

Assessing World Bank Progress on the GAC Strategy

The World Bank has undertaken a number of steps to implement the Governance and Anticorruption (GAC) Strategy. TI considers the manner in which such steps are taken to be as important as the steps themselves. The success of the GAC is highly dependent on country ownership and accountability of anti-corruption efforts. Country leadership should be ensured through a broad-based steering committee that includes executive and non-executive government representatives, private sector, civil society and donors for designing, implementing and reviewing the effectiveness of country level governance plans (CGACs). This would be the initiatives of the WB and other development agencies from staying in the technical realm disconnected and marginal from broader domestic reform efforts.

In the next year, TI will be looking to the WB to demonstrate its commitment to implement the GAC Strategy and pertinent recommendations of the Volcker Report and Action Plan resulting from the India DIR. TI recommends that the WB should engage in the following steps to implement its commitments.

I. Commitment to a GAC implementation roadmap

- The overall WB GAC is formulated in a transparent manner under the guidance of a broad-based advisory council.
- The WB GAC implementation plan reflects the urgency of the GAC objectives in terms of commitments on country coverage, resource allocations and monthly progress updates.

II. Support to country ownership and accountability

- CGAC roadmaps for all relevant countries are developed through country-level public consultations, overseen by broad-based steering committee and submitted to the legislature for approval.
- The WB aligns funding with existing Government-led efforts for strengthening legislative oversight, increasing citizen participation in sector policies and providing performance-based transfers to local governments.

III. Internal reforms to achieve GAC objectives

- Internal WB processes and transactions with client governments reflect basic principles of transparency, ownership and public accountability. E.g. Transparency of WB and Borrower Documents, including project implementation, audit, evaluation, and investigation documents.
- Management and staff incentives operationalize a culture of prevention, detection, and remediation and address the weaknesses identified in the India DIR.
- Governance and Accountability Action Plans (GAAPs) are introduced in all ongoing and forthcoming WB projects along with 3rd party monitoring