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Understanding the African Development Bank Group A guide for Civil Society Organizations and Communities



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

What is the African Development Bank Group?

www.afdb.org/

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is the first development finance institution in Africa. To that end, it's crucial for Civil Society Organizations working with local communities and active on Sustainable Development issues, to know about the AfDB so that to be able to monitor its operations and hold the institution accountable when its investments threatens the environment and /or local communities. The African Development Bank Group have been settled in 1964. It has 82 members, 54 Regional Country Members (African States) and 28 non-Regional Country Members (non-African States).

Component and Structure: The AfDB Group includes the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF).

The Board of Governors is the supreme body of the bank where a Governor seats (The Minister of Finance of the country member) and his substitute.

Then comes the Board of Directors where Executive Directors seat, most of the time former Ministers in their countries. He has the responsibility to conduct the general operations of the Bank and has the duty to perform all the AfDB's powers, except those exclusively reserved to the Board of Governors.

Advice 1: This is one of the core decision-making of the AfDB, where all operations are approved! It is therefore important to know and build relationship and alliances with the Executive Directors.

The AfDB President is elected by the Board of Governors for a five-year term, renewable once.

He is in charge of the daily management of the bank, under the direction of the Board of Directors, with the support of a Chief Economist and 5 Vice-Presidents.

Finally, the activities of the AfDB Group are oversighted by an Audit Department, an Independent Evaluation Department and an Internal Administrative Tribunal.

What are the AfDB's human rights commitments?

Following its mandate as described in Article 1 of the Bank's Agreement and Article 2 of the Fund's Agreement, the provisions of Article 38 of the Bank's Agreement and Article 21 of the Fund's Agreement, the AfDB considers economic and social rights as an integral part of human rights and therefore affirms that it respects the principles and values of human rights as set out in the United Nations Charter and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

These principles are among those that guided the development of the Integrated Safeguards System. The AfDB encourages country members to abide by international human rights standards, norms and good practices, based on their commitments under international human rights treaties and the African Charter on Human and people's Rights.

Where is the African Development Bank Group?

The head quarter of the AfDB Group is in Abidjan (Ivory Coast). It has 34 offices in its Regional Country Members (some offices covering several countries), 2 resource centers in Nairobi (Kenya) and Pretoria (South Africa) and an external office in Tokyo (Japan).

Since 2011, the institution has been implementing a decentralization road map to bring decision-making closer to the beneficiaries.

Advice 2: This calls for much more vigilance from civil society organizations because decision making is decentralized also at country level.

Why the African Development Bank was created?

The essential purpose of AfDB is to contribute to the economic development and social progress of African countries, individually and collectively.

<https://www.afdb.org/fr/propos/mission-et-strategie>

Who controls the African Development Bank Group?

As of November 30, 2018, the Regional Country Members (African States) held 58.897% of the voting power at the AfDB, against 41.103% for the Non-Regional Country Members (non-African States).

Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Algeria and Ivory Coast are the most influential respectively at the Board of Directors within the Regional Country Members.

The United States, Japan, Germany, Canada and France have more voting power respectively within the Non-Regional Country Members.

Access to resources of the African Development Bank Group?

Eligibility of Regional Country Members to the resources of the different entities of the AfDB depends on their economic development grows.

The African Development Bank Window (AfDB): 20 Regional Country Members with the highest GNP;

African Development Fund window (ADF): 24 other Regional Country Members with average GNP;

Mixed window: 3 Regional Country Members (Senegal, Cameroon, Tanzania) with an intermediate GNP ;

In transition to window ADF: 7 other Regional Country Members (Chad, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Djibouti, Lesotho, Mauritania, São Tomé & Príncipe).

How does the African Development Bank Group operate?

The 10 years Strategy Paper: Which sets the main directions of the bank over the next 10 years

Country Strategy Paper (CSP): Which set the 5 years' projects at country level.

Advice 3 : The Country Strategy Paper must be done in a participatory way with CSO participation and is available at the AfDB offices and on the Bank's website. Any civil society organization can request for its participation in its development process.

Top 5 Priorities for Africa: This is the new agenda of the AfDB since 2015, Light up and power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialize Africa, Integrate Africa, Improve the quality life of people in Africa.

Why CSOs need to be interested in AfDB

- The AfDB is a public institution;
- The AfDB belongs to the states, so to the African people;
- The AfDB has a development mission, it has made commitments, so it should be accountable!
- The AfDB has Transparency and Accountability Policies:

Entry Points for Civil Society Organizations!

- Disclosure and Access to Information Policy
- CSO Engagement Framework
- Integrated Social and Environmental Safeguards System
- Independent Review Mechanism
- Integrity and Anti-Corruption Policy

Advice 4: Any civil society organization wishing to engage with the **African Development Bank Group** should have knowledge of at least these 5 policies.

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