



World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV)
Consultation Meeting with Civil Society
Feedback Summary

Date: 05/30/2019, 9:30 pm to 12:00 am
Location: Tunis, Tunisia
Audience: CSOs

Overview and Key Issues Discussed: Olivier Lavinal (FCV Group), along with Sadok Ayari (ECR), welcomed the participants present in Tunis for this evening consultation. Olivier presented the FCV strategy concept. Participants were then invited to ask questions and to express their views. For purposes of conciseness, the following summary highlights comments and recommendations that were provided by individual representatives.

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders
1. Overall
Participants expressed their support for WBG’s willingness to engage in a discussion on FCV strategy, noting the need to adapt to the specific country challenges and underlying the importance of governance and consensus-building measures. Participants highlighted issues related to the rule of law, access to information, youth inclusion and the fight against exclusion as key drivers of resilience. All agreed that the work with local actors was critical to inform WBG programming as it was at the basis of social cohesion. Overall, participants were supportive of the proposed four areas of engagement proposed in the Concept Note but focused mostly on the people-centric approach with a strengthened approach on economic and social justice. Participants called for a bolder stance from the WBG on issues such as justice, social and economic inclusion and partnership with civil society.
2. Theme: How can the WBG Strategy for FCV apply to Tunisia
Participants were initially skeptical as to how the FCV Strategy is applicable to Tunisia. Tunisia does not fit the classic definition of an FCV. As the discussion unfolded, participants identified areas of fragility that should focus the attention of leaders, stakeholders and the international community at large. The primary angle was related to the rule of law: one system that would anchor pluralism and guarantee more inclusion and better institutions. Participants recognized that there is a purpose for establishing a specific “countries at risk” category because of deep institutional and social fragility. The fight against corruption was prioritized as the main task ahead for the civil society as more economic and social inclusion would allow for a stronger sense of belonging and equality. Participants agreed on the importance of trust and institution-building as the main path for Tunisia to shift away from fragility into sustainable growth.
3. Theme: Access to information as essential to improved governance
Participants insisted on the importance of access to information. Critically, the focus was put on the implementation as the renewed constitutional/legal framework is solid. Participants were driven by

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders
<p>the need to do more and more effectively and engaged on the centrality of well-functioning institutions to make a difference. While the overall framework has much improved over the recent years, implementing reforms has proven much more sensitive and difficult. Ultimately, this should prove useful for social norms to adapt to new realities and for Tunisia to put itself on a new trajectory for sustainable growth.</p>
<p>4. Theme: Focus on the most vulnerable: small farmers, women and youth</p>
<p>Participants outlined the importance of focusing on the most vulnerable populations. While they welcomed the people-centric approach, they called for more granularity in terms of how to assist the most vulnerable – small farmers, women and youth. Some participants identified that it was the result of the weakening of traditional social structures/solidarities (in the face of growing globalization) and the limited access to financing. To them, the state is crowding out financing for productive sectors whereas it should invest more strategically to make way for the productive sectors (agriculture; tourism). This is becoming ever more critical as climate change is taking a toll on natural assets and the economic and social ecosystem.</p>
<p>5. Theme: The FCV Strategy should focus on grievances and exclusion</p>
<p>The FCV Strategy cannot promote economic and social inclusion without laying out a clear value proposition on how to address grievances and exclusion – which are at the core of FCV issues in Tunisia. Participants emphasized the imperative to focus on inequalities of all sorts, including vertical and regional inequalities. This is key in terms of individual self-esteem and inclusive growth. In line with the concept of ‘relative deprivation’, the failed aspirations of the middle-class, youth, and other vulnerable segments of the society generate frustration, and can translate into violence. It questions the nature of the social contract and the need for tax justice, the establishment of social protection systems, and raises the issue of fair burden-sharing. Participants encouraged the WBG to do more on social and economic justice.</p>

Prepared by: Olivier Lavinal, FCV Group, olavinal@worldbank.org

List of Participants:

First name	Last Name	Organization
CSO Reprerentatives		
Aly	Mhenni	Civil Society Activist
Amor	Slama	SYNAGRI
Fatène	Ben Hamza	Columbia SIPA
Intissar	Kherigi	Jasmine Foundation
Mustapaha	Kammoun	Fanni Raghman Ani
Nabil	Hamada	Observatoire du sud et du sahel
Nesrine	Aouinti	Afkar
Ratiba	Cherif	FHI 360
Zied	Boussen	Pandora
From the World Bank		
Maroua	Lassoued	
Sadok	Ayari	