January 2020

**NEWS**

**Extended Deadline: Call for Session Proposals for the 2020 Spring Meetings Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF)**

The next CSPF will convene in Washington, D.C., from April 14 to 17, 2020 as part of the WBG-IMF Spring Meetings. **The call for session proposals deadline has been extended to Monday, February 17, 2020.** Visit the CSPF website for more details. For a summary report on the 2019 Annual Meetings CSO registration and participant feedback survey results, click [here](https://wbl.worldbank.org/). Meet the 2020-2022 CSPF Working Group who have official taken up their posts as of January 1, 2020.

**Extended Deadline: Innovation Fair Call for Booth Proposals for the 2020 Spring Meetings**

CSOs are invited to submit proposals to showcase their innovative products, flagship reports, and campaigns focused on the topic of Fragility, Conflict, and Violence at the upcoming Spring Meetings. The Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 15. **The call for booth proposals deadline has been extended to Monday, February 17, 2020.** Visit the CSPF website for more details.


Women, Business and the Law 2020 analyzes laws and regulations affecting women’s economic inclusion in 190 economies. While celebrating the progress made, the data and analysis emphasizes the work still to be done to ensure economic empowerment for all. Read more [here](https://wbl.worldbank.org/).
New: eLearning Course on the Environmental and Social Framework

Interested to learn about the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)? The World Bank offers an online course entitled "ESF Fundamentals" aimed at environmental and social practitioners who are interested in an in-depth knowledge of the ESF. The course is free and delves into each of the ESF Environmental and Social Standards (ESS). It comprises 8 modules and takes about 8 hours to complete. Learn more about the course and register here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Bank FCV Job Fair
Learn about over 100 exciting positions that the World Bank is looking to fill by June this year
- February 3, 2020
- Washington, DC

The Aggregate Gains of Eliminating Gender and Ethnic Gaps in the Malaysian Labor Market
- February 27, 2020
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Fragility Forum 2020
- March 2-4, 2020
- Washington, DC

Land and Poverty Conference 2020
Institutions for Equity and Resilience
- March 16-20, 2020
- Washington, DC

Civil Society Policy Forum
- April 14-17, 2020
- Washington, DC

To see more World Bank events, please click here.

BLOGS AND STORIES

Africa needs to seize this growth opportunity
The UK-Africa Investment Summit provided a welcome business-focused forum for leaders to assess the challenges and opportunities for African countries. Throughout the summit, World Bank President David Malpass stressed the importance – and difficulty – of transformational improvements in economic programs. Faster, more sustained and broad-based growth is the only path to creating the jobs and stability needed for the millions of young people reaching working age and is vital to the World Bank's mission of alleviating poverty and raising living standards.

Legal inequality and women’s economic opportunity
There is a lot of emphasis worldwide on gender equality today, but nothing compares to the hardship that women face in developing countries. This is a priority that we need to take seriously – recognizing that women are 50 percent of the population, and that their welfare is important.

Fulfilling the Aspirations of MENA's Youth
In recent months across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, youth have been taking to the streets in ever larger numbers to demand improvements in governance, transparency, service delivery, the environment, and job opportunities. These protests seem eerily reminiscent to the so-called Arab Spring protests of 2010-11. However, today's protests need not destabilize the region. Instead, the unrest represents a historic opportunity to accelerate transformative reforms that will unleash the potential of the region's greatest economic potential: its talented youth.
Doing more—and better—for Africa’s food system in the face of climate change
Africa’s food systems are in the throes of a climate crisis. From devastating droughts in Southern Africa and West Africa to cyclones and flooding in East Africa, extreme weather is threatening crops and livestock and putting millions of Africans at risk for food insecurity. 237 million people suffer from chronic undernutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa, a number that rose in 2017, derailing gains that were made in previous years. The message from the headlines is loud and clear: We urgently need to adapt Africa’s agriculture and food system to climate change. And we need to act now.

Introducing ‘The Development Podcast,’ a World Bank Group audio series
The World Bank Group is one of the world’s largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. A new audio series launching on January 30th will examine data, research and solutions for the global development challenges.

This newsletter is produced by the Civil Society Team of the World Bank in collaboration with other units. It highlights policies, programs, events, and initiatives of the World Bank Group which may involve or be of interest to CSOs. Please send your comments and feedback to: civilsociety@worldbank.org.

The World Bank Civil Society Team
For more information visit our website: worldbank.org/civilsociety