NEWS

**Closing Soon: Spring Meetings Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) Call for Session Proposals**

The call for session proposals for the CSPF will close this **Friday, March 2, 2018**. More information is available [here](#).

Registration for CSOs is [open](#). Please apply early.

**Opening Soon: CSO Innovation Fair**

A pilot CSO Innovation Fair will take place on **Wednesday, April 18, 2018**, at the MC Atrium of the World Bank, as part of the CSPF. Stands will be made available for the most engaging, interactive knowledge products from CSOs. Call for proposals will open on **March 1, 2018**. More information is available [here](#).

**New Global Environment Facility Policy on Stakeholder Engagement**

After a two-year consultation process, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council approved an updated Policy on Stakeholder Engagement, which will take effect on July 1, 2018, as the GEF starts its seventh cycle (GEF-7). The Policy establishes minimum requirements for all GEF agencies regarding engagement of stakeholders in GEF projects and programs, and introduces monitoring, reporting and documentation requirements in the project cycle. More information is available [here](#).
New Factsheet: How the Global Financing Facility Engages with CSOs

The Global Financing Facility (GFF) engages with CSOs at the sub-national, national and global levels. A new factsheet outlines how CSOs play a critically important part in the GFF model, and how CSOs are represented in the GFF governance structures and in country platforms. The factsheet is also available in French. More information on the GFF is available here.

CAO’s Outreach to African Civil Society

The Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), the independent accountability mechanism for IFC and MIGA, has begun a year-long initiative to reach out to CSOs in the Africa region. The outreach intends to raise awareness of CAO’s mandate and how the office works with local communities through dispute resolution and compliance interventions to address environmental and social grievances related to IFC and MIGA projects. Two recent events included participation in an ACCA meeting in South Africa and a video conference with Ghanaian CSOs. Information on upcoming CAO workshops will be available here.

New Environmental and Social Framework: Workshops Underway

Workshops on the World Bank’s new Environmental and Social Framework took place this month in the Philippines (February 19-23) and in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Liberia (February 26-March 1). The workshops consist of: a half day presentation to high level Government officials; a two-day technical training for project implementation staff; and half day awareness session with other stakeholders that include civil society and development partners. The next series of workshops will take place in Nigeria, Bangladesh and Macedonia FYR in April.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Partnership for Social Accountability Roundtable
Accountability in Education: The Role of Citizens in Accelerating Learning for All

- March 6, 2018
- Washington, D.C. and Online

Fragility Forum 2018
Managing Risk for Peace and Stability

- March 5-7, 2018
- Washington, D.C.

Land and Poverty Conference 2018
Land Governance in an Interconnected World

- March 19-23, 2018
- Washington, D.C.

Civil Society Policy Forum
2018 IMF/WBG Spring Meetings

- April 17-20, 2018
- Washington, D.C.

Third Annual Universal Health Coverage Financing Forum
Shaping a collective agenda for sustainable financing for universal health coverage

- April 19-20, 2018
- Washington, D.C.

To see more World Bank events, please click here.

BLOGS AND STORIES

Fighting for Breath: A Call to Action on Childhood Pneumonia
Kevin Watkins, CEO of Save the Children UK writes about policy responses to childhood pneumonia.

Concentrating Solar: Delivering Renewable Electricity When It’s Needed
Concentrating Solar Power can help countries deliver clean, reliable energy to those who need it most.

Improving Service Delivery in Maputo’s Poor Neighborhoods

World Bank and Maputo city team-up to develop an innovative digital platform, radically improving solid waste management.