CSP-MTR MISSION FOR SOUTH AFRICA

CSO CONSULTATIONS – SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Njeri Kinyoho – CSO Officer - RDGS

1. Introduction

On Friday, 11th June 2020, the Bank Mission Team met with approximately 30 representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) based and operating in South Africa. The objective of the workshop was to engage with civil society on the orientation of the ongoing Country Strategy Paper (CSP) 2018-2022, and to review progress made in its implementation since the launch in 2018. The Deputy Director General gave his opening remarks. He reiterated the importance of working with CSOs, and receiving constructive feedback on the Bank's Programmes on a regular basis, in order to address key developmental challenges such as increasing poverty and inequality, and to improve the quality of delivery of the Bank's Programmes. He appreciated the knowledge and collective wisdom that CSOs can/should bring to the policy and programme dialogue spaces to enhance shared learning for improved development outcomes. Presentations were made by Mr George Kararach, Lead Economist, Ms. Njeri Kinyoho, Senior Civil Society Officer and Dr Shungu Gwarinda from the Graca Machel Trust.

In her submission, Dr Gwarinda emphasised that many African Countries including South Africa did not suffer from a lack of policies, legal and legislative frameworks. The biggest challenge in Africa is implementation and enforcement of these policies and frameworks. She highlighted that the complex challenges that COVID-19 has presented have deepened inequalities (Gender, economic and social) and therefore there was a critical need for the Bank and its Partners to re-focus on matching Resources and their allocation to concrete outcomes. This, was a crucial point to consider as the Bank enters the second phase of the implementation of its CSP.

2. Key Issues and Recommendations by CSO Participants

- Enhancing multi-sectoral approaches to avoid creating silos in a country that is facing complex developmental challenges. This will help match resources to identified development outcomes and address complex issues in a holistic manner
- The Bank must create clear M&E indicators that will help it and its partners track and monitor resources that are allocated and directly benefit especially women given that the Bank has Mainstreaming Gender as a key cross-cutting priority
- There is great concern on the high spending of the Bank's Investment portfolio on Energy, and to what extent those resources allocated to the sector are reaping a positive return on investment given the on-going challenges that the country continues to experience with regard to power supply, and its impact on investment and growth. The need to fully move towards clean, green and renewable energy was highlighted and a call on the Bank to avail all the necessary information on the specific energy projects that it is funding in South Africa; **Ensure power funding changes as new policies are mainstreamed through the bank, particularly in relation to the draft Climate Change & Green Growth Strategic Framework and the written commitment that the bank will not invest in coal and coal related technologies**

- The portfolio is overweight on Energy and we understand the notion around investing in sectors that are the country's economic drivers, however there is a gap in the flow of resources to the real economy. We also need to understand the fact that SA is an economy that has a first world and third world economies (Highly unequal economy) to bridge this gap SMME development is required to create the much needed injection in growing the country's GDP and create jobs especially for the young people.

- The Bank must continue to institutionalize and strengthen its engagement with CSOs. This level of engagement must not stop at consultations only, but must be meaningful and purposeful. CSOs must have a space to have their voices heard especially in the operations of the Bank at both national and local levels. ; To this end, the CSOs called on the Bank to create a National Platform that a similar to the Bank-CSO Committee structure, to step up dialogue on an regular basis at the country Programme level. The Bank must move beyond 'ticking boxes' when it comes to engagement with civil society.
- Ensure that consultations and recommendations that CSOs make inform the entire programme cycle, from design to completion (e.g. in the development of the CSP). **The Bank CSO Division should organise Sector-wide CSO consultations for deeper content creation and so the Bank must address and re-design its structural priorities to ensure that this happens.**
- There is need to promote women into spaces of decision making and that they must have a say on the resource allocation of the Bank's Finances and ensure that they address the gaps and inequalities that hinder women from being part of decision-making; **Unlock more resources in support of women**
- There is need to set aside funds specifically targeted at enhancing CSO Capacity; This will help strengthen the Bank's Accountability at all levels when CSOs participate in the design and monitoring of project implementation.
- The Bank must purpose to share more sector-wide information and updates on the Country Portfolio on a regular basis.
- Procurement Policies must reflect a deliberate move towards opening up more opportunities for women entrepreneurs to access and benefit from funds available for the various Projects