

# CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

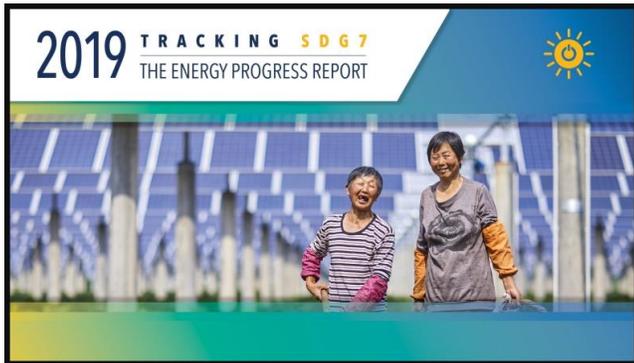
## eNewsletter | May 2019

### NEWS



#### **2019 Annual Meetings Civil Society Policy Forum: Call for Session Proposals Open**

Mark your calendars! The 2019 WBG-IMF Civil Society Policy Forum will take place in Washington, D.C., from Tuesday, October 15 to Friday, October 18, 2019. A call for session proposals is now open. Deadline: July 12. Read more [here](#).



#### **Global Energy Deficit Drops, but There is Still a Great Deal of Work to Be Done**

The fourth edition of *Tracking SDG7: the Energy Progress Report* was released on May 22. This year's report includes a number of important findings that will help policymakers and development partners understand what is needed to overcome challenges and accelerate progress towards achieving SDG7. The progress is encouraging, with the global electrification rate reaching 89% and the number of people without electricity dropping to 840 million, compared to 1 billion in 2016. Read more [here](#).



#### **UNDP and World Bank Launch Two New Operational Agreements to Advance Collaboration on Sustainable Development**

UNDP and the World Bank signed two milestone framework agreements to strengthen and streamline their cooperation at the country level – the Standard Form of Agreement for the Delivery of Outputs and the Standard Form of Agreement for the Provision of Technical Assistance. Both will make project assistance faster and more efficient for countries. Read more [here](#).



## We Are Hiring! Join the Team as Communications Manager

The World Bank is seeking a Communications Manager to lead the expansion and deepening of our engagement with a diverse set of stakeholders that includes civil society organizations, faith-based and religious groups, parliamentarians and other partners. Deadline to apply is **June 17, 2019**. Read more [here](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### [Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics 2019](#)

*Multilateralism: Past, Present, and Future*

- June 17-18, 2019
- Washington, DC

### [Agriculture Insuretech Innovation Challenge](#)

- July 8-9, 2019
- Mumbai, India

### [6th Urbanization and Poverty Reduction Research Conference](#)

People, Markets, and Cities

- September 9, 2019
- Washington, DC

### [Civil Society Policy Forum](#)

*2019 WBG-IMF Annual Meetings*

- October 15-18, 2019
- Washington, DC

To see more World Bank events, please click [here](#).

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## BLOGS AND STORIES

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### [To balance debt and development, transparency and purpose are key](#)

In the past five years alone, public debt in the poorest countries has increased from 36 percent of GDP to 51 percent of GDP. In addition, debt-service ratios in some countries are rising at an alarming pace, threatening countries' ability to invest in much-needed infrastructure, education, health and many other needs crucial for lifting their citizens out of poverty and achieving the international community's Sustainable Development Goals by their 2030 deadline.

### [Is inclusive growth an oxymoron?](#)

Both theoretically and empirically, we expect growth and changes in the income distribution to go hand in hand. But this positive relationship neither means an increase in income inequality is inevitable nor implies that it is desirable. Growth is simply the size of the pie increasing. In principle, a bigger pie makes it feasible to give everyone a piece of at least the same size as before, and possibly more. This is the essence of the so-called Pareto criterion invoked by economists. But markets do not guarantee that as the pie grows, all its slices will increase – some can get smaller. Policy is needed to encourage inclusive growth.

### [Video: Engaging Citizens on Health Service Reforms in Ukraine](#)

In Ukraine's Volyn region, the World Bank is engaging with local citizens to hear their views on important health service reforms. The "Serving People, Improving Health" project supports reforms that will ensure more accessible and higher-quality healthcare services for people, through modernized facilities, additional training for doctors and medical staff, and upgraded equipment.

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For more on the World Bank - Civil Society Engagement, click [here](#).

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