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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

ENGAGEMENT AVEC LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE
ENGAGING WITH
CIVIL SOCIETY

Partnering with Civil Society for Agricultural Transformation in Africa

May 25, 2017, Ahmedabad,
Conference Center, Room Seminar Hall 4

Civil Society is a major constituency in African development process. Decades ago it was often viewed as in opposition to other development stakeholders—especially governments. Today civil society groups are increasingly involved in partnerships with governments, businesses; and are engaged in official consultation processes at multilateral level such as the G20 and the United Nations. Over the last few years, gains have been made in policy advocacy at the global level exemplified by the success in influencing the G8 agenda for Africa, the UNFCC Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the development of global voluntary standards for industry. International and regional institutions have now developed formal processes for civil society engagement and consultation and so is the African Development Bank (AfDB). The AfDB is committed to partnering with Civil Society in delivering on its High 5 agenda.

By strengthening cooperation and partnerships with civil society, the Bank is also working to:

- Enhance the legitimacy, transparency and equity of policy- and decision-making, ensuring that it takes into consideration the interests of all sectors of society and has their support;
- Give a voice to agriculture stakeholders, particularly the world's poor and ensure that their views and opinions are taken into account
- Increase the effectiveness of the African Development Bank regional offices and programmes by building on civil society experience in participatory approaches, poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture, as well as their capacity to act quickly and flexibly targeting the most vulnerable groups;
- Build public support and political will on the continent to attain food security objective through pushing the CADEP and Malabo Accord.

This panel will discuss the strategies for enhanced partnership between non-state actors and multilateral development agencies such as AfDB. Civil society organizations will be given the opportunity to reflect on their roles as AfDB partners, and agents for change in the implementation of the High 5s agenda. This will offer an opportunity for the civil society to engage senior Bank management on the issues surrounding the agriculture transformation agenda for Africa.

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The panel will include representatives of each of the following groups:

- Watchdogs – those that hold institutions/governments accountable for their national budgetary allocations to the agricultural sector
- Advocates – those that raise awareness on social issues related to agriculture and work on policy change that creates an enabling environment for the agriculture value chain
- Service providers and capacity builders – those that deliver services to the vulnerable and enhance access for the vulnerable
- Experts – those bringing unique knowledge on communities and building collectives
- Incubators – those developing solutions that have long gestation periods for communities and building collectives to access to agricultural development interventions
- Representative – those that give power the voice of marginalized (fragile states

Objectives

The inclusion of the Civil Society Panel in the main agenda of the Annual Meetings for the first time in the history of the AMs is yet another strong statement of the Bank's increased commitment to engaging the civil society. In addition to showcasing examples of ongoing collaborations, demonstrating the diverse forms that engagement can take along the Bank's operations, the Panel provides a platform to highlight salient issues around Bank-CSO engagement in general and, in particular, agriculture. More specifically, the Panel will seek to:

- Highlight the role of CSOs in the success of the High 5s, particularly agriculture (the theme of this year's Annual Meetings)
- Surface issues surrounding the Bank's Agriculture Transformation agenda
- Reflect on the key challenges surrounding Bank-CSO partnership for the agricultural transformation in Africa
- Explore strategies for enhancing Bank-CSO partnerships.

PROGRAM

8:30	Registration of Participants
9:00– 9:05 (5 mins)	Introduction Moderator: Ms. Julie Gichuru, News Anchor, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC)
9:05– 9:15 (10 mins)	Opening Remarks Ms. Sipho S. Moyo, Director of Special Projects
9:15 – 9:30 (15 mins)	Keynote Speech Ms. Jennifer Day Blanke, Vice-President, Agriculture and Human Development, AfDB
9:30–10:15 (45 mins)	Moderated debate with targeted contributions from the panel • Mr. Sudarshan Suryawanshi, CEO of ISAP (Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals) • Mr. Kamal Khurana, CEO of FIFA (Federation of Indian Farmer Producer Organizations and Aggregators) Ms. Muchoki Lucy, CEO, Pan African Agribusiness and Agroindustry Consortium • Ms. Mukhebi Dorothy, Deputy Director, African Women in Agricultural Research (AWARD)
10:15– 10:50 (35 mins)	Question and Answer session General audience
10:50–11:00 (10 mins)	Closing remarks Ms. Sipho S. Moyo, Director of Special Projects