



Civil Society Engagement Newsletter

December 2019

NEWS



<https://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/photos/780x439/2016/feb-1/civil-society-logo.png>

Now Open: 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, 2019 as part of the WBG-IMF Spring Meetings. The call for session proposals is open until Friday, January 31, 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](#). Meet the [2020-2022 CSPF Working Group](#).



Global Community Renews Commitment to the World's Poorest Countries with \$82 Billion

The year-long IDA19 replenishment process brought in a [commitment of \\$82 billion](#) from the World Bank and 52 governments. The funds will benefit 74 of the world's poorest countries. [IDA19](#) continues the special themes of IDA18: climate change, jobs and economic transformation, gender and development, governance and institutions, and fragile and conflict situations. It will also address four cross cutting issues: debt, digital technology, human capital, and disability inclusion. We are grateful for [your support](#) during this IDA replenishment cycle.



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World Bank Announces \$2.2 Billion Scale-up in Support for Refugees and Host Communities at First Global Refugee Forum

At the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva, the World Bank announced a new \$2.2 billion for refugees and host communities over the next three years to address long-term development needs. The financing is part of the recently-approved IDA19 replenishment. The World Bank has been scaling up its support to refugees and host communities for several years in response to the growing global crisis of forced displacement. Read more [here](#).



WORLD BANK GROUP
COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS
CAMPAIGN

Community Connections Campaign to Benefit Local and Global NGOs

The World Bank Group launched in November its yearly workplace giving program, the Community Connections Campaign. This program benefits about 400 local and global NGOs around the world. Staff donations are doubled by the WBG corporate match. This year, the campaign switched to a new giving platform, which allows all our staff globally to participate. For NGOs interested in joining the Campaign, please visit our [website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Fragility Forum 2020](#)

Proposal deadline extended to November 29.

- 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

[Universal Health Coverage: Engage Civil Society and Communities to Keep the Promise](#)

For the past five years, the world has come together every December 12 to rally around the idea that everyone, everywhere should have access to quality, affordable health care, without suffering financial hardship. This International Universal Health Coverage Day, the message to leaders is straightforward: "Keep the promise." The promise to advance UHC by 2030.

[Politicians know little about what citizens prefer. Information changes their behavior](#)

Guest post by Asad Liaqat. How politicians are elected matters for responsiveness: I find that directly elected politicians are significantly more responsive than indirectly elected ones. The former category includes almost exclusively male politicians who are directly elected on a ward member or union council chair position, while the latter category includes appointed woman councilors and union council vice chairs who run on a joint ticket with the chair. This constitutes suggestive evidence that politicians' incentives affect responsiveness.

[Introducing Expert Answers: A new video series from the World Bank Group](#)

The first episode of this new series focused on "Debt Transparency," a phrase that gets thrown around a lot in development circles. But what exactly is it? And why is it so important? To get answers to these and other questions, we spoke with Marcello Estevão, Global Director of Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment here at the World Bank. As we learn, it's a lot more straightforward than you might think, and it can have big benefits for borrowing countries as well as lenders.

[Listening to the streets: the political economy of climate policy](#)

Recent protests around the world highlight how sensitive populations are to change in the prices of basic commodities like food, energy and transport. They represent a large share of the budget of most households. At the same time, most countries have committed to act on climate change. Doing so requires deep transformations in how we produce food, we consume energy, and travel. Awareness and willingness to act to reduce carbon emissions and protect the climate has never been higher, but the challenge has never looked more daunting. So how to design climate action and policies in this context?

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