

WHO, WIPO, WTO Workshop on Innovation in, and Access to, COVID-19 Technologies:

Accessing and Using Information Resources for the Pandemic Response

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Priya Basu heads up the Secretariat of the Multilateral Leaders Taskforce on COVID-19 at the World Bank Group. In this capacity, she is responsible for strategic coordination among multilateral institutions, governments, and the private sector to advance the goals of the Task Force to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines and other essential health tools for developing countries by leveraging multilateral finance and trade solutions. Concurrently, Priya serves as Head, Operational Policy & Country Services and also leads the World Bank's engagement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in G7/G20 fora, coordinating across finance and health.

Since joining the Bank Group in 1998 through the Young Professionals program, Priya has held multiple technical and leadership positions. She brings a depth and breadth of experience in country operations, finance and resource mobilization, and a strategic understanding of the international development finance landscape. Priya has dedicated her career to developing and implementing innovative solutions to some of the most pressing development challenges of our time.

Most recently, she served as Head of Development Finance where she helped formulate IDA20's ambition and policy priorities on crisis preparedness and response. Prior to that, Priya served as the inaugural head of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), where she spearheaded the vision, strategy, and execution of this global initiative, delivering on an ambitious resource mobilization plan, securing over \$350 million from 14 countries for the initial rounds of program funding that mobilized \$2.6 billion for investments in women-owned and led businesses around the world.

In previous roles at the World Bank, Priya managed a \$21 billion portfolio of innovative, multi-donor trust funds, Financial Intermediary Funds and partnerships focused on addressing global commons, such as pandemic threats, climate change, food security and debt relief. Before that, she served as Lead Economist for the South Asia Region, where she and her team reshaped the Bank's finance and private sector engagement strategy for India and built up a multi-billion-dollar lending and advisory program, with a focus on financial inclusion, investment climate reforms, jobs, and growth.

Priya has also served as economist in the Bank's Europe and Central Asia Region, working on bank restructuring in Russia, and in East Asia, as a member of the Bank's financial sector restructuring program for Indonesia in the aftermath of the 1997 East Asian crisis. Prior to the World Bank, Priya worked in investment banking in London. She has also previously worked as an economist at the International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank in Manila, and UNCTAD and ILO in Geneva.

She is the author of three books, including *Creating Resilient Financial Regimes in Asia: Challenges and Policy Options* (Oxford University Press), *India's Financial Sector: Recent Reforms, Future Challenges* (Macmillan), and *Improving Access to Finance in India* (World Bank).

An Indian national, Priya holds a first-class B.A (Hons.) degree in economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, a B.A (Hons.)/M.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Merton College, Oxford University, U.K. and an M.Sc. and D.Phil. degrees in economics, also from Oxford University, U.K.