## **President Jin Liqun**

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
Tower A, Asia Financial Center
No.1 Tianchen East Road
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100101
People's Republic of China

AND

Board of Directors, AIIB

CC:

Ms Hwee Tin Kng, Acting MD-CEIU / Chief Internal Audit Officer Mr Shamas-ur-Rehman Toor, Head, PPM Secretariat Mr Jeffrey Hiday, Director General, Communications Department Mr Denis Kongere, Civil Society Engagement Officer

*By e-mail* 18 December 2024

Dear President Jin Liquin and the Board of Directors of AIIB,

Re: Status of PPM Review

We are civil society organizations (CSOs) that have been actively involved in the Project-Affected People's Mechanism (PPM) Policy Review.

In light of the recent and sudden resignation of the Managing Director of the Bank's Complaints-resolution, Evaluation & Integrity Unit (MD-CEIU) amidst the ongoing PPM Policy Review, we are writing to call on the Bank to publicly renew its commitment to both a visible, accessible, and effective PPM that is fit for purpose and a transparent, independent and consultative Policy Review, as outlined in the <a href="Approach Paper">Approach Paper</a> and the annexed Stakeholder Engagement Plan. We further call on the Bank to take concrete steps to safeguard the continuation and completion of the PPM Policy review in a timely and independent manner and in accordance with the agreed timeline in the <a href="Roadmap">Roadmap</a> endorsed by the Policy and Strategy Committee of the Board in December 2023.

Over the past year we have submitted detailed comments, participated in online and in-person consultations, and shared our and affected communities' inputs with many stakeholders involved in the review. While we understand that the MD-CEIU's departure could not have been predicted, the Bank must ensure that the Policy Review promptly progresses to build upon the work of the PPM Policy Review team to date. In particular, the expertise and experiences provided by the external reviewer Dr. Zeinab El Bakri as well as the CSOs, rights-holders, and

other internal and external stakeholders consulted during the Policy Review so far must be retained despite the leadership change and duly considered by the Board.

In order to ensure that the review process retains legitimacy and trust, we recommend the following:

- 1. According to the <u>Approach Paper</u>, Phase 1 consultations should be followed by "discussion of the review (identification of key issues and proposed recommendations / revisions) with the Board" and "drafting of PPM Policy revisions." Accordingly, a Joint Board Committee (with 2 non-regional and 3 regional members) should be promptly established to consider all existing material, including the external review report, written recommendations, and notes from stakeholder consultations, with a view to build consensus amongst the Board. The PPM Policy Review team should then release a Revised Draft Policy for Phase 2 consultations. The length of these consultations should not be curtailed from what was initially envisioned and must last at least 90 days.
- 2. The Joint Board Committee should be fully independent from AIIB Management and Office of the General Counsel, and be supported by the PPM Policy Review team. We particularly call for the Joint Board Committee to invite further guidance and advice from the independent external reviewer, Dr. Zeinab El Bakri.
- 3. The PPM Policy Review should continue in a timely manner and be completed no later than Q4 of 2025.

In addition, we also call on the Bank to prioritize the hiring of the MD-CEIU through a process inclusive of CSOs and other external stakeholders, and we look forward to sharing detailed recommendations in the near future.

Sincerely,

**Accountability Counsel** 

**BRICS Feminist Watch** 

Growthwatch

**NGO Forum on ADB** 

Recourse

Urgewald