

Press Release

Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), named member of World Bank-IMF High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery and Growth

June 16, 2021

NEW DELHI: Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress, was named as a member of a High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) formed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in the face of the dual crisis posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.

Speaking on the immediate priorities for the HLAG, Ahluwalia said, "Climate change is at the top of the agenda this year in both developed and emerging market countries and the CoP 26 in November is expected to spell out what the international community needs to do. I hope the group can make a useful contribution to defining a workable strategy that takes account of the concerns of different participants."

On June 15, the World Bank Group and IMF announced that the aim of the HLAG on Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery and Growth is to "help secure a strong recovery and set a path for green, resilient, and inclusive development over the coming decade".

The group will be jointly led by Mari Pangestu, Managing Director for Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank; Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, Director, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, International Monetary Fund; and Lord Nicholas Stern of the London School of Economics. The HLAG brings together experts from research institutions, private sector and governments, as well as senior staff from the World Bank and IMF. The group will also include Gita Gopinath, Economic Counsellor and Director of the Research Department at the IMF; Homi Kharas, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution; Masood Ahmed, President, Center for Global Development; Carmen Reinhart, Vice President of Development Economics and World Bank Group Chief Economist, among other notable global experts.

Montek Singh Ahluwalia is an economist, civil servant, and has held a series of positions including Special Secretary to the Prime Minister; Commerce Secretary; Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs; Finance Secretary in the Ministry of Finance; Member of the Planning Commission and Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. In 2001, he was appointed as the first Director of the newly created Independent Evaluation Office of the International Monetary Fund. He joined CSEP, a New Delhi-based public policy research institution, in January 2021 to provide intellectual leadership and guidance to the centre's research activities and offer mentorship to the research staff.

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