June 2016

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ACRONYMS

AFAWA  Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa
AfDB  African Development Bank
CO2  Carbon dioxide
COP21  21st United Nations Climate Change Conference
CSO  Civil Society Organizations
ECOWAS  Economic Community of West African States
NGO  Non-governmental organization
PTF  Partnership for Transparency Fund
RMCs  Regional Member Countries
ONEC  Energy, Environment and Climate Change Department
ORQR  Quality Assurance and Results Department
OSAN  Agriculture and Agro-Industries Department
OSHD  Human and Social Development Department
OSVP  Sector Operations Complex
SDG  Sustainable Development Goal
1. CONTEXT

1. On Thursday, May 26th, 2016, the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) held its annual AfDB Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Forum alongside its Annual Meetings. The Forum, which was held in Lusaka, Zambia, brought together over 200 participants, including civil society representatives, AfBD’s senior management and Staff Members, government officials, as well as a global virtual audience.

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

2. The overall objective of the Forum was to engage a high-level dialogue between CSOs and AfDB’s senior management on the Bank’s strategic focus in three priority areas: energy, agriculture and jobs for youth.

3. Through the CSO Forum, the Bank reaffirmed its commitment to supporting and working with civil society and civil society organizations in pursuing the continent’s development, and in identifying appropriate tools for effective engagement by:
   - Strengthening the partnership between the Bank and CSOs across Africa by providing a platform for dialogue and information exchange around the High 5s.
   - Promoting closer cooperation and engagement among CSOs, the Bank, and Regional Member Countries (RMCs) with the aim to optimize development results and sustain development impact.
   - Fostering participation of CSOs in contributing towards the Bank’s strategic thinking, planning and operations.

FORMAT OF CSO FORUM

4. Over sixty representatives of African CSOs were invited to participate in the Forum, selected by geographical representation and areas of interest focusing on the High 5s, and a sizeable number from Zambia.

5. Namakau Mukelabai, Director of Indigo Events and Media Solutions, was the general moderator for the two-day event.

6. The Forum was structured along the following lines: welcome address and keynote statements, two plenary sessions and three breakout sessions taking place simultaneously. The first plenary session provided the guiding principle underlying the breakout sessions and the second allowed moderators to report back to the plenary on the deliberations emerging from each of the three-roundtable discussions.

7. The CSO Forum focused on three priority areas of the High 5s – energy, agriculture and jobs for youth. For each thematic area, a roundtable discussion was organized to discuss theme-specific issues and identify general themes and points of agreement on areas of collaboration between the Bank and CSOs. Each panel featured civil society representatives, as well as AfDB staff and stakeholders from relevant institutions.
The CSO Forum benefited from live tweets from bloggers representing the five African regions and an online discussion moderated by Ms. Jemila Abdulai, Consultant with ORQR. Remote participants were able to follow the plenary sessions of the Forum via web streaming on the AfDB website. The virtual audience was able to interact with the speakers and other guests by submitting their questions/remarks through social media channels. Highlights of the event were simultaneously reported through Twitter and pictures shared on Flickr.

2. CSO FORUM

2.1 WELCOME ADDRESS AND KEYNOTE STATEMENTS

8. H. E. Mary Robinson, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation, opened the CSO Forum by congratulating President Akinwumi Adesina for devoting a day for discussing important themes such as job creation for youth, women/gender equality and agriculture. She found the discussions at the Annual Meetings encouraging with good analyses of issues presented, injustices identified and solutions offered. She commented on the need to ‘reach the furthest behind first’ by linking social protection systems to the Bank’s discussions. She concluded her address by encouraging civil society to hold the Bank accountable for delivering on the High 5s and emphasized that civil society can make the difference in Africa.

9. Mamadou Toure, CEO and Founder of Africa 2.0, began his statement by thanking the AfDB for devoting the two-day event to civil society. He discussed how Africa 2.0 came out of the frustration of young talented Africans looking to contribute to their society but facing constraints. The underlying objective of Africa 2.0 was to gather young African leaders from
the continent and the Diaspora who shared one common vision for Africa and who adopted a proactive approach to solutions by publishing its Manifesto, cataloguing experts by task force, by sector, by industry and by location with a view to facilitate bringing solutions to African problems and allowing the continent to leapfrog towards a prosperous and sustainable Africa. The emphasis was on creating Africa’s agenda for Africa.

10. He highlighted that one main failure of civil society was its inability to work together, in having one common message and in prioritizing that message. He stressed on the responsibility of civil society to change that going forward. He stressed on the exceptional opportunity the CSO Forum represents in providing a platform for civil society to engage leaders and called for a civil society/government/private sector consensus to work together and achieve the African dream.

11. Engwase Mwale, Executive Director of NGO CC, shared a statement on behalf of the civil society organizations that met on the sideline of the Annual Meetings. She highlighted that civil society recognized its need to be proactive and its critical role for national development. The sideline meeting was used to critically analyze the issues being discussed at the Annual Meetings. Mwale thanked the AfDB for allowing civil society to engage and share the outcomes of the critical analysis and the reflections on the High 5s. The civil society organizations’ main statement points to the need of the AfDB to institutionalize CSO engagement processes for more effective results on the Bank priority areas.

12. Resolutions made during the side meeting were shared and called upon the Bank to address issues on energy and climate change, agricultural transformation, private sector financing, infrastructure and inclusive development, natural resource governance and illicit financial flows from Africa, trends in AfDB/CSO engagement, and transparency and accountability in the Bank’s operations. Please refer to Annex 4 for the full statement.

13. President Akinwumi Adesina gave the opening CSO Forum speech. He stressed on the importance of the CSO Forum in representing the voices and faces of the people the Bank is trying to help, who are often absent from these discussions. He expressed that being President of the AfDB is not a job but a mission to ensure Africa develops fast for these voices and faces. He stressed on the importance of civil society in: holding the Bank accountable; ensuring transparency and good governance; engaging in inclusive growth processes; and empowering African people. He emphasized the AfDB’s commitment to strengthening civil society engagement by building capacity for Africa-based civil society.

14. He expressed the Bank’s commitment to holding more forums like the CSO Forum to discuss and listen to civil society’s contributions, and also the need for civil society to advocate for what Africa needs with a sense of urgency. He went over the pressing issues impacting Africa’s development, including in energy, agriculture, women empowerment, youth, climate change, green growth, natural resources and illicit capital flows.

15. The President touched on the strategies and initiatives launched by the Bank, including the Bank’s commitment to AFAWA to leverage 3 billion USD for women entrepreneurs across the continent. He noted that when you get women right, you get everything right. He concluded by reiterating how much the Bank values its partnership with civil society and
reaffirmed its commitment to deeper engagement as they both share the same vision. He encouraged civil society representatives to revise their statement after listening to him. Kapil Kapoor - Acting Vice-President, responsible for sector operations (OSVP), Mr. Alex Rugamba – Director of Energy, Environment and Climate change Department, ONEC, Mr. Chiji Ojukwu – Director Agriculture and Agro-Industries Department, Mrs. Sunita Pitamber – Director Human Development Department, OSHD, Mr. Kevin Urama – Senior Policy Advisor on Inclusive and Green Growth were invited to join Mr. Mamadou Toure on stage to respond to questions and comments.

16. During the questions and answers session, Mamadou Toure shared the success story of the Africa 2.0 Manifesto. He discussed the four key axes of Africa 2.0 vision, which were: uplift Africans, inclusive growth, infrastructure and growth-enabling environment, with the four key drivers of growth being youth, women, diaspora and technology. He recalled being invited by the G20 to make key recommendations, of which two – the Diaspora-born scheme and regional commodity exchanges - were endorsed. Africa 2.0 was again called upon by the G20 in 2015 to make recommendations on off-grid energy, renewable and clean energy. He mentioned contributions to the Africa Progress Panel and COP21.

17. The latter represents the most powerful position Africa has taken in terms of addressing climate issues. He evoked meeting President Adesina when he first joined office and how the outcome of the discussion can now be found in the Employ Africa strategy. He concluded his contribution by pressing for more collaboration and coordination.

18. Finally, Kevin Urama commented on the need to address access as well as sustainability issues when it came to energy. The focus should be on producing more and better with less CO2 emissions.

2.2 PRESENTATION OF THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Noel Kulemeka, Manager of ORQR4, briefly explained the purpose of the three breakout sessions and encouraged participation based on civil society organizations’ comparative advantage. The breakout sessions were organized around three priority areas of the High 5s: energy, agriculture and jobs for youth. The PowerPoint presentations from each session can be made available upon request.
2.2.1 BREAKOUT SESSION: ENERGY

MODERATOR: Neil COLE, Executive Secretary of the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative

DISCUSSANTS: Alex RUGAMBA, Director, African Development Bank
Sheila OPARAOCHA, International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
Tjaarda STORM van LEEUWEN, Partnership for Transparency Fund

19. The objective of the roundtable discussion was to encourage focused discussions on how best to leverage the relationship between the AfDB and CSOs to meet the objectives of the Bottom of the Pyramid Energy Access Program initiative. The discussion focused on specific ways in which CSOs would participate and/or assist in implementation of relevant initiatives, prioritizing areas where CSOs possess comparative advantages with regards to energy access and clean energy solutions.

20. Kevin Urama did a presentation on the source of CO2 emissions in Africa and highlighted that Africa suffers from poverty-engendered emissions. He pointed out that Africa needs a new energy mix to better care for the environment and invest in sustainable solutions, which is proposed through the New Deal; if Africa transits to a mixture of coal and other energy sources, the emission of soot will go from 5 tons to 1 ton. He explained that the reduction of charcoal use could be a first step in addressing the roots of the problem.

21. Alex Rugamba presented the Power and Light Up Africa Strategy and summarised the key features of the Bottom of the Pyramid Energy Access Programs and how these are aligned with the SDGs. He reported that the Bank is working on financing solutions to roll out the

*Breakout session on Energy led by Neil COLE from Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative. Photo credit: 2016 CERD – AfDB*
clean cooking solutions and that a major component on delivering on the New Deal is based on forming collaborative partnerships.

22. Sheila Oparaocha mentioned that her contributions were on behalf of her organisation, International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy. She emphasized that CSOs were the first to engage in clean cooking and are well placed to assist on the delivery, uptake and sustainability components of the initiative. CSOs can help raise awareness and address the major gap between rural and urban access. She highlighted that off-grid and mini-grid solutions were key elements. She stressed on the need to leverage women to build and deliver on the New Deal and gave the example of ECOWAS’ gendered policy on energy and how country agendas are now being developed through a multi-pronged consultation with CSOs.

23. Tjaarda Storm van Leeuwen from Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF) presented on the changing trends in civil society and their implications. He commented on the space for CSO engagement varying from country to country and the impact this has on funding in some countries. His presentation recognized the different roles played by development partners from implementer, facilitator, third party monitor and voice in policy development.

24. CSO representatives found commendable the Bank’s initiative. Key discussions included tripartite collaboration (government, civil society and private sector) to deliver on the Bank’s program and on the need for the Bank to tap into the existing CSO network. Mr. Peter Eigen from Transparency International made reference to the magical triangle of interactions among government, civil society and the private sector as the essential ingredient to make decisions successful.

25. Anthony Nyong in charge of the Safeguards and Compliance Division (ORQR 3) at AfDB emphasized the need for the cooperation of civil society and that Africa needs technology transfer and not technology dumping. The focus should be on developing technology that helps create jobs locally. Mr. Simon Mizrahi, Director of the Quality Assurance and Results Department ORQR, presented the CSO Enhanced Engagement Framework and the different entry points possible at corporate, regional and country levels. He used the example of clean cooking to showcase how the Framework can be adapted to a specific issue.

26. CSO representatives identified ways in which they can partner with the Bank and how to institutionalise the way of engaging with the Bank. The modalities of engagement that were discussed can be found in Annex 2.1.
2.2.2 BREAKOUT SESSION: AGRICULTURE

MODERATOR: Mamadou GOITA, African Civil Society Organisations’ Coalition on AfDB

DISCUSSANTS: Chiji OJUKWU CHINEDUM, Director, African Development Bank
Elizabeth MPOFU, International Secretary, La Via Campesina
Barbara KAFKA, Partnership for Transparency Fund

Breakout session on Agriculture. Photo credit: 2016 CERD – AfDB

27. These discussions looked for specific ways in which CSOs would participate and/or assist in implementation of relevant initiatives, prioritizing areas where CSOs possess comparative advantages with regards to agriculture and to best meet the objectives of the Transforming the Agriculture Sector Initiative.

28. Chiji Ojukwu presented the Feed Africa strategy, focusing on its objectives and the key initiatives under the strategy. He announced that the strategy would be presented to the Board of Directors for approval in June 2016. He noted that four key initiatives under the strategy were agro-industrial parks and corridors; enabling youth in agri-business; risk sharing mechanism for agricultural finance; and technology.

29. Mpofo discussed the difficulties faced by farmers. She mentioned the lingering and negative impact of structural adjustment programs on the standard of living of farmers, which limited government assistance to farmers. She stressed on the need to incorporate indigenous knowledge into proposed models. Her recommendations included focusing on local markets, researching local seeds to avoid buying from corporations, facilitating access to natural resources for farmers, and sticking to diversification in crop production. She stressed on the need for farmers to be autonomous in choosing what to produce and how
to produce it. The biggest challenge according to her was to identify where to invest the resources and how to ensure access to small farmers.

30. Kafka from PTF focused on global trends for the 2030 SDG agenda and for civil society. The number of civil society organizations has been increasing with new roles in service delivery, advocacy and influence. She discussed the need for civil society to address its own internal issues, while taking into account that the enabling environment for civil society differs across the continent. The main challenges are to: find an appropriate mechanism to identify the CSOs with comparative advantage for the Bank to engage with, ensure that CSOs are properly engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and identifying the most effective modalities of engagement.

31. Key discussions included the emergence of cartels in Africa, the ability of small producers to be profitable, the creation of value chains in the absence of policies and frameworks, and access to financing and the conditions for commercial loans. Discussions included the alignment of AfDB and the regional economic communities (RECS) with national plans. A strong emphasis was placed on implementation and the need for transparency.

32. The recommendations included providing further assistance to small farmers; prioritizing local, national and regional markets and supplying these with local products; further research seeding and the use of technology; and the promotion and consolidation of agricultural cooperatives.

33. The session ended with CSOs listing their comparative advantage in terms of advancing human rights, the rights of small farmers, women and youth, ensuring environmental safeguards are respected, the development of sustainable agricultural methods, creating business partnerships that favour small producers and integrating social responsibility in business partnerships. Further studies are required on the part of civil society to determine how best it can assist the Bank in implementation of the Bank’s programme. The discussed modalities of engagement can be found at Annex 2.2.
2.2.3 BREAKOUT SESSION: JOBS FOR YOUTH

MODERATOR: Karidia SANON, Sustainable Development Department, Ouagadougou University

DISCUSSANTS: Sunita PITAMBER, Director, African Development Bank
Sobel NGOM, Executive Director, Social Change Factory
Noel KULEMEKA, Manager of Gender and Social Development Division, African Development Bank

34. The Jobs for Youth discussions looked at specific ways in which CSOs would participate and assist in implementation of relevant initiatives, prioritizing areas where CSOs possess comparative advantages with regards to job creation for youth and on ways CSOs can bring resources (technological and financial) to the Bank. The objective was to focus on how CSOs and the Bank can deliver the Job’s for Africa’s Youth initiative.

35. Sunita Pitamber presented an overview of the Employ Africa strategy, emphasizing the need to provide opportunities for the unemployed and the disadvantaged. The main challenge is a mismatch in the supply of skills of the youth and a lack of demand for the skills being offered. To address this, the Bank is focusing on three sectors: energy, agriculture and industrialisation, and on three flagship models: integration, innovation and investment. She invited participants to consult Bank documents relating the background work with respect to the strategy. The flagship models will allow for regional integration. The fundamental approach underlying the strategy is through partnership among private sector, public sector and civil society. Mr. Sobel Ngom, Director of Social Change Factory,
presented Voix des Jeunes whose aim is to create awareness among young people and train young people. He mentioned how engaging in entrepreneurial activities is challenging in Africa and that the innovators and leaders of opinions are the ones leading the way in creating an enabling ecosystem. Voix des Jeunes uses the media as a powerful tool for increasing capacity and as a tool for development by providing access to information previously unavailable.

36. Noel Kulemeka, concluded the presentation by providing an overview of the changing trends in civil society and their implications for international aid. He commented on the space for CSO engagement varying from country to country and how that has an impact on funding in some countries. The number of civil society organizations has been increasing with new roles in service delivery, advocacy and influence.

37. CSOs said that the most relevant and important areas of engagement are in monitoring and evaluation and in providing feedback. It was recommended that the Bank should institutionalise its CSO engagement and identify CSO representatives for inputs. Both CSOs and the Bank should engage in advocacy and communication, especially to educate young people on the AfDB and its initiatives. It was recommended that more young people be engaged in the diverse areas when crafting the roadmap. The Jobs for Youth roadmap can be found in Annex 2.3.

2.3 DAY 2 PLENARY SESSION: KEY POINTS FROM ROADMAPS OF THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Sheila OPARAOCHA, Mamadou GOITA and Sobel NGOM responding to questions from the audience.

Photo credit: 2016 CERD – AfDB
38. The day 2 plenary session started with the reporting back from the moderator/rapporteur from each session. Each presented the agreed modalities of engagement going forward.

39. The roadmap on Energy focused on the levels and areas for CSO engagement, that is, at corporate, regional and country levels and in advocacy, implementation and consultation respectively. Key discussions included leveling the playing field to scale up cooking energy and off grid solutions, leveraging AFAWA to support women energy enterprises and productive uses of energy, developing the enabling environment to foster inclusive bottom of the pyramid interventions, and supporting multi-stakeholder processes & CSO participation in energy policy making and planning.

40. The roadmap on Agriculture focused on four key issues, namely, the setting up of agro-industry processing zones and corridors, agribusinesses as a source of youth employment, the need for a risk sharing mechanism for agriculture finance and the need to have technology adapted for African agriculture. The challenges and roles of CSOs were discussed, with a list of suggested partners to deliver on these issues identified. Challenges include the need for capacity development at all levels and the need for sound institutional frameworks to deliver policies and programmes.

41. The roadmap on Jobs for Youth identified areas for CSO engagement, namely, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, communication and information, advocacy, partnership and innovation. The outcomes and actions to deliver on the Jobs for Youth objectives were discussed and potential implementing partners and stakeholders identified. The reporting back session was followed by Comments/Q&A session.

**Virtual Online Discussion**

42. Jemila Abdulai summarised the online discussion on Twitter through the following points: (i) the young should not be on the side line or viewed as an afterthought. New communication tools should be used to target them; (ii) we not only need new technology in agriculture and energy sectors but should also find ways to integrate young people and their ideas in such sectors; and (iii) there is a general sense that the Bank and what it does remain unknown to young people, hence preventing engagement.

43. An estimated 800,000 Twitter accounts were reached using the hashtag (keyword) #CSOForumLusaka, engaging 5.5 million views worldwide with 487 published posts. In comparison with last year’s Forum, these figures represent an increase of 85% in terms of people reached across the world.

**2.4 Closing Remarks**

44. Following the President’s request in his opening statement, CSOs edited their statement and shared the new version with the audience. The CSO representative expressed the civil society’s gratitude to the President and his team for the effort in putting together the Forum and in the genuine commitment to ensure a legitimate relationship between the
Bank and CSOs. The renewed commitment for a more functional and enhanced relationship is highly appreciated and will allow CSOs to work together with the Bank to achieve the transformation that Africa is looking for. The statement called for sustained effort at national and regional levels through debates and consultations. Suggestions were made on the possibility of having the CSO Forum before the Annual Meetings so they can engage further in other events and on submitting a shadow report on the progress of the Bank.

45. Sipho Moyo officially closed the CSO Forum. In her thanks, she reaffirmed the AfDB’s commitment to work and further engage with civil society. She emphasized that the modalities of engagement are being crafted with the help of CSOs themselves. She concluded by saying that we are all in this together and that we are now operating in a new era where development is a shared responsibility, no longer the role of the government but with every actor having a role to play. She thanked CSOs for their participation and confirmed that the CSO Forum will be followed by the regional stakeholder consultations for further and deeper consultations.

46. Noel Kulemeka thanked the audience for its participation and invited all present to attend the Reception.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

47. The CSO Forum at the Annual Meetings of the AfDB Group has allowed: (i) frank exchanges between the Bank and CSOs on modalities of engagement on how to deliver on three priority areas of the High 5s, namely energy, agriculture and jobs for youth; and, (ii) reaffirmed the Bank’s commitment to enhancing CSO engagement and appease lingering frustrations with respect to past failures/inadequacies.
48. It is recommended that the Bank capitalizes on the momentum created through the CSO Forum to further deepen consultations with CSOs and finalize the modalities for CSO engagement by:

- Holding five regional consultations for further discussions on delivering on selected initiatives and crafting a detailed roadmap for each regional level.
- Establishing the different ways with which member countries will work with CSOs at national level and how these modalities will feed into the regional roadmap.
- Updating CSO database and aligning them with the priority areas of the Bank. Classification by region, country, sector and comparative advantages should be available to facilitate AfDB staff identifying potential partners for project conceptualization, design and implementation.
- Establishing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that will allow tracking of progress at national, regional and corporate levels. This stratification will allow for areas of weaknesses to be addressed and areas of strengths to be replicated.
## 4. ANNEXES

### COMMENTS/QUESTIONS RAISED DURING THE SESSIONS

#### PLENARY SESSION ONE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions Raised</th>
<th>Responses from panelists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How can civil society practically engage on combatting illicit capital flows?</td>
<td>CSOs were urged to attend to event specially addressing the issue of illicit capital flows. The Bank is assisting RMCs in devising national plans to address issues from both government policy standpoint, as well as from an investment standpoint to avoid creative accounting. The AfDB will be hosting a website where the plans will be available and will encourage an interactive electronic dialogue. Civil society will be encouraged to hold governments and organizations like AfDB accountable and to monitor the progress being made. It was suggested that civil society engage more with research institutes who are looking into illicit capital flows.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How will different stakeholders ensure that the program on Jobs for Youth is effectively implemented and that results are delivered?</td>
<td>The strategy was built on the weaknesses and lack of coordination and impact that all stakeholders have been unable to address so far. The plan includes information about the investment needed, the sectors to be prioritized and the impacts to be expected. Delivering on the program will require policy reforms and investment from government and private sector. The youth was brought onboard at the design phase, resulting in a strategy that is demand-driven, different from previous initiatives. Implementation will be country-specific. Other strategies will integrate youth unemployment as well. The Feed Africa strategy specifically targets young unemployed graduates as one of its components, helping to reorient them</td>
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</table>
How will the Bank manage the relationship between animal rights and human rights while encouraging agricultural expansion?

Agriculture encompasses more than just crops but includes fisheries and forestry. The focus of the Bank’s initiative will be on climate smart agriculture and on greening the investment. Human development will be at the core of the Bank initiatives. Examples of Bank operations such as the Bank’s 2014 Ebola crisis response and its operation addressing gender-based violence in Cote d’Ivoire were provided.

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<th>BREAKOUT SESSION: ENERGY:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Questions Raised</strong></td>
<td><strong>Responses from panelists</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How will emissions at country levels be addressed?</td>
<td>Emissions are correlated with development levels. There is a need to share and shape the dialogue from the perspectives of Africans.</td>
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</table>
| How will the rollout take place? | Energy and climate change have been upgraded to a complex within the new Bank structure. There is also a partnerships department, which will assist with the mapping and the way forward.  
It is important that capacity be built for maintenance over time and not just for scaling up. |
| How can an organization be part of the engagement if it does not fit into the agreed structure?  
One participant shared that each organisation has its own speciality and can intervene at different levels and questioned how to be part of the engagement if such organisation does not fit into the agreed structure. Neil Cole responded that there will be more clarification as we go forward and that this space was exactly where such issues should be discussed. | The Bank is still at the initial stage and more clarification will be provided as it goes forward. The CSO Forum is part of the process where such issues are brought up and will be further discussed at next meetings. |
## BREAKOUT SESSION: AGRICULTURE:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How flexible is the strategy from the AfDB’s side and does the Strategy reflect inputs from civil society?</td>
<td>The Strategy was presented in 5 regional workshops and benefitted from feedback from CSOs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How will the Bank work with CSOs to deliver on its objectives?</td>
<td>CSOs will assist the Bank in areas where they have distinct comparative advantages, such as on advancing human rights, the rights of small farmers, women and youth, ensuring environmental safeguards are respected, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How profitable is the new strategy for small farmers?</td>
<td>The lack of assistance to small farmers is an underlying weakness of why productivity is low in Africa as most farmers are small farmers on the continent. The Bank needs to ensure that assistance for small farmers is better and more consistent going forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is value addition created in the absence of policies to that effect?</td>
<td>Agricultural cooperatives should be promoted and reinforced where they already existed.</td>
</tr>
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## BREAKOUT SESSION: JOBS FOR YOUTH:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions Raised</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the time frame for the Bank to implement its strategy?</td>
<td>The Bank has already started its scoping exercise in 16 countries and has proposed a pipeline of projects to the value of 2 billion USD with the objective of creating 7 billion jobs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How will the Bank ensure gender parities among youth in the fiscal space being created?</td>
<td>The Bank has a gender strategy to ensure that its operations advance the gender equality agenda. Indicators for women are higher than boys in some sectors due to higher participation in the economy.</td>
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<td>How will the Bank build a sound bilateral relationship with the government in member countries?</td>
<td>The Bank will work to address policy issues but remains an apolitical organization. Bank operations will be directed at the youth, not at</td>
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the government.

Will there be tailor-made programs for the educated youth and those in higher education?
The priority will be to target the undereducated.

PLENARY SESSION: REPORTING ON BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

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<tr>
<td>How can job creation for young people be done in specific areas?</td>
<td>Agriculture remains at the heart of job creation for AfDB and Africa. It is essential therefore to build capacity and bridge the innovation gap in the agriculture sector. Advocacy remains an essential component of the work ahead and the promotion of agriculture should be a priority. It is essential that the link be made between skills and access to land for youth from both rural and urban areas. Current analyses are weak compared to the dimension of the problem. Agriculture can absorb a large portion of young people. However, projects are not well designed to unleash job creation potential. There is a need to reform financial systems and markets, away from the current focus on monetary policy towards providing solutions adapted to current needs, including the needs of the youth. It is essential that we learn to better articulate the challenges and to include those in the decision making process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How can youth-led initiatives be integrated in agriculture and energy?</td>
<td>African youth are not disconnected from their community and their roots. The existing links and knowledge should be capitalized on to deliver on the programs and increased visibility. The programs should be BY youth, not just ON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>youth! Isn’t too much focus being placed on processes while deeper issues, such as inadequate policies and discriminatory laws, are not being addressed?</td>
<td>The CSO Forum’s focus was mostly on the process of achieving CSO engagement but iterated that deep consultations will be done at regional and country levels to develop country-level operations.</td>
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