

## **Update on TM CEN process:**

The World Bank Group team represented by various Global Practices and IFC held in-country consultations on the Country Engagement Strategy during the period of May 11-15, 2015. The team met with a wide range of stakeholders, including the main partners from the Government agencies, the donor community, civil society and private sector to collect feedback, comments and suggestions on the proposed areas of activities under the CEN.

On May 11, the scope of the proposed program was presented to the representatives of government ministries and agencies in order to: (i) confirm counterparts' interest in the areas identified for collaboration; (ii) discuss details of the proposed program; (iii) discuss possible sequencing, phasing and pacing of the proposed program of activities. Following discussions in working groups representing four main areas of the CEN, the participants reported on mutual understanding of what could constitute a core of the next program of collaboration between the WBG and the Government of Turkmenistan.

During May 12-15, 2015 the consultations were held with representatives of civil society, the private sector, bilateral and multilateral development partners, and UN agencies. In general, stakeholders expressed their appreciation to the WBG for continuing engagement with Turkmenistan, which complements the activities of different development partners (DPs). The proposed areas of engagement were broadly endorsed by the stakeholders. The WBG was requested to: (i) continue close cooperation with DPs during preparation and implementation of the CEN to ensure complementarity and help avoiding duplication of activities; (ii) develop and implement a communications strategy to keep all key stakeholders regularly informed on the CEN implementation; (iii) explore options to bring CSOs to support strategy implementation, including through their participation in relevant training and capacity building activities.

It has been confirmed that the CEN will focus on facilitating transfer of global knowledge and expertise to Turkmenistan in support of reforms required to integrate the country with global economy and support its transition to market-based economy mainly through reimbursable advisory assistance. The proposed program will deepen ongoing collaboration in areas included in current program and broaden it into selected new areas critical to increased competitiveness. Specifically, the proposed areas of engagement would include: i) Improving Data for Policy Making; ii) Financial Sector Modernization; iii) Private Sector Participation & Building Skills for Innovation and iv) Managing Natural Resources Efficiently.

Based on the outcomes of the consultations the WBG team will prepare detailed proposals (scope of work) for specific activities in each of the four areas identified, which will be shared with the Government for discussions and processing. The Bank will coordinate closely with other development partners active in Turkmenistan (especially ADB, EBRD, IMF and the UN system) to ensure that the proposed WBG program under the CEN and their ongoing activities are complementary, thereby enhancing the potential development impact of both.

Comments regarding the proposed areas of cooperation under the new CEN document are welcome by June 10, 2015 at [tm\\_isn@worldbank.org](mailto:tm_isn@worldbank.org)