

Ms. Radhika Goyal
Policy Associate
Accountability Counsel

19 December 2023

Dear Ms. Goyal,

The Asian Development Bank (“ADB”) acknowledges receipt of your open letter, dated 12 December 2023.

We would like to inform you that the review and update of the Accountability Mechanism (AM) Policy will be conducted in two phases, as agreed by ADB's management and Board Compliance Review Committee:


- Phase 1: In preparation for the review, an external desktop study is conducted by external consultants (“External Review”) to examine the scope of improving and updating the AM. The External Review will provide analysis on the effectiveness, efficiency, and adequacy of the 2012 AM Policy, guidance on emerging issues relevant to the AM, and comparison and analysis of ADB’s AM with other relevant comparators. The report will be disclosed on the ADB website for public comments. As part of this process, the external consultant is undertaking some initial interviews, and we understand there was already a meeting with the Accountability Counsel. More extensive consultations will be undertaken in the second phase outlined below.
- Phase 2: A formal review (“Formal Review”) will build on the outputs of the External Review and the public comments received, as well as a study on costs and benefits of the current AM as per Paragraph 212 of the AM Policy.

Please note that we are currently in the External Review phase, and the Formal Review phase will commence only after completion of the External Review. We would like to assure you that the Formal Review phase will include extensive and inclusive public consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including project-affected people, project beneficiaries, governments (including early engagement with developing member countries), project executing and implementing agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, think tanks, peer institutions, and other relevant stakeholders.

A joint working group consisting of ADB’s board members and management will be established to guide the Formal Review process.

ADB will also establish a webpage shortly with further information about the process and timetable, and how civil society and other interested stakeholders can be involved.

Sincerely,



Haidy Seang Ear-Dupuy
Head, NGO and Civil Society Center
Asian Development Bank

Cc: Members, Board Compliance Review Committee, ADB
Managing Director General, ADB
Special Project Facilitator, ADB
Chair, Compliance Review Panel, ADB