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William F. Maloney is Chief Economist for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions in the World Bank Group. Previously he was Chief Economist for Trade and Competitiveness and Global Lead on Innovation and Productivity. Prior to the World Bank, he was Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (1990-1997) and then worked as Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist for Latin America until 2009. From 2009 to 2014, he was Lead Economist in the Development Economics Research Group; and, from 2011 to 2014, Maloney was Visiting Professor at the University of the Andes where he worked closely with the Colombian government on innovation and firm upgrading issues.

Maloney received his PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley (1990), his BA from the Harvard University (1981) and studied at the University of the Andes in Bogota, Colombia (1982-83). He has published on issues related to international trade and finance, developing country labour markets, and innovation and growth as well as publishing several flagship publications of the Latin American division of the World Bank, including Informality: Exit and Exclusion. Most recently, he published The innovation paradox: Developing Country Capabilities and the Unrealized Potential of Technological Catch-Up. In addition to publications in academic journals, he co-authored Natural Resources: Neither Curse nor Destiny and Lessons from NAFTA, Does What you Export Matter: In Search of Empirical Guidance for Industrial Policy.