

The World Bank
Washington, D.C. 20433
U.S.A.

R. Kyle Peters
Vice President and Head of Network
Operations Policy and Country Services

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Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your letter dated March 12 to President Kim on our effort to mainstream citizen engagement in World Bank Group-financed activities.

As you mentioned, engaging citizens is critical to improve development outcomes. The World Bank is already doing a lot. With the Strategic Framework to Mainstream Citizen Engagement in World Bank Group operations, first, we are taking stock of what we are doing now; second, learning what others are doing and in what contexts citizen engagement contributes most to improving the outcomes of development; third, outlining a more coherent approach to scale-up citizen engagement; and fourth, providing guidance for our staff on context-specific citizen engagement mechanisms.

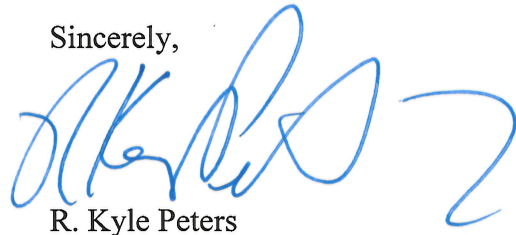
This is not a new policy or directive, but rather an effort to systematically assess what it is we do now, and to help task teams better understand what works in what context to facilitate the scaling up.

The outreach through the consultation hub website (<http://consultations.worldbank.org>), the focus groups and discussions we are undertaking are meant to add to our understanding of this very complex issue. We are also forming an Advisory Group comprising of government, civil society, academia, foundation, and private sector advisors from around the world to guide use in this effort.

We appreciate the interest of so many groups in your region. As part of this process, we will organize focus groups in countries in the Middle East and North Africa region.

We welcome the thoughts and lessons from your organizations. We also encourage you to share your ideas through our website at <http://consultations.worldbank.org>.

Sincerely,



R. Kyle Peters

cc:

Arab NGO Network for Development – REGIONAL
Disabled People’s International - Arab Regional Office – REGIONAL
Egyptian Association for Collective Rights – EGYPT
Egyptian Center for Civil and Legislative Reform – EGYPT
Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights – EGYPT
Habitat International Coalition/Housing and Land Rights Network – REGIONAL/EGYPT
Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union – LEBANON
Middle East Advocacy and Research Center – LEBANON
Min Haqqy – YEMEN
Resonate! Yemen – YEMEN
Studies & Economic Media Center – YEMEN
Touensa – TUNISIA
Tunisian Association for Digital Freedom – TUNISIA
Wedyan Association for Society Development – YEMEN
Yemen Parliamentarians Against Corruption – YEMEN