



**IFC Sustainability Framework Update  
Stakeholder Consultation Framework  
For Public Disclosure**

April 2025

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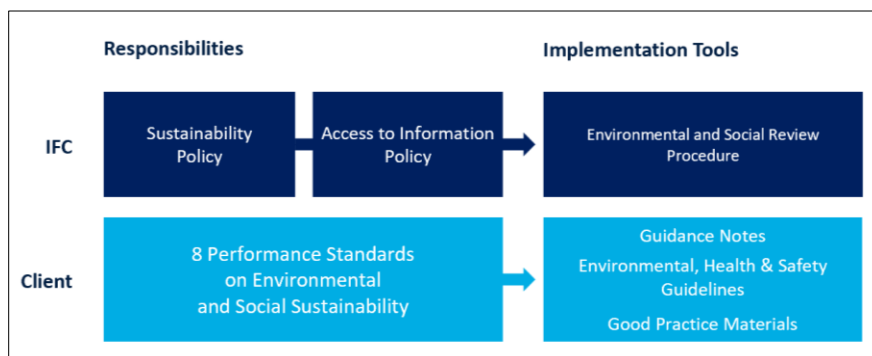
## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

CODE	Committee on Development Effectiveness
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DFI	Development Finance Institution
E&S	Environmental and Social
IFC	International Finance Corporation
MDBs	Multilateral Development Banks
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
PSs	IFC Performance Standards
UN	United Nations
WBG	World Bank Group

## Introduction and Overview

1. The Sustainability Framework of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), adopted in 2006, reflected a new architecture for environmental and social (E&S) policies and standards that clearly delineated the respective roles and responsibilities of IFC and its clients. The Policy on Environmental and Social Sustainability (referred to as the Sustainability Policy in this document) applied to IFC, while the Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability (referred to as the Performance Standards, or PSs, in this document) outlined the requirements of clients at the project-level. Guidance Notes, which offer guidance on PSs requirements and on good sustainability practices to improve project performance, were added to the framework in 2007.

2. The Sustainability Framework was updated by IFC in 2012 to reflect both the evolving nature of E&S issues and developments in IFC business models and markets. Commitments in several areas were clarified or strengthened in the update to align with the Good International Industry Practice of the time. The Access to Information Policy, which outlines IFC's institutional information disclosure and transparency obligations, was also developed in 2012 to further complement the framework. Through the original development and subsequent update of its Sustainability Framework, IFC became the international standard setter with respect to E&S risk management for the private sector in emerging markets and developing economies. MIGA's Sustainability Framework consists of MIGA's Sustainability Policy and Performance Standards, which were adopted in October 2013, and MIGA's Access to Information Policy, adopted in December 2013.<sup>1</sup>



3. IFC and MIGA have worked continuously to strengthen and improve their E&S accountability. The Sustainability Framework is complemented by various implementation tools, including the Environmental and Social Review Procedure, the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines and several guidance notes. Since 2012, over 80 good practice publications and tools have been issued to provide guidance on the implementation of the PSs and IFC's approach to sustainability. Among peer Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), there has been increasing alignment over the last decade with the approach to E&S risk management and transparency set forth in IFC's 2012 Sustainability Framework. IFC has also enhanced its E&S Policy and Risk Department and deployed additional frontline E&S operational expertise in its regional operations.

4. As it tackles increasingly complex and emerging E&S issues, IFC is now embarking on a comprehensive process to update its 2012 Sustainability Framework. The update will provide IFC and MIGA with an opportunity to develop and adopt a private sector E&S policy framework reflecting a fit-for-

<sup>1</sup> MIGA's Sustainability Policy, Performance Standards and Access to Information Policy closely resemble the structure, content and substance of IFC's Sustainability Framework, with adjustments to reflect MIGA's different business model. MIGA Performance Standards are substantially the same as IFC PSs.

purpose approach commensurate with the scale and complexity of their financial products and portfolio, capable of addressing complex emerging E&S risks and global challenges.

5. MIGA will work closely with IFC in the review and update of the Sustainability Framework as MIGA's 2013 Sustainability Framework is materially aligned with IFC's 2012 Sustainability Framework with some variations to account for MIGA's distinct business model and products. As part of the update, IFC and MIGA, in collaboration with the World Bank, will explore further harmonization by moving towards a One World Bank Group E&S approach.

6. Engaging with stakeholders is an integral component of the update, and this framework outlines the process for consultation.

## **Stakeholder Consultation Framework**

### **1.1 Objectives**

7. The Stakeholder Consultation Framework provides a structured approach for engaging stakeholders during the process of updating the Sustainability Framework and describes the channels and platforms through which communication with stakeholders will take place.

8. It seeks to provide a platform for inclusive, transparent, and systematic dialogue and input. By following this structured framework, the aim is to develop an updated Sustainability Framework that is comprehensive, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse perspectives of the stakeholders involved. MIGA will participate in the stakeholder engagement alongside IFC.

### **1.2 Approach to Stakeholder Consultation**

9. A structured, phased approach to stakeholder consultation, consistent with the [World Bank Group Consultation Guidelines](#) will be followed, and it will be designed to enable the participation of diverse stakeholders and the incorporation of various perspectives relevant to the update. The consultation framework is organized to build progressively on a series of steps to continuously integrate and address stakeholder feedback.

#### ***1.2A Phase I: Dialogue Phase (9-12 months)***

10. In line with international good practice, to prepare for public consultations on the Sustainability Framework, two initial exercises will be conducted in which external input will be sought:

- a.* Planning for public consultations; and
- b.* Targeted technical sessions on policy issues.

11. **Planning for Public Consultations:** This exercise focuses on establishing the foundation and approach for engagement and reaching out to stakeholders representing various groups, including civil society organizations (CSOs), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and think tanks, labor union organizations and Indigenous Peoples platforms. The objective is to gather broad and diverse inputs on the overall consultation process proposed, as well as any additional issues for consideration during the update.

12. A series of sessions will be convened to facilitate in-depth discussions and gather feedback from stakeholders. In advance of these by invitation only sessions, participants will be provided with relevant

background information, a worksheet and a list of questions that will help structure, inform and guide the engagement sessions as well as gather feedback on how to engage most effectively in Phase II.

13. This engagement will inform and refine the consultation approach that will be established in a Stakeholder Consultation Plan, including the definition of methods of engagement, stakeholder mapping, disclosure of documentation, format for providing inputs and feedback, and for presentation of revisions.

14. **Targeted Technical Sessions:** The second exercise at this stage focuses on gathering input, insights and perspectives on specific thematic E&S and transparency issues with subject matter experts, including IFC and MIGA clients, academia, industry experts, practitioner networks, communities of practice, development finance institutions (DFIs) and financiers, and civil society organizations (CSOs). These by invitation only sessions, both virtual and in-person, will help inform the framework with respect to potential risks, opportunities, and technically sound, up-to-date mitigation strategies associated with specialized topics. This effort will be complemented by an internal engagement process within IFC and MIGA and across the World Bank Group.

15. At the end of Phase I, the following will be disclosed:

- a. A summary of outcomes from Phase I; and
- b. A Stakeholder Consultation Plan with further detail on the implementation of Phase II.

#### ***1.2B Phase II: Public Consultation Phase (12-24 months)***

16. A first draft of the updated Sustainability Framework will be produced at the start of Phase II, which will focus on publishing and disseminating the draft, conducting consultation sessions and receiving feedback and input. The engagements with stakeholders will continue through multiple channels and formats to expand the dialogue initiated in Phase I. The Sustainability Framework Update consultation portal will describe the engagement platforms, methods for providing stakeholder feedback, and locations, dates, and format of engagements.

17. To foster a participatory, inclusive and transparent process, two rounds of consultation will be conducted during Phase II, providing ample opportunity to stakeholders to review the materials and share comments, feedback and suggestions. The timeframe for each round of consultation will be defined in the Stakeholder Consultation Plan, developed with input from Phase I.

18. **Consultation on First Draft of the Updated Sustainability Framework.** The draft for review and consultation will be released after it has been endorsed by the WBG's Committee on Development Effectiveness (CODE). It is anticipated that the package will include the first drafts of each element of the updated Sustainability Framework:

- a. Policy on Environmental and Social Sustainability,
- b. Access to Information Policy, and
- c. Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability.

19. Input and feedback on the draft framework will be sought using different channels, including consultation sessions in different regions, the Sustainability Framework Update consultation portal and via email. Additional channels will be explored as appropriate.

20. Consultations will be organized for the different components of the Sustainability Framework and more targeted consultation sessions may be organized for specific thematic and technical issues. Detailed information regarding the consultations, including format, dates, and issues to be discussed will be announced on the Sustainability Framework Update consultation portal.

21. It is anticipated that at least two open house sessions will be hosted during Phase II at IFC headquarters, providing a central platform for initial feedback and discussions. Additionally, at least one consultation session in each selected IFC regional hub office will be hosted, tailored to consult on region-specific issues, concerns and perspectives. Consultations are expected to be professionally facilitated by a third-party consultancy. Regional sessions will be carried out with interpretation offered in local languages.

22. Sessions with culturally appropriate approaches will be hosted to include the unique perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and Affected Communities, ensuring their voices are prominently heard and considered for integration into the framework.

23. **Consultation on the Revised Draft of the Sustainability Framework.** Following past practice, a revised draft of the Sustainability Framework will be published for public comments. The revised documents will be marked to identify the changes from the first draft. The purpose of this round of consultation will be to receive targeted and concise comments on the revised draft of the Sustainability Framework prior to submitting the updated framework for Board approval. The revised draft will include each of the component parts of the Sustainability Framework, along with a feedback matrix consolidating the comments received during the first round of consultations.

24. In addition to the website and online channels, at least two sessions will be held in English, and at least one session in each of the WBG official languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish). This approach aims at maximizing accessibility and engagement, allowing for broader participation and opportunities to provide feedback from stakeholders worldwide.

### 1.3 Stakeholder Groups

25. We are dedicated to fostering a transparent and inclusive consultation process as the updated Sustainability Framework is developed. Recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives, the institutions are committed to engaging actively and facilitating meaningful dialogue and collaboration with a broad spectrum of stakeholders representing a variety of sectors, regions, users, professional profiles and interests.

26. External stakeholders may include: (a) multilateral development banks and development finance institutions; (b) IFC and MIGA clients; (c) CSOs and NGOs, including faith-based organizations; (d) labor union organizations; (e) industry associations; (f) Indigenous Peoples organizations; (g) project-affected communities; (h) financial sector partners; (i) United Nations agencies; (j) governments; (k) academia and think tanks; and (l) E&S practitioner networks, communities of practice, independent consultation and expert associations.

27. IFC and MIGA will also engage internally within their institutions, with the CAO and IEG, and with the World Bank. IFC and MIGA will engage with their Boards of Directors throughout the update process.

### 1.4 Consultation and Feedback Mechanisms

28. Diverse feedback mechanisms will be used to give opportunities to all stakeholders to provide inputs and understand how they have been received, including:

- a. Written input: Collected through the Sustainability Framework Update consultation portal, email, and other designated channels.
- b. Verbal input: Collected during meetings organized virtually and in person at headquarters and regional offices.
- c. Feedback collection: Obtained through structured forms, surveys, and open forums to ensure comprehensive input.
- d. Feedback mechanism: A summarized feedback matrix will be disclosed after the first round of consultations. The matrix will include comments without attribution.

29. English will be the primary language of the consultation process and documents will be disclosed in English, with supporting documentation (such as summary presentations) also provided in World Bank Group official languages. The final Board-approved Sustainability Framework will be translated and made available in all World Bank Group official languages.

### **1.5 Expected Timeline**

30. Phase I (Dialogue Phase), focusing on targeted listening sessions, dialogue about the process and drafting of the first draft of the updated framework, is expected to last approximately 9-12 months, from April 2025 to March 2026.

31. Phase II (Public Consultation Phase), which comprises two rounds of consultation, feedback incorporation, and finalization of the updated Sustainability Framework, is expected to last approximately 12-24 months, anticipated to begin in 2026.

32. Following Phase II, to bring the consultations to a close, the final package of the documents will be disclosed to stakeholders after Board approval.