



## Taking Communities of Practice (CoPs) Global

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# Taking Communities of Practice (CoPs) Global Session Brief

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Communities of Practice are considered to be groups of professionals with common vested interests who learn from each other through regular interaction. As a global knowledge broker, the World Bank facilitates the regular interaction of country program teams and, in doing so, supports the sharing of practical knowledge stemming from program experience. In turn, this experiential knowledge can then be used to shape policy, or the design or evolution of a program.

Presently, there are regional Social Protection and Labor CoPs operating in Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa regions.

This session brought together members of these four CoPs to share the following:

1. Examples of how members of a CoP can influence policymakers and practitioners on the design of their policies and programs, and the impacts of these interactions.
2. The experience of knowledge transfer between regional communities of practice. In particular, participants learned about the exchanges between the CoPs in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. An exploration of how the World Bank can better facilitate cross-CoPs exchanges.

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Panelists from each of the regional communities of practice related the influence of their interactions on the development of policies and programs in their respective countries. All found their CoPs to be extremely valuable in not only enabling them to learn from their regional neighbors, but also in helping to consolidate social protection policies within a coherent framework in their own countries, and set the policy agenda. In all cases, the panelists stressed the need for the CoP members to drive the process (agenda, topics and objectives) and looked to the World Bank for facilitation. For example, the Bank brought the AFR CoP together with their Brazilian counterparts in Fortaleza the week prior to the Forum to learn about the Brazilian social protection system in what turned out to be an inspiring experience for all involved. It was noted, however, that the needed Bank support for these CoPs must be sustainable over the long term. Finally, the participants were left to consider: 1) how to manage the size of a potential global social protection and labor CoP, and 2) if there was a way to implement a permanent, well-moderated electronic platform to host CoP discussions in a sustainable fashion?