

Updated 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 is the Bank undertaking the review?

The review is a focused exercise, reflecting the experience gained in the relatively short time that AIIB has been financing operations. It is 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 are an ongoing two-phase process that is being 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 the 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

The revised ESF 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 are the consultations taking, and are there targeted face-to-face consultations?

Stakeholder inputs are being gathered via online discussions and written submissions. Due to the global pandemic, we are not able to hold the previously anticipated face-to-face consultations.

6. How is the ESF review taking stakeholders into account?

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

- Member governments.
- Clients (including both public and private sector).
- External stakeholders.

The review is also being supported by Early Learning Assessments prepared by the CEIU. Given the current pandemic, it will not be possible to consult directly with Project-affected People from AIIB-supported projects at the field level.

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

In the first phase, we heard views from a number of parties on the scope and content of the ESF and experience with the ESF's application.

For the second phase, a revised draft ESF has been posted for consultation and comments. The revised draft ESF benefits from consideration of the inputs received during the first phase.

8. Does the revised draft ESF that has been posted for consultation and comments show the changes from the existing ESF?

The Draft Revised ESF that has been posted is a clean version that shows in blue highlight the substantive changes from the existing ESF. Because the revision required editorial changes to improve the document's organization and clarity, the track change version proved to be too difficult to read. Consequently, it was decided to post a clean version showing only the substantive edits in blue highlight.

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

The first phase of consultations was completed on March 20, 2020.

The second phase of consultations will be from September 8 to November 9, 2020.

10. How can I participate in the consultations?

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,
Tower A, Asia Financial Center, No.1, Tianchen East Road, Chaoyang District
Beijing 100101, People's Republic of 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.

Participation is not limited to one phase or another. Participants who submitted inputs in the first phase are welcome to make comments in the second phase also.

11. Are submissions in languages other than English accepted?

The Bank only accepts submissions in English.

12. 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 submitted, the Bank does not intend to provide feedback. This applies to both phases of the consultation.

13. Will comments from stakeholders be posted?

A summary of comments from external stakeholders will be prepared and posted in the form of a power point.

14. When will the revised ESF become effective?

It is currently expected that the revised ESF will take effect in the third quarter (Q3) of 2021, following review by AIB's Board of Directors of the ESF and its issuance.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. When will the next review be?

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