

A Refreshed WBG Strategy for Engaging in FCV Settings

Summary | Joint Session with EU+ Partners Convened by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels

May 9, 2025

The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened a full-day workshop dedicated to the World Bank's FCV Strategy, with participation from EU+ countries and international organizations such as the G7+, OECD, and the European Commission.

Participants:

Academia:

- UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles, UGent

Belgium:

- FPS Foreign Affairs, DGD
- Enabel (Belgian Development Agency)
- FPS Finance – Treasury – International Relations

Denmark:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

European Union:

- DG ECHO (European Commission), European External Action Service

Germany:

- BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
- GIZ
- KfW Development Bank

International Organizations:

- G7+ Secretariat
- OECD/INCAF Secretariat
- ODI

Ireland:

- Department of Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NGOs:

- CARE International

Norway:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Norad (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation)

Spain:

- AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation)

Switzerland:

- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

United Kingdom:

- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

Key Takeaways:

- **Strategic direction and operational effectiveness:** Participants emphasized the need for a clear and actionable implementation plan for the new strategy, with strong buy-in across all parts of the World Bank Group. They highlighted the importance of maintaining a continued presence in FCV settings and ensuring operational effectiveness. Retaining and attracting qualified staff for FCV operations was underscored, with suggestions for new operating principles and HR policies. The development of robust results frameworks was also discussed.
- **Partnerships and collaboration:** Participants called for future Bank partnerships to prioritize non-transactional cooperation and to strengthen collaboration with UN agencies, civil society, think tanks, and the private sector. Emphasis was placed on using country platforms for prevention and coordination to facilitate dialogue and risk mitigation. Enhanced cooperation with international partners at the country level was encouraged, along with support for deepening partnerships through the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus approach.
- **Private sector:** The private sector's role in promoting resilience and creating sustainable job opportunities in FCV contexts was recognized as vital. Participants suggested simplifying procurement procedures, enabling greater operational flexibility, mobilizing capital, and supporting private-sector development.

- **Policy, governance, and political economy:** The World Bank was urged to maintain its non-political development mandate while operating in highly political environments. Participants stressed the need for context-specific, long-term engagement strategies and advised against providing budget support where risks are high. Greater integration of civil society and political dialogue was also emphasized.
- **Measurement and analytics:** Participants highlighted the need to strengthen tools for assessing impact and to share risk and resilience data with partners.
- **Thematic priorities:** There was a call to focus on migration, forced displacement, gender equality, and capacity building. Lessons learned from successful approaches were highlighted. It was also suggested that the Bank's engagement extend beyond IDA contexts to include middle-income countries facing FCV challenges.