

## **Claims of Selected Civil Societies in Yemen in World Bank Consultations and Engagement in the Country Partnership Framework**

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### **Preliminary Comments:**

Prior to the preparation works for the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), World Bank conducts negotiations with the government to reach an agreement on the mechanisms of preparation. The agreed upon mechanisms are documented in an official document. These mechanisms include the government agreement/non-agreement on the simultaneous disclosure of the final draft of the strategy at the same time it is delivered to the Bank's Board for discussion and approval.

We recommend that World Bank negotiates the approval of the government and, at the same time, makes available a version in Arabic language to ensure effective disclosure and access to information for all.

The Arabic translation should be also available throughout the next steps and for all documents related to the consultations and the strategy.

Consultations are conducted in **two phases**: a general phase in all regions and a second phase a sectoral in each region. And during the two consultation phases, World Bank should accept interventions through the internet and announce that via email, social media, press statement, WB country website, as well as other media outlet.

### **Other Country's Systematic Studies and Diagnosis:**

- World Bank should make available information and documents on the assessment of past experiences, failures and their causes, successes and the lessons learned;
- Provide an opportunity to integrate interventions and comments on the various studies by civil society, where appropriate;
- Makes available information in the form of pre-and post- study in Arabic language;
- Makes available documents on the country specific pillars/themes, trends and priorities, in case such document is available;
- Any document available in Arabic language on the consultative meetings;
- Makes available the above information together with any other information, fifteen (15) days prior to the consultation meeting, to make them accessible for interested CSOs immediately after online registration.

### **The First Phase of the Consultative Sessions:**

**Form of Consultation:** The World Bank to hold public meetings with the civil society organizations, separate from the meetings with the government or the other parties in the capital cities of the six regions. If the World Bank is unable to hold such meetings directly, it can contract an agency to conduct that, provided that such agency facilitating the meetings at the level of the regions is from the same area/region in which the consultative meetings are to be held. The criteria for selecting the facilitator (or World Bank team) should be clarified during the meetings (the criteria should include the local people or a civil society organization from the same area/region qualified to carry out consultations).

The consultations begin with a presentation for what has been achieved so far, the decisions made by the World Bank, as well as the purpose of the consultative meeting.

**Participants:** The World Bank to announce six public consultative sessions on the CAS (at least 6) in all capital cities of the 6 regions in the print, audio and visual media, in addition to social communication sites and the website of the World Bank in Arabic language where all can have access to all information which includes, but not limited to the objective, available documents, CSO registration forms, duration of registration, dates of the consultations, terms of registration, ...etc.

The World Bank permits the participation of all CSOs that have registered on the WB website. In case the number of registered CSOs is too long, the World Bank holds a second meeting, expected to be in Sana'a. The World Bank can also invite the Yemeni CSOs as it may see fit.

The World Bank, to provide a budget for a specific number of CSOs from outside the capital cities of the regions, especially, those who express their interest to participate, but demonstrates financial inability to pay for travel and other expenses.

#### **Method of addressing the interventions and proposals/feedback:**

- Record and make accessible video for the session.
- Come up with a document for the recommendations of the participants and disseminating it to the participants 3 days after the consultative meeting, and giving 3 days for the participating CSOs to provide their comments, make clarifications or correct information prior to publishing the final recommendations on the Website.
- Assess the session and draw on the lessons learned for the second phase.
- Review the outcomes of the updated documents which are published in parallel with the consultations/meetings conducted by the bank with the other sectors (the government, private sector and civil society organizations) and which are developed in the form of minutes of meetings/interviews, documents, etc.
- Publish the draft strategy with adequate clarification for the justifications of not including all or some of the interventions provided by civil society organizations. The Bank publishes the draft 15 days before the second consultative sessions.
- Publish any other documents or new studies which could be relevant to the strategy.

#### **The Second Phase of the Consultation Sessions**

**Form of Consultation:** The Bank holds sectoral meetings with all stakeholders, not only with CSOs, within the sectors that will be the focus of the Bank Strategy. The same sessions are to be held in the capital cities of the 6 regions. Should it not be possible for the World Bank to hold them directly, it can contract with a consultative agency to conduct that, provided that such consultative agency facilitating the meetings at the level of the regions is from the same area/region in which the consultative meetings are to be held. The criteria for selecting the facilitator (or World Bank team) should be clarified during the meetings (the criteria should include the local people or to be a civil society organization from the same area/region qualified to carry out the consultations), based on the information available in the registration form filled in by CSOs in the first time. The World Bank also sends invitations to organizations to the active CSOs in the relevant sectors for 6 public consultation meetings on the Strategy (at least 6) in all capital cities of the 6 regions.

The consultations begin with a presentation for what has been achieved so far, the decisions made by the World Bank, as well as the purpose of the consultative meeting.

**Participants:** All stakeholders from the government, private sector and Civil Society. For the Civil Society, and based on the registration forms filled-in by CSOs during the first phase, the World Bank send invitations to the interested CSOs active in the sectors which will be focused on during the sessions. CSOs are to register in order to confirm their participation. Moreover, the Bank is to announce the sessions through its website. Registration in the sessions should be open and accessible for the participation of all interested CSOs and not only those CSOs that have received invitations.

**Follow-up and way of addressing the interventions and proposals/feedback:**

- Record and make accessible video for the session.
- Come up with a document containing the recommendations of the participants and disseminating it to the participants three (3) days after the consultative meeting, and giving three (3) days for the participating CSOs to provide their comments, make clarifications or correct information prior to publishing the final recommendations on the Website.
- Review the outcomes of the updated documents which are published in parallel with the consultations/meetings conducted by the Bank with the other sectors (the government, private sector and civil society organizations) and which are developed in the form of minutes of meetings/interviews, documents, etc.
- Publish the final draft of the strategy with adequate clarification for the justifications of not including all or some of the interventions provided by civil society organizations. The Bank publishes the final draft of the strategy at the same time it is submitted to the Bank Board for discussion and approval.

This document is submitted by and represents the below undersigned group of Yemeni CSOs:

1. The Democratic School
2. Youth and Children Welfare Association
3. Wedyan Association for Society Development
4. Transparency Center for Democratic Development and Human Rights
5. Yemeni Parliamentarians Against Corruption (Yemen-PAC)
6. It Is My Right Organization
7. Resonate! Yemen