

To:

Svetlana Nikitina

Chief Corporate Communications
New Development Bank
333 Lujiazui Ring Road
Pudong, Shanghai, 200120

c/c

Alexey Kosarev

Officer, Corporate Communications
New Development Bank

Dear Svetlana,

During the 2nd New Development Bank (NDB)-Civil Society Meeting, held in November 2018, at NDB's headquarters in Shanghai, we learned that your office plans to submit to the Board of Directors a reviewed Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) for their approval.

After the meeting, the civil society organizations that participated in it called on the **NDB to organize "public and inclusive consultations on the review of existing policies**, starting with the information disclosure policy review in 2019".¹

Through this letter, we respectfully request that the process of updating the IDP be carried out in a participative and transparent manner, involving a wide range of actors interested in, or potentially affected by, the Bank's activities. More specifically, **we request that the NDB either disclose the draft updated policy before submitting it to the Board of Directors, or seek the Board's authorization to initiate a public consultation process once they have analysed the first draft.**

We recall that the Articles of the Agreement (AoF) of the NDB stipulate that the Bank shall ensure that its proceedings are transparent (Article 15). **We understand that such a requirement extends to the disclosure of draft operational policies and the need to place them under broad-based, public consultations.**

The **NDB stands only to benefit from publicizing draft versions of its policies**, including the IDP in question. By making draft documents publicly available, the Bank can collect inputs from external stakeholders, including individuals and organizations with solid experience and background in the development of transparency standards for international organizations and in the practice of information disclosure processes of multilateral development banks (MDBs).

Moreover, by providing external stakeholders with a chance to comment on the draft revised policy, the NDB would enhance the legitimacy of the process and reaffirm the commitment

¹ Civil Society Communiqué, New Development Bank – Civil Society Meeting Shanghai, 22 November 2018.

made in its General Strategy (2017-2021) that it will engage with civil society, academia and think-tanks to learn from their “wealth of experience” in development issues.²

Opening a public consultation process for the review of its IDP would also bring the NDB closer to the best practices of MDBs in regards to transparency and accountability. It is a standard practice amongst the major global and regional MDBs, as well as leading national-level development agencies, that processes of establishment and review of key policies are developed within a framework of public participation.

We trust that you will accept this request and **we remain available to further engage with you and the NDB to share our perspectives on how to make the Bank’s policies and operations more effective and legitimate.**

Sincerely,

350Africa.org
ActionAid India
African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)
BRICS Feminist Watch
Conectas Human Rights
Foundation for the Development of Sustainable Policies (Fundeps)
Friends of the Earth USA
Gender Action
International Accountability Project
International Rivers
Institute for Socioeconomic Studies (Inesc)
Oxfam Hong Kong
Oxfam India
Oxfam South Africa
Programme on Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR International)
Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)
Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition

² NDB (2017), NDB’s General Strategy: 2017 – 2021, p. 11.