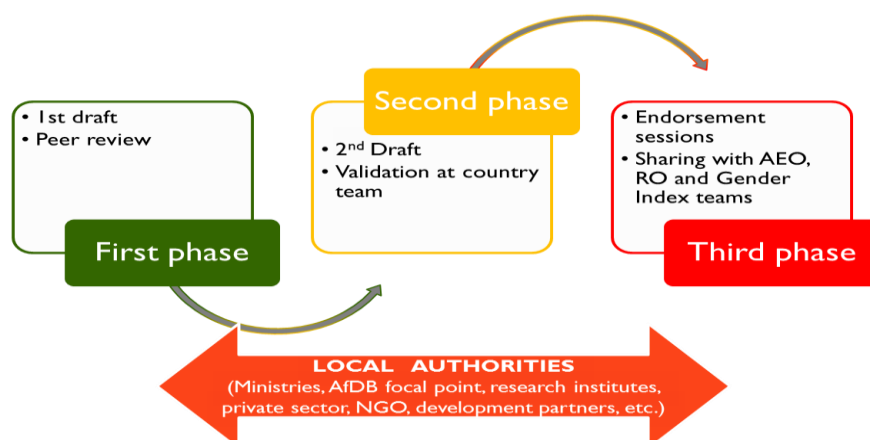


Guidelines for dialogue with local authorities on the CPIA

The Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) of the African Development Bank (AfDB) comprise or it is composed of three main phases:

- The first phase starts with the drafting of the CPIA country evaluations and concludes by the peer review provided by the Bank's sectors experts, independent consultants and FRMB.
- The objective of the second phase is to enable CPIA drafters to incorporate comments made by peer reviewers as well as information from additional own research and inputs from members of the country teams. The second phase's main output is the second CPIA country evaluation, validated by the country team.
- The third phase entails endorsements of all CPIA country evaluations and scores by Regional Departments and FRMB. In order to allow Bank teams in charge of the AEO, the Regional Operation (RO) Prioritization and Selection process and the Gender Index proceed with their respective exercises, FRMB shares both CPIA write up and scores for internal and agreed purposes only¹. Indeed, formal ADF eligible countries CPIA scores are only disclosed after the publication of PBA country allocations; generally end of Q1 year+1.

Figure 1: CPIA phases and outputs



The present guidelines provide guidance to regional departments and more specifically country economists/drafters on how to undertake consultations with the local authorities in view of ensuring ownership and getting relevant information from governments on their efforts to put in place good policies and efficient institutions.

¹ For the RO prioritization and selection exercise, only scores are shared.

Drafters are kindly invited to be aware and comply with the following rules when dialoguing with local authorities on the CPIA:

1. ***Consultation, not a validation exercise.*** Consulting local authorities is an integral part of the CPIA process. Drafters may consult local authorities at any moment of the CPIA process but in order to have substantial material for discussions, it is recommended to undertake such exercise during the second phase (see figure 1 above). It is important to note that consultation doesn't mean validation.
2. ***Targeted audience.*** AfDB focal points as well as representatives from key central (Ministries of Finance, Economy, etc.) and sector departments (Ministries of Education, Health, Trade, Infrastructure....) may be invited or consulted during the CPIA process. Key governments structures such as institutes, regulators (communication for instance) or special structures such as the single window for opening or closing a business. Civil society (NGO, associations...) and the private sector may be also consulted at the same forum or separately.
3. ***Nature of discussions.*** The purpose of the consultation is not to discuss the CPIA scores or the write up (evaluation). Indeed, authorities may be consulted to get feedback and updated information on policies and institutions and, last but not least, to ensure CPIA ownership from the national counterpart. Therefore, drafters should not share the CPIA country evaluations and/or scores with local authorities. It is important to note also that before the release of PBA country allocations, both CPIA “country evaluations (the write up)” and “scores” are for internal use only. Once the PBA allocations are released, CPIA scores for ADF eligible countries are disclosed for policy dialogue purposes, but also to allow other institutions to compute their own indices. The preparation of CPIA reports (continental and nationals) in the near future will contribute to enhance policy dialogue with regional member countries through the CPIA.
4. ***Support for discussions.*** For the purpose of the discussions/exchanges with local authorities, country economists/drafters are invited to produce information or technical notes/briefs summarizing the main progresses achieved over the last 12-18 months and identifying the key policies, law, regulations or procedures/measures adopted by the government as well as the main institutional reforms. Such material support should not propose scores and may have (preferable) a different outline as the CPIA questionnaire. The main purpose is to guide the discussions with local authorities and confirm the information collected as well as additional inputs that will complement the final CPIA draft. Main challenges and internal/external shocks that impede effective implementation of policies and institutions may also be identified. The use of material support for engaging discussions with local authorities is not mandatory.
5. ***The approach.*** We recommend three approaches for dialoguing with local authorities: i) half or full day meetings (that could take place in the field office) where all stakeholder will participate and provide information as per requested by the drafter; ii) bilateral consultations with one or more stakeholders, based for instance on the main five CPIA group of questions (clusters); and iii) a combination of the first two approaches.