

Questions & Answers regarding the 2020 Review of AIIB's Environmental and Social Framework

1. Why is AIIB (the Bank) doing this review?

Paragraph 4 of the 2016 [Environmental and Social Framework](#) (ESF) states the following:

“Based on the experience gained from the application of the [Environmental and Social Policy (ESP)] and [Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs)] to individual Projects during the first three years of the Bank’s operation, the Bank will, at the end of this period, conduct a review of the overall Environmental and Social Framework. As warranted, updates would be introduced to the framework, and further improvements to the ESP and ESSs would be recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. Emphasis will be placed on dynamic learning from both design and implementation of Projects in the diverse countries served by the Bank.”

The review of the ESF follows on this commitment.

2. How will the Bank undertake the review?

The review will be a focused exercise, reflecting the experience gained in the relatively short time that AIIB has been financing operations. It will be informed by consultations, stakeholder feedback and review of the ESF’s implementation in a representative sample of AIIB-financed operations.

The consultations for the Review will be a two-phase process and will be led by AIIB’s ESF Review Team.

3. What are the principles for any proposed revision?

The principles for any proposed revision of the ESF include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Promote achievement of AIIB’s mandate and ESF’s Vision Statement.
- Maintain the environmental and social integrity of AIIB.
- Reflect on recent trends in development policies and practices.
- Improve the clarity of the document.
- Enhance operational effectiveness and outcomes.
- Support alignment with development partners.
- Continue to have an ESF that can be successfully applied by AIIB and its Clients.

4. What are the revisions being considered?

The Bank intends to update the ESF to:

- Reflect operational experience.
- Address new developments.
- Enhance and clarify coverage of the ESSs.
- Provide linkages to related policies and strategies, some of which were adopted after the ESF.

The review will also include editorial changes to improve the document’s organization and clarity. However, there is no intention to undertake a comprehensive revision of the current ESF.

5. What form will the consultations take, and will there be targeted face-to-face consultations?

Stakeholder inputs will be gathered via online discussions, a limited number of face-to-face meetings and written submissions. The face-to-face consultations are anticipated to be held in selected locations.

6. How will the ESF review take stakeholders into account?

The consultation process for the ESF review will include a wide variety of stakeholders. They include:

- Member governments.
- Clients (including both public and private sector).
- External stakeholders.
- Project Affected People (PAPs) from selected AIIB-supported projects.

The review will also be supported by Early Learning Assessments prepared by the CEIU.

7. What is the difference between the two consultation phases?

In the first phase, we want to hear your views on the scope and content of the ESF and experience with the ESF's application.

In the second phase, a revised draft ESF will be posted for consultation and comments. The revised draft ESF will benefit from consideration of inputs received during the first phase.

8. What is the schedule for the two consultation phases?

The current first phase consultation period runs until February 28, 2020.

A draft revised document will be posted for consultation for 60 days during the second phase in June-July 2020.

9. Should I participate in the phase 1 consultation or phase 2?

Participation is not limited to one phase or another. Participants are welcome to submit inputs during both phases if desired.

Submission requirements are outlined below.

During the public consultation process, written submissions can be sent through the following:

By Email: esfreview@aiib.org

By Mail: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, B-9 Financial Street, Xicheng District, Beijing 100033, China

Please note that for email/mail submissions to be considered, they must be titled "Submission: ESF Review" and include:

First and last name of contact.

Affiliation/organization.

Telephone number.

Email address and/or mailing address.

While there is no page limit, we invite you to make your submissions as clear and concise as possible.

10. Will submissions in languages other than English be accepted?

The Bank will only accept submissions in English.

11. Will I receive feedback for the comments I send?

While the Bank reserves the right to seek clarifications on comments received, given the large number of inputs that are expected to be received, the Bank does not intend to provide feedback on comments that are sent. This applies to both phases of the consultation.

12. Will comments from stakeholders be posted?

A summary of comments from external stakeholders will be prepared and posted.

13. When will the revised ESF become effective?

It is currently expected that the revised ESF will take effect in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2020, following review by AIB's Board of Directors of the ESF and its issuance.

14. Will the review of the ESF also affect the Directive on Environmental and Social Policy?

It is anticipated that any approved changes to the ESF will later be reflected in the Directive on Environmental and Social Policy.

15. Climate Change has become an issue of great importance. Is this within the scope of consideration with respect to the proposed ESF revision?

Yes, given the importance of climate change, it is a topic of consideration with respect to the proposed ESF revision.

16. When will the next review be?

There is no information at this time regarding another review of the ESF.