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## Main policy lines of international organisations, relevant for education councils

June - September 2010

### World Bank Education Strategy (2010-2020)

The World Bank is developing a new Education Strategy which will shape the overall direction of the Bank's work for the next decade.

During a consultation process, partners and stakeholders have the opportunity to discuss first-hand how the World Bank can improve its work in the education sector in the years to come. They are half-way through the process of developing the strategy and recently concluded the first phase of consultations in which we captured the views and experience of our stakeholders and partners in 26 countries.

In February 2010, [a concept note](#) was published for a first phase of consultation. In this concept note we read that 'a country's prospects for development depend on the quality of its people – the skill and creativity of its work force the capability of its leaders to govern and to manage its resources, and the ability of its adult generation to raise healthy and educated children. Education is the best investment in this quality.' And 'Education makes a legitimate claim on public money for at least two reasons. First, the Commission believes the social return probably exceeds the private return (...). Second (...) public spending on education is justified on the grounds of efficiency and equality of opportunity.'

Fundamental overarching questions will guide the strategy development, including:

- What are the most important challenges in the next decade for building knowledge and skills for life and work in different country contexts?
- How can the Bank help countries to achieve efficient, equitable and durable educational progress in different country contexts?
- What educational results should the Bank be accountable for in the next ten years, and how would we measure these achievements?

- How should the sector balance the need to be strategic and selective, given our limited resources, alongside the need to be responsive to client demands?
- What analytical and operational tools, staff capacity, and other resources are needed to implement strategic priorities?

The consultation process provided World Bank partners and stakeholders an opportunity to discuss first-hand how the World Bank can improve its work in the education sector in the years to come. The World Bank is now in the process of analyzing the input and feedback received and along with background technical work to inform the drafting of the new strategy.

The draft strategy will be developed over the next few months and was supposed to be posted online in August 2010 for an electronic comment period of about two months (September-October), along with a document outlining how the issues raised during the first phase of consultations were addressed in the drafting of the strategy paper. The strategy is scheduled for discussion by the World Bank Group Board of Executive Directors in January 2011 and will be published following approval.