

## **Spring Meetings 2024 - Guide for CSOs**

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### What are the Annual and Spring Meetings?

The Annual and Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) each year bring together central bankers, ministers of finance and development, private sector executives, civil society representatives, and academics to discuss the state of the global economy and issues of international concern, such as the growth outlook, financial stability, and poverty reduction. The Meetings are the only gathering of its kind in the world and a unique forum for discussion on economic policymaking.

### What happens at the Annual and Spring Meetings?

The Annual Meetings of the [Boards of Governors](#) of the IMF and World Bank Group take place in October in Washington, DC, and every third year in a city of another member country. The Spring Meetings takes place in Washington, DC in April.

The Board of Governors consists of a high-level representative from each of the 190 member countries, typically the finance minister, central bank governor, or minister of development.

During the Meetings, the Governors participate in a plenary session and discuss the challenges for the global economy. They also decide on major policy issues related to the future work of the two organizations, which are subsequently implemented by their respective Executive Boards.

In addition, the IMF's [International Monetary and Financial Committee](#) (IMFC) and the [joint IMF-World Bank Development Committee](#) (DC) meet to discuss progress on the work of the two organizations.

The IMFC has 24 members drawn from the Board of Governors and oversees the work of the IMF. It focuses discussions on the global economy, developments in financial markets, as well as other pressing issues within the IMF's mandate. For its part, the DC advises the Board of Governors of the World Bank on critical development issues and financial resources required to promote economic development and poverty reduction in developing countries.

At the conclusion of these meetings, the IMFC and DC release statements that provide guidance to the Executive Boards of the two institutions. For a list of past statements, please see [IMFC](#) and [DC](#).

### [Past Annual and Spring Meetings](#)

### Who attends the Meetings?

Over 10,000 people have traditionally attended the Annual and Spring in person, with this number continuing to expand as the Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) is held in a hybrid format. Participants include the governors themselves and their alternates, as well as members of their delegations, observers from other intergovernmental organizations, such as the [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) (OECD), the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO), and representatives from financial institutions and bodies, such as the [Financial Stability Board](#) (FSB), as well as numerous [journalists](#), academics, and representatives of [civil society organizations](#).

## What events take place during the Meetings?

Several events take place on the side of the Annual and Spring Meetings, some of them are open to the general public and others are by invitation only.

- Country group meetings: Various country groups, such as the Group of Twenty (G-20), the Group of Twenty-Four (G-24), and the Commonwealth hold ministerial-level meetings ahead of or during the Annual and Spring Meetings. These meetings are by invitation.
- Civil Society Policy Forum: A Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) is also held during the Annual and Spring Meetings. The forum is the largest platform for CSOs to engage with the Fund and Bank on critical, time sensitive issues and areas of concern through a series of CSO-led sessions, Townhalls with the President and Managing Director, and a Roundtable with the Executive Directors of the World Bank. The sessions included in the CSPF are open to the public.
- High-Level events, seminars, and talks: The Program of Seminars is a premier global forum where leaders in policymaking, academia, civil society, private sector, and media, among others engage in public dialogue on the pressing global economic and financial issues of the day. In parallel, expert in-depth discussions take place as part of established talk series, such as the New Economy Forum, Analytical Corner, Capacity Development Talks, Governor Talks, and other forums. The High-Level seminars and Talks are open to the public.
- Press Conferences: The Managing Director of the IMF and the President of the World Bank, as well as senior officials from the institutions, hold press conferences on global and regional economic outlooks and other topical issues. The press Conferences are for journalists.

## Do I need to register to attend the Meetings?

Yes, all the participants who would like to attend the Spring and/or Annual Meetings must register. The registration process is online and free of charge.

## What is the Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF)?

The [CSPF](#), which takes place two times per year during the WBG and IMF Spring Meetings (April) and Annual Meetings (October), is a robust and well-established platform bringing together over 800 CSO representatives from all over the world for a weeklong forum for CSOs to dialogue and exchange views with World Bank Group and IMF staff, their peers, government delegations, and other stakeholders in an open and collaborative space. The CSPF is made up of approximately 30 sessions, selected from an open call for proposals by a CSO working group. It is held in the same venue as the Spring and Annual Meetings, in-person with hybrid components. Participants and speakers can participate in-person or virtually.

## Who can participate in the Forum?

**CSOs from all over the world can submit session proposals to be considered for the CSPF and engage in the discussion of events.** CSOs include non-governmental organizations,

community groups, labor unions, indigenous peoples' movements, faith-based organizations, professional associations, foundations, think tanks, charitable organizations, and other not-for-profit organizations. The CSPF sessions are open to the general public. Those willing to attend in-person must be registered in advance.

### **How are the CSPF sessions and speakers selected?**

The sessions are selected through a transparent process: the Bank and Fund launch an open Call for Proposals approximately four months before the CSPF; proposals are then reviewed by the World Bank and IMF to ensure they were submitted by an eligible organization, and reviewed and selected by a Working Group made up of [eight elected CSO representatives](#) from around the world. This is a very competitive process that strives to select the strongest, most impactful sessions.

The CSPF Working Group and CSO teams from the Bank and Fund, base selections on the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** Does the session discuss development topics that are a priority for civil society? How does this session engage with the IMF/Bank? Is the CSPF the best venue for the discussion?
- **Timeliness:** Is this a time-sensitive subject? Are there new reports or discussions that can be included? Can this session inform discussions at the Spring/Annual Meetings?
- **Partnership:** Does the session engage with various stakeholders, including regional organizations? Are CSOs from the global south included?
- **Strength:** Will this session be interesting for attendees? How are the organizers proposing to use their 90-minute slots? Is there anything particularly innovative? Is there a geographical and gender balance?

### **Do I need to register to attend the Civil Society policy Forum?**

The Civil Society Policy Forum is part of the Spring and Annual Meetings, therefore anyone interested in joining the Forum in-person will need to register to attend the Spring or Annual Meetings.

### **Where can I find the agenda of the Forum?**

The agenda of the Forum will be posted on the CSPF Event Page, as well as World Bank and IMF Spring Meeting pages closer to the dates of the Forum.