



### ***DRAFT GPSA Forum 2018 Statement***

The **2018 GPSA Global Partners Forum** encouraged participants, a broad multi-stakeholder group representing civil society, academia, private and bilateral donors among others, to produce concrete recommendations linking the challenge of **closing the human capital gap** with the need to close another gap – an “**accountability gap**”, particularly in the sphere of public finance. These recommendations were aimed at the GPSA itself, at the Human Capital Project, the World Bank as a whole, as well as for the development community at large.

These “**Forum Challenge**” recommendations were put together into a draft **Forum Statement** that will be further developed with the GPSA Partners, using online discussion and a webinar.

Forum participants gave plaudits to the GPSA and its Forum partners (including the Human Capital Project) for the opportune choice of the theme, and for successfully **demonstrating a strong nexus between human capital, public finance and social accountability**. This recognition in itself is quite meaningful and was not taken for granted at the onset. The embrace of human capital by the GPSA Partnership confers a level of legitimacy and creates opportunities for action on multiple levels.

*This note summarizes the core feedback and recommendations received from participants, focusing primarily on those presented at the final interactive “listening panel”:*

1. **Human capital must be regarded as a vital investment**, one which should be preserved in times of economic downturn. International finance institutions and other standard setters have an important role in reframing human capital spending as an investment, and in protecting these.
2. **Investment in human capital must be closely tracked**, and the effectiveness of these investments, e.g. in quality of service, must be independently monitored.
3. **Governance and accountability must be strengthened for meaningful progress in human capital creation to be attained**. While progress has been made, for example, in access to information laws, much remains to be done in terms of institutionalizing accountability systems.
4. The need to **include and work with marginalized groups in the Human Capital Project** was perhaps the most salient participant recommendation. These recommendations include the active engagement of vulnerable populations, the adoption of strong gender perspectives, and the recognition of disparities across territories.
5. **The role of civil society organizations in building human capital** should be acknowledged, as they are committed to and often better equipped to reach the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, and can support the human capital project in a variety of roles, including independent scrutiny.



6. Beyond CSOs, the Human Capital Project should **invest in building a broad coalition of support** for its goals, to include actors such as the media, academia, the private sector, as well as independent audit institutions.
7. Particular emphasis should be placed on **mapping and creating support coalitions at the local level**, and working with these groups in an open manner. This is critical to the goal of shifting political incentives, as predicated by the World Development Report 2017
8. Considering the above, the issue of **the closing of civic space** is of particular and direct relevance to human capital; as such preserving civil space should be central to the mission of the World Bank, which has leverage and political capital to employ in sustaining dialogue between governments and its citizens.
9. **Peer learning among all stakeholders** involved will leverage the lessons learned and create opportunities for greater impact at scale.
10. **Instruments such as the GPSA are uniquely positioned to support many of the goals above.** The GPSA can play a role in brokering the relationship between citizen groups and governments, leveraging the World Bank's investments to promote human capital, act as a credible independent interlocutor, as well as collecting data, developing the evidence base and promoting peer learning among key stakeholders.