to improve girls' skills and knowledge as well as to expand economic opportunities for Tanzania's development. The most effective interventions, it is stated, are those which enable girls to remain in school. In the last two decades, Tanzania has made significant progress in improving girls' education. There have also been gains on the improvement in the quality of life for girls and women. The decline in harmful traditional practices and a surge on investment in girls' education and health have been evidence of strengthened policy implementation. Investment in girls has remarkable development impacts and economic implications. Improving educational opportunities for girls makes economic rationale for Tanzania. The first intervention recommended for Tanzania is to place emphasis on empowerment of girls by providing them with life-long skills and reproductive health knowledge. The second intervention emphasizes empowering girls through safe spaces and providing livelihood opportunities, including enhancing their prospects for increased earning, employment and savings. The third set of programs with impactful interventions are those which ensure that girls remain in school, enable them to return after dropping out of school. While investing in Girls is smart for Tanzania, as it is also the case for all countries, however investments to eliminate child marriage and early childbearing and the promotion of education for girls should not be predicated only on economic considerations.