**World Bank Group**

**Advisory Council on Gender and Development**

**Charter, 2016-2023**

**I. BACKGROUND**

Over the past decades, gender equality has evolved steadily and women have made unprecedented gains in rights, education and health, and access to employment and livelihoods. Although many women continue to struggle with gender-based disadvantages in their daily lives, things have changed for the better. Progress, however, has not come easily, and it has not come evenly to all countries or all women—or across all dimensions of gender equality.

The World Bank Group (WBG) has supported gender equality in its work for some time. From 2007-2010, the *Gender Action Plan* (GAP) boosted attention to gender issues through incentive funding for innovative programs to promote women’s economic empowerment. For the duration of the GAP, the *Advisory Council on Women’s Economic Empowerment* offered guidance to the WBG and served as a forum for members to promote women’s economic empowerment. The partnerships and dialogue forged during this time helped generate and focus attention on women’s economic empowerment, mobilizing many new resources and initiatives such as gender equality as a special theme of the 16th and 17th replenishments of the International Development Association, and the decision to have a first-ever World Development Report on Gender and Development. This Council closed in April 2011, with members calling for the creation of a new Advisory Council to build on this momentum and strengthen demand for programs and projects that can empower women and promote gender equality.

In September 2011, the World Bank launched its *Advisory Council on Gender and Development*, alongside the release of *World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development* and the accompanying paper *Implications of World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development for the World Bank Group*. In 2012 a new multi-donor trust fund, the Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality, was established to strengthen the awareness, knowledge and capacity for gender-informed policy making. In 2014 the World Bank Group launched the report *Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity* which casts important light on the nature of constraints women and girls continue to face globally.

In 2014 the World Bank Group included gender equality as one of its new Cross Cutting Solutions Areas, which brought together the World Bank’s Gender Group and IFC’s Gender Secretariat and demonstrated the continued commitment to achieving gender equality. The renewed World Bank Strategy 2016-2023 builds on past achievements and focuses on practical approaches the public and private sectors can take to alleviate the differential constraints for poor women and men in education and health, economic opportunity (especially more and better jobs and ownership/control over financial and physical assets), and voice and agency.

**II. OBJECTIVES AND MANDATE OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The key objectives of the *Advisory Council on Gender and Development* are:

* **Help the Bank consider how to accelerate progress on closing gaps between men and women**

The Advisory Council will discuss progress and solutions that close key gaps between males and females in economic opportunities and empowerment.

* **Provide feedback on the World Bank Groups’ work on gender equality**

The Advisory Council will provide ideas and recommendations to strengthen the reach and effectiveness of Bank resources committed to gender equality. Focus will in particular be on opportunities in relation to the implementation of the World Bank Group’s renewed gender strategy, IDA commitments and the post 2015 development agenda.

* **Promote collaboration on gender and development**

The Advisory Council will foster partnerships across the development community on activities seeking to advance women’s empowerment and gender equality, in particular those resulting from the World Bank Group’s renewed gender strategy.

The Advisory Council’s mandate expires at the end of the implementation of the World Bank Group’s Gender Strategy in 2023. In the event that the current Strategy term is shortened or extended, the World Bank Group will consider amendments to the term of the Advisory Council.

**III. MEMBERSHIP**

The Advisory Council has a maximum of 22 members, who are invited by the Managing Director of the World Bank and endorsed by the President of the World Bank Group. Council members serve a two-year term, renewable at the discretion of the Managing Director. In the event a member is not able to complete their term, there will be no automatic transfer of membership to a successor. Council members are drawn from the following constituencies:

* senior government representatives from Bank client countries and shareholders;
* internationally recognized private sector leaders;
* distinguished experts in areas and countries relevant to the WBG gender strategy;
* civil society leaders in countries and fields relevant to the WBG gender strategy.

**IV. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Advisory Council meets in person or virtually twice a year. The Managing Director of the World Bank approves meeting agendas and chairs Advisory Council meetings. Senior World Bank Group staff and other high-level experts will be invited to participate as appropriate.