Reform or Regress? From the World Bank’s Evolution Roadmap to the Bridgetown Agenda

Proposed Date and time: 30th March 2023, 16:00 CET/11:00 Barbados time/10:00 Jamaica time

The World Bank’s specific mandate of eradicating extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity and its failure to achieve this mandate, together with the continuous undermining/denial of the climate challenges, have been at the heart of civil society proposals calling for its reform. The global context of perpetual crises including the ongoing pandemic, escalating external debt, war in Ukraine, inflation, climate change and geopolitical upheaval, and deepening processes of financialisation necessitate a new vision for the World Bank. Instead, the institutional response to the context has focused on the need to increase private sector-led financing for global south countries, including the evolving consensus on the Bridgetown agenda and the French presidency proposal for a New Financial Pact.

This panel will explore to what extent the World Bank’s recent ‘Evolution Roadmap’ and ‘Bridgetown Agenda’ proposals respond to the needs for international financial architecture reform, specifically addressing the increasing focus on climate as a public good and the needs to close the climate finance gap. Considering the rationale for the G7 push for MDB reform and the hasty nomination of the World Bank’s new President in March 2023, the panel will discuss the impetus for change in the World Bank’s development model and international financial architecture governance reform.

Proposed Structure

The webinar aims to be a ‘fireside chat’ between the two main speakers to allow for a conversational discussion from the policy and civil society perspective. After a short introduction and presentation by Eurodad, the speakers will take the floor, followed by a Q and A from the audience. The webinar will last for 90 minutes.

- Welcome & housekeeping rules (5 mins)
- Introduction and Presentation (10 mins)
  - Eurodad
- Fireside chat (40 mins): Three questions will be posed to each speaker who will provide their critical perspectives as an answer to each question. Speakers are invited to engage with each other’s responses and to build upon previous answers, so it is less of a speech and more of a back and forth chat between speakers.
○ Speaker: Mariama Williams (TBC)
○ Speaker: Avinash Persaud (TBC)

- Q&A (30 minutes)
  ○ Facilitated by Rebecca Thissen (CNCD 11.11.11)
- Closing session and thank yous (5 mins)

Target Participants:

This webinar is aimed at empowering civil society organisations to better understand some of the key issues related to World Bank reform and the emerging policy proposals including the Bridgetown agenda and the French presidency proposal for a New Financial Pact. The webinar will serve as a ground for policy discussions taking place in the World Bank- CSO Annual Spring Meetings.

Co-Sponsors:

Eurodad, Bretton Woods Project, Debt Justice, Latindadd, CNCD 11.11.11, Christian Aid, Feminist Action Nexus

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