AFDB CIVIL SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Second Statutory Meeting

Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 6 May 2019

General Report
# Table of Content

**Acknowledgement** ........................................................................................................................................ 3

**Acronyms** .................................................................................................................................................. 4

**Introduction** ................................................................................................................................................ 5

**Opening Session** ...................................................................................................................................... 6

Session 1: Communication and Outreach with Civil Society in the respective regions .................. 6

Session 2: Advocacy and Social Mobilization for the African Development Fund (ADF-15) replenishment ........................................................................................................................................ 7

Session 3: Committee’s role in the AfDB Civil Society Forum 2019 .................................................. 9

**Conclusion** ................................................................................................................................................ 10

**Annex** ...................................................................................................................................................... 10

Annex 1: List of AfDB-Civil Society Committee Members ................................................................. 11

Annex 2: Programme of the meeting ................................................................................................. 11
**Acknowledgement**

On behalf of the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division, we would like to sincerely thank all of you and express our gratitude for your presence and participation at the second Statutory Meeting of the AfDB Civil Society Committee held on May 6th 2019.

We are grateful to the Civil Society Organisations Members of the Committee for their presence and commitment to contribute in Africa’s economic and social transformation.

Our thanks also go to the Vice-President of the Agriculture, Human and Social Development Complex, Ms. Jennifer Blanke, for her leadership and the chairing of the Committee. Thanks to her continued support and commitment, the Committee has reached new statures.

We would like to express our special gratitude to the Directors, Managers, staff and consultants for being part of this committee and dedicated to its success. Through their valuable contributions, the meeting succeeded in being a fruitful platform. Their constructive inputs and vital recommendations showed the Bank’s commitment and continued engagement to strengthening its collaboration with Civil Society to inclusively and sustainably deliver the High 5 priorities in its Regional Member Countries.

Our compliments go to the Gender, Women and Civil Society Department dedicated as an enabling environment for civil society’s strengthening under the leadership of Ms. Vanessa Moungar.

This special session held right before the celebration of the Civil Society Forum’s 10th anniversary has confirmed all the stakeholders commitments to accelerate the regional integration process for Africa’s economic prosperity. The session has approved the civil society engagement in support to the African Development Fund replenishment process. A social mobilization and advocacy campaign will support the ADF-15.

We believe that the event made a contribution towards accelerating our efforts to strengthen partnerships between the Bank and Civil Society representatives, and to build bridges with the end beneficiaries, as intended. Moreover, during this meeting, the Committee made a further and crucial commitment for the strengthening of this partnership: supporting AfDB’s replenishment efforts. We trust that this Committee will continue to serve as an advisory body and will provide insightful contributions on the Bank’s interventions in countries.

Zéneb TOURE  
Manager  
Civil Society and Community Engagement Division  
African Development Bank  
[www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org)
Acronyms

ADF : African Development Fund
AfDB : African Development Bank
AHGC2 : Civil Society and Social Innovation Division
ALN : African Leaders for Nutrition
AM : Annual Meetings
CSCI : Côte d’Ivoire Civil Society Convention
CSP : Country Strategy Paper
DBDM : Development and Business Delivery Model
FIDA : Uganda Association of Women Lawyers
JfYA : Jobs for Youth in Africa
NGO : Non-governmental organization
CSO : Civil Society Organization
PACJA : Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance Access
PAFO : Pan-African Farmers Organization
SVO : Stand for Vulnerable Organization
TED : Technologies for Economic Development (TED)
TSF : Transition States Fund
WACSI : West Africa Civil Society Institute
**Introduction**

On 6 May, the AfDB Civil Society Committee held its second statutory meeting at the Bank’s CC1A Building in Abidjan. The meeting served as an enabling platform for a dialogue between the committee members and the African Development Bank. This meeting gathered all members of the committee chaired by Jennifer Blanke, Vice-president Agriculture, Human and Social Development, on how to accelerate efforts to voice the priorities of citizens in the Bank’s work, engage civil society in the African development fund replenishment and prepare the 10th edition of the Civil Society Forum. The composition of the committee is mixed with 11 CSOs - with expertise in the Bank’s High 5 priorities (Light up & power Africa, Feed Africa, Integrate Africa, Industrialize Africa, & Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa) and representing the 5 sub-regions as well as international NGOs active in Africa – as well as 11 Bank Senior Management and Staff representing a range of Departments and Complexes.

The mandate of the AfDB-Civil Society Committee is to build stronger partnerships with the African civil society community by strengthening the communication and awareness on the Bank’s work in their respective regions. This collaborative Committee made up of CSOs and Bank staff members, serves as an advisory body for the Bank and holds it accountable for the implementation of the AfDB Civil Society Engagement. In addition, the Committee serves as a bridge between the Bank and the broader civil society community, whereby the CSO committee members commit to frequently consult and report to constituents in their respective regions and/or sectors of focus.

Following the launch of the Committee in May 2018 and the first statutory meeting held on 15 & 16 January 2019 several virtual meetings were held to ensure continued and direct dialogue between the Bank and Civil Society representatives.

A diversity of topics was discussed, the working modalities of the committee were analysed and agreed on. The meeting also sought to promote open and direct dialogue between the CSO committee members and their counterparts in the Bank in order to provide insightful contributions to the Bank’s different workstreams. The following topics were discussed:

- **Topic 1: Communication and outreach: the role of committee members in communicating on the Bank’s work in their respective constituencies and regions.**
- **Topic 2: Contribution of civil society in support of the Advocacy for the ADF-15 Replenishment**
- **Topic 3: The AfDB Civil Society Forum 2019**

This 2nd statutory meeting of the AfDB Civil Society Committee was a major success in terms of participation, results, great representation of the Bank's senior management, the quality of the contributions and recommendations arising from the discussions and the reaffirmation of the Bank's commitment to African civil society.

This report presents the proceedings and outcomes of the meeting. Specifically, it presents the rationale of the meeting and the key point of discussion per sessions during the meeting.
Opening Session

Zéneb TOURE, on the behalf of Vanessa Moungr, Director of the Gender, Women and Civil Society Department, delivered preliminary remarks by welcoming committee members and highlighting the Bank’s continued commitment and engagement with CSO and other stakeholders to build trust and direct channel of communication with African people it intends to serve.

The Vice-chair, Augustine B. Njamnshi, Pan-African CSO representative and Founder of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) addressed some remarks on the behalf of the CSOs. Mr Njamnshi stressed on the importance of the Committee as a perfect avenue for deeper collaboration with the Bank on key development issues and regarding the Bank's priorities such as the ADF-15. He seizes the opportunity to welcome Mr Boniface NZONIKOUA, representative of Central Africa.

The Vice President, Agriculture, Human and Social Development and Chair of the AfDB-CSO Committee, Ms, Jennifer Blanke gave the opening speech. She reiterated the Bank's satisfaction with this fruitful partnership and recapped the important role of civil society organizations for human, sustainable and people-centered development. For Jennifer, the regular holding of this deliberative body between the Bank and civil society is a success in itself that will be validated by the holding of the 10th Civil Society Forum whose culmination will remain the announced statement and the mobilization of civil society in support of the African Development Fund.

Session 1: Communication and Outreach with Civil Society in the respective regions

Facilitator: Zéneb TOURE
Speakers: CSO committee members

During this session, discussions focused on the committee’s communication and outreach role to ensure timely and effective feedbacks from beneficiaries to the Bank, as well as to share information on the Bank’s work to their constituencies. It was agreed that information should not simply be one-way, from the Bank to society; rather, the committee outreach strategy should also be a vehicle for dialogue and partnership. The communication and outreach role of the Committee Members is expected in the Bank’s work to inform adequate and impactful measures.
The session started with experience sharing on key challenges faced by committee members in effectively reporting and relaying information to their communities. This experience sharing led to enriching discussions on the communication space in Africa and the importance of strengthening capacities of media and building a free, skilled and transparent media environment.

The Committee Members explained how they are engaging civil society organizations and networks in the partnership with the Bank. Some challenges like language barriers or technical capacity among others, and opportunities like use of digital technologies or the notoriety of the Committee representatives were highlighted.

In summary, the Committee Members agreed on the following as key points to be strengthen as highlighted during the first statutory meeting as well.

- **To be informed** reflects the idea of getting information. This is a key purpose in the Committee;
- **To be trained** Highlights the exchanges and sharing of experiences that will be established between the Committee’s actors;
- **To inform** is for us to share the knowledge and information received with CSOs in our region during debriefing meetings and discussions;
- **To get involved** is for the Committee Members to be aware of the processes going on;
- **To perform** is to make sure the partnership is opening windows of opportunities for necessary means to run the expected actions they committed for.

The next steps identified are as follows:

- Mapping out the networks or umbrella organizations by region (the Secretariat has shared the database with committee members to complement their network)
- Establish a platform for upstream (issues emerging), downstream (update CSO on AfDB). 2 key purposes: regular updates and consulting the CSOs on relevant issues – advisory and accountability. The database will move to an interactive platform to allow real time communication. A deep dive visit organized in Ghana to look at WACSI’s experience (the visit has taken place from
- Introducing Committee members to country managers in order to foster civil society engagement at the country-level
- Involving committee members in the CSP elaboration process
- Engaging committee members in the organization of CSO Open days

**Session 2: Advocacy and Social Mobilization for the Africa Development Fund (ADF-15) replenishment**

**Facilitator:** Zéneb Touré  
**Speaker:** Hervé Neffo-Pekam, Principal Resource Mobilization and Partnership Officer
The replenishment process of the ADF 15 is one of the Bank’s key priorities for 2019. The process was launched in March 2019 in Abidjan. This conversation provides an opportunity to deepen the discussion on issues facing African Low-Income countries, including macroeconomic stabilization and public debt sustainability, and seeks ADF donors’ guidance on policy and financing approaches to address them. The process will culminate with a financing package for the three years ADF-15 cycle (2020-2023).

This process provides an opportunity for civil society engagement in voicing the priorities of African citizens. As committee members represents the broader civil society community, this session aimed at sharing key information on the replenishment process as well as discuss ways for committee members to support the Bank in the process by enhancing the accountability, inclusion and impact.

The session began with a presentation from Hervé Neffo-Pekam on the African Development Fund, while highlighting the operational priorities of the current ADF cycle and discussing the process of the replenishment with committee members.

What is the ADF:

- The ADF is the constitutional window of the fund that aim to support the low-income countries in the continent. Launched in 1967, ADF is a separate legal entity of the Bank, under the same umbrella (same board of director, governor).
- The donors are non-regional and regional members. The Bank is also a donor to the ADF. Whenever we make a replenishment, the Bank will also put funds in the basket.
- In between cycles, the Bank has several strategic and technical engagement with donors to ensure accountability.

Recommendations:

The need to build capacities of committee members on the process as well as sharing information on how they can support in the process in terms of advocacy, outreach and lobbying which are:

- Technical documents: Civil society has a comparative advantage in advocacy, lobbying and accountability which are their flagship issue to ensure that priorities of citizens are heard and taken into account. It has been asked how committee members can support on these specific activities.
- Lobbying for Regional member countries to contribute more to the Fund.
- The importance of having a fund for civil society, particularly to build CSO capacity on the Bank’s priorities.
The presentation from Hervé PEKAM and the discussions were also enriched by the presentation of the AHGC2 advocacy and social mobilization strategy in support to the ADF-15.

The vision of the Social Mobilization and Advocacy Strategy is as follow: "All stakeholders (Governments, Donors, Civil Society, communities, Private Sector) are informed and sensitized on the importance of citizens' engagement during the ADF-15 replenishment process to create an Enabling Environment for Inclusive Growth and to Build Resilience". This community engagement will contribute to the success of the replenishment objectives by enabling the ADF to achieve better results and to further influence development processes.

### Objectives

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<th>Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Raise ADF-15 process awareness among CSOs in Africa thanks to, among others, influent African personalities selected as spokespersons</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Obtain the commitment of the AfDB - Civil Society Committee members and some key civil society actors to support the ADF-15 process</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Engage Media professionals (journalists, producers, animators, influencers ...) to produce; broadcast/publish articles, files, debates, testimonials likely to influence decision-makers to support the ADF-15 process.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Inform and sensitize international and African civil society organizations on the development impact of the African Development Fund, the Bank’s concessional financing window of low income Regional Member Countries (RMCs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Civil society organizations participate in the main phases of ADF-15 process</td>
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**Session 3: Committee’s role in the AfDB Civil Society Forum 2019**

During this session, the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division team shared information on the preparations towards the 2019 Civil Society Forum, whose theme was on "Strengthening Regional Integration for Africa's Economic Prosperity".

The Forum has been identified as a crucial platform where Civil Society from across the continent are able to connect among themselves and with the Bank, to advocate for development issues and voice the priorities of citizens to inform more impactful policies and projects. This theme of regional integration has been discussed and Committee members overwhelmingly agreed on the importance of the topic for Africa’s development agenda. They highlighted that it is a priority for civil society across the continent. In their respective regions and sector of expertise, they have been pressing for an Africa that trades, connects with itself. They emphasized that civil society has been at the forefront of regional integration, leveraging on their extensive network, convening power and
technological means. They expressed the importance of shaping the topic so that it resonates with the priorities of the population for greater inputs and ownership from civil society.

**Conclusion**

The second Statutory Meeting was a major success. It served as an opportunity to prepare the 10th anniversary of the Civil Society Forum and the advocacy and social mobilization in support to the ADF-15.

Throughout the meeting, committee members engaged in strategic and operational discussions with their counterparts representing different Departments of the Bank, on shaping the agenda of their mandate. During the different sessions, committee members explored their role in advocating and voicing the priorities of African citizens in the Bank’s work, specifically in the country strategy papers and the Bank’s strategies.

The progresses made so far are encouraging at countries and regional level. The guidelines for mainstreaming civil society in the operations and projects are yet to enhance this dynamic.

The civil society engagement in support to the ADF-15 replenishment will consist in mobilizing spokespersons (leaders representing communities) who will pitch for the replenishment and an official statement to be adopted by the Forum’s participants.

A third statutory meeting of the committee will be organized end of 2019 to assess the progress so far and address the remaining challenges.

**Annex**
Annex 1: List of AfDB-Civil Society Committee Members

- **Ms. Jennifer Blanke**, Chair of the Committee and Vice President, AfDB Agriculture, Human and Social Development Complex
- **Ms. Vanessa Mounigar**, Director, AfDB Gender, Women and Civil Society Department
- **Mr. Sékou Touré**, Director, Compliance Review and Mediation Unit (BCRM)
  - Alternate: **Mr. Birima Fall**, Senior Communication and Outreach Officer
- **Ms. Oley Dibba-Wadda**, Director, Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department (AHHD)
  - Alternate: **Ms. Aissatou Ba-Okotie**, Chief Business Coordinator
- **Mr. Alan Bacarese**, Director, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (PIAC)
  - Alternate: **Ms. Florence Freda Dennis**, Division Manager PIAC1
- **Mr. Martin Fregene**, Director, Agriculture and Agro-Industry Department (AHAI)
  - Alternate: **Mr. Ken John**, Coordinator Special Initiatives
- **Ms. Evon Wanishi**, Chief Records Management, Classification & Archives Officer (DAI)
  - Alternate: **Mr. Daan Boom**, Consultant
- **Ms. Soumare Salimata**, Senior Natural Resources Governance Officer (ECNR)
- **Mr. Koben Hanson**, Principal Evaluation Capacity Development Officer (IDEV)
- **Ms. Zéneb Touré**, Secretariat of Committee and Division Manager, Manager, Civil Society and Social Innovation
- **Mr. Augustine B. Njamnshi**, Pan-African Energy Sector CSO Representative, Vice-Chair of the committee
- **Ms. Fatma Ben Rejeb**, Pan-African Agriculture Sector CSO Representative
- **Mr. Ahmed Chehbouni**, North Africa CSO Representative
- **Mr. Misganaw Eticha Dubie**, East African CSO Representative
- **Ms. Laura Nyirinkindi**, East African CSO Representative
- **Ms. Mantopi Martina de Porres Lebofa**, Southern Africa CSO Representative
- **Mr. Felix Lombe**, Southern Africa CSO Representative
- **Ms. Nana Asantewa Afadzinu**, West Africa CSO Representative
- **Ms. Hélène Gnosaha**, West Africa CSO Representative
- **Mr. Boniface NZONIPOUA**, Central Africa CSO representative

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Annex 2: Programme of the meeting

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1 This is the list of the Committee members to date
## AfDB – CIVIL SOCIETY COMMITTEE - SECOND STATUTORY MEETING 2019

**Monday, 6 May 2019**

### AGENDA

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| 9:00 – 9:30 | Welcoming and Opening Remarks | **Speakers:**
  - Ms. Vanessa Moun gar, Director Gender, Women and Civil Society Department
  - Augustine B. Njamnshi, CSO Vice-Chair
  - Ms. Jennifer Blanke, Vice-President Agriculture, Human and Social Development Complex & Chair of the Committee |

### Session 1. UPDATE ON ONGOING PROCESESS

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| 9:30 – 10:30 | Open discussions | - Update on the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division, Ms. Zéneb Touré, **Manager Civil Society Division**
  - Update from CSO members of the committee: Communication & outreach strategies/initiatives, **Members of the Committee** |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee Break | |

### Session 2: SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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| 10:45 – 12:45 | Focus on ADF-15 Replenishment | - Update on the ADF-15, FIRM
  - Civil society social mobilization strategy, AHGC2
  - Inputs on the Civil Society Official Statement in support to the ADF-15 |

### CONCLUSION AND CLOSING REMARKS

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| 12:45 – 13:00 | Next Steps, Zéneb Touré, Manager Civil Society and Social Innovation Division & Secretariat of the Committee | **Closing Remarks**
  - Ms. Vanessa Moun gar, Director Gender, Women and Civil Society Department
  - Augustine B. Njamnshi, CSO Vice-Chair
  - Ms. Jennifer Blanke, Vice-President Agriculture, Human and Social Development Complex & Chair of the Committee |
| 13H00 | Photos and Lunch | |
Annex 3: Some pictures