
**Statement by the CEIU Managing Director
on the External Review of the Project Affected People Mechanism
May 24, 2024**

I welcome the External Review of the Project-affected People's Mechanism (PPM) conducted by Dr. Zeinab Bashir El Bakri. The PPM is going through a review process guided by the roadmap endorsed by the Policy and Strategy Committee (PSC) of the Board in December 2023. The PPM Policy Review comprises several elements including first and foremost, the PSC and Board guidance, a detailed PPM Review Approach Paper, a survey on the visibility and accessibility of the PPM, the stakeholder consultations, including consultations with Board members and Management, and this PPM External Review.

The External Review is commissioned by the MD-CEIU with the objective of assessing the overall experience of the PPM as AIIB's Independent Accountability Mechanism, since its establishment. This has entailed a review of the PPM's role in AIIB's accountability system, as well as its functions, policy, rules of procedure, effectiveness, visibility, accessibility, and resources. As noted above, the External Review is one of several inputs to the MD-CEIU for guiding the PPM Policy Review. This report does not necessarily represent the views of CEIU. Informed by various inputs indicated above, including the External Review, CEIU's final assessment and recommendations will be presented to the Board in its own review paper to be issued in the coming months.

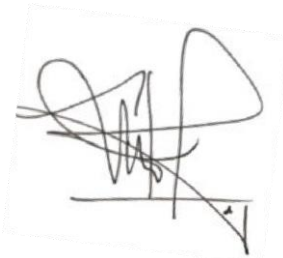
I am very pleased that Dr. Zeinab Bashir El Bakri agreed to conduct this important exercise. She is not only a well-known expert in the field of independent accountability, but also brings along a deep operational experience, which is highly valuable for this External Review. In addition, recently, she has been involved in External Reviews of other IAMs, accumulating an up-to-date rich comparative understanding of the evolution of our discipline.

She was able to speak with a several internal (Board Members, Senior Management, staff and consultants) and external stakeholders (AIIB clients, civil society organizations (CSOs), peer independent accountability mechanisms (IAMs), and accountability experts). She has touched upon several key issues related to PPM, offered insightful perspectives and made recommendations pertaining to the PPM Policy and institutional improvements, aiming to enhance the PPM's visibility, accessibility and effectiveness.

As this External Review is issued, we have commenced our stakeholder consultations with CSOs and peer IAMs on the margins of the 2024 World Bank-IMF Spring Meeting. We have discussed many of the issues contained in the Approach Paper and profited a great deal from the experience of peer IAMs in grappling with similar challenges. We have already held several in-person and virtual consultation sessions with AIIB Members, AIIB staff, clients and CSOs and heard a variety of perspectives. In the coming months, we will be holding more virtual and in-person consultations with all groups of stakeholders (AIIB Members, Management, Clients, CSOs, project-affected communities) to gather their perspectives and inputs.

The analysis and recommendations made by the External Review, the stakeholder consultations and other analytical contributions and work by CEIU, will provide priceless inputs to inform the ongoing PPM Policy Review as well as to consider options for potential policy revisions and their implementation, which will nurture the production of CEIU's own PPM Review Report.

I would like to thank Dr. Zeinab Bashir El Bakri for her diligent work in preparing this External Review. I would also like to thank the Board members, AIIB Management and staff, clients, CSO representatives, Heads and staff of peer IAMs, and accountability experts for actively engaging with Dr. Zeinab El Bakri during the consultation phase of this External Review and sharing their valuable insights. Likewise, I would like to express my gratitude to the PPM Policy Review Team, PPM staff and assistants for their dedication and support, without which this exercise would not have been successfully accomplished.



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