

# CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

eNewsletter | January 2019

## NEWS



### Civil Society Policy Forum: The CSO Innovation Fair is Back!

We are pleased to announce that the World Bank and IMF will be hosting a CSO Innovation Fair at the next Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF). The CSPF will convene in Washington, D.C., from April 9 to 12, 2019 as part of the WBG-IMF Spring Meetings. Booth proposals can be submitted here until **Friday, February 22**. NOTE: The call for session proposals is open until **Friday, February 15**. Registration for CSOs will open on **February 5**. Visit the [CSPF website](#) for more details.



### Selection of the next President of the World Bank Group

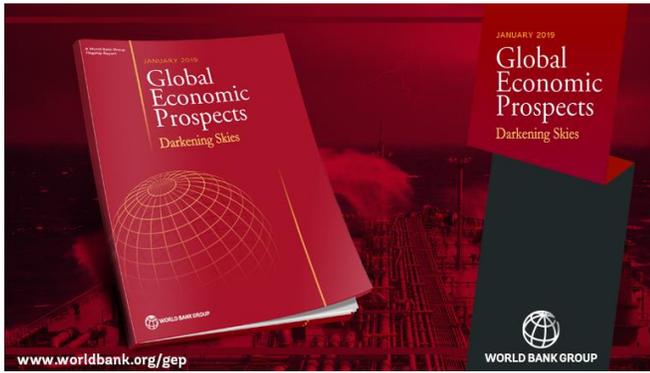
The Executive Directors of the World Bank expressed their appreciation to President Kim for his leadership of the World Bank Group and its significant accomplishments during his tenure. The World Bank Board affirmed its commitment to an open, merit-based and transparent selection process. Read more [here](#).



GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SOCIAL  
ACCOUNTABILITY

### Webinar on CSO Accountability: Why and How Should CSOs Effectively Engage Stakeholders to Increase their Impact?

The [GPSA Knowledge Platform](#) invites you to join a webinar on January 30, 2019, where [Accountable Now](#) will talk about why stakeholder engagement is important in CSO accountability and share best practices from their member organizations. By involving stakeholders in various aspects of programs, strategy, and advocacy, CSOs can increase buy-in and achieve better, more sustainable impact. Join the conversation [here](#).



## Darkening Prospects: Global Economy to Slow to 2.9 percent in 2019 as Trade, Investment Weaken

Global economic growth is projected to soften from a downwardly revised 3 percent in 2018 to 2.9 percent in 2019 amid rising downside risks, according to the World Bank January 2019 Global Economic Prospects. International trade and manufacturing activity have softened, trade tensions remain elevated, and some large emerging markets have experienced substantial financial market pressures. Read more [here](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### [Seminar: A Resurgent East Asia, Navigating a Changing World](#)

- February 4, 2019
- Tokyo, Japan

### [The Cruel Cut: Screening and Discussion](#)

*A Discussion on FGM, Laws and Social Norms with Documentary Screening*

- February 5, 2019
- Washington, DC

### [Land and Poverty Conference 2019](#)

*Catalyzing Innovation*

- March 25-29, 2019
- Washington, DC

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

2019 WBG-IMF Spring Meetings

- April 9-12, 2019
- Washington, DC

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

*Multilateralism: Past, Present, and Future*

- June 17-18, 2019
- Washington, DC

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

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## BLOGS AND STORIES

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### [Beyond Charcoal: How One Company Helps Rwandan Families Save their Health and the Environment, One Cookstove at a Time](#)

Clean cooking is considered to be one of the most difficult development challenges. Every day, almost three billion people cook over firewood or charcoal, causing grave impacts on health and the environment. Inyenyeri, an innovative Rwandan company led by an unlikely entrepreneur, Eric Reynolds, and supported by the World Bank's Carbon Initiative for Development (Ci-Dev), has turned that challenge on its head. The company uses an unconventional approach to one of the greatest unsolved riddles of development: coming up with a scalable, truly clean and environmentally-sustainable cookstove business. To make the challenge even greater, Inyenyeri seeks to leave no one behind, even the cashless rural poor.

### [Debt in low-income countries: A rising vulnerability](#)

Debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) helped to reduce public debt among low-income countries from a median debt-to-GDP ratio of close to 100 percent in the early 2000s to a median of just over 30 percent in 2013. This downward trend reversed sharply thereafter, with the median debt ratio rising to above 50 percent by 2017. The rise was especially sharp for commodity exporters.

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### [Coping with Risks in Yemen While Providing Hope](#)

Lack of progress on addressing water and sanitation challenges threatens to undermine the efforts of Yemeni institutions and the international community to prevent the spread of the cholera epidemic in Yemen. In the last four years, Yemen's water and sanitation infrastructure has suffered significant damages due to the ongoing war, the lack of energy, poor maintenance, and more than three years of unpaid salaries of civil servant staff. Approximately 16 million people currently lack access to safe water and sanitation, and some 18 million lack access to basic healthcare. Over one million cases of cholera have been confirmed since the epidemic erupted last year.

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This newsletter is produced by the Civil Society Team of the World Bank Group (WBG) in collaboration with other units. The Newsletter highlights several policies, programs, and initiatives of the WBG which may involve or be of interest to CSOs. Please send your comments and feedback to: [civilsociety@worldbank.org](mailto:civilsociety@worldbank.org). You can subscribe to the Newsletter using our [subscription page](#).

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

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