

April 7, 2009

Mr. Bruce Jenkins  
Policy Director  
Bank Information Center  
1100 H Street, N.W. Suite 650  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Jenkins;

*Disclosure Policy Review Process*

Thank you for your letter dated April 1, 2009. I appreciate the valuable inputs that you have given us on the review process and of course welcome your continuous feedback and partnership. Let me now address the concerns that you have raised.

You have indicated that the time allowed for organizing in-country consultations is not sufficient. We acknowledge that in-country stakeholders would need adequate time to study the paper and develop thoughtful responses. As you know, we posted the paper on our external web on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, and our earliest in-country meeting is not going to take place until the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> of April, i.e. in Indonesia. This would mean that in-country stakeholders would have had at least a month to review the paper, which we believe is a reasonable timeline. I also appreciate the leadership that your organization has been providing to other civil society groups by alerting and preparing them for consultations. As we discussed before, we look forward to receiving from you the list of CSO participants that you would like to invite to in-country meetings (the list of countries where consultations are being planned is posted on our website).

You have expressed your concern that the Bank has not allocated a travel budget for those who would be invited to in-country meetings. We are sorry, but this is something beyond our financial capacity. We hope that community organizations that are unable to attend the live meetings would still use our electronic feedback facility to convey their inputs. We would indeed attach the same level of importance to all comments that we receive—be it through live meetings or electronic means.

As for the proposed closing date for consultations, our experience with a large number of consultations has suggested that an eight week period is adequate to engage in meaningful discussions with a wide range of global stakeholders. But of course if we receive specific requests from particular groups, we can be a little flexible on this.

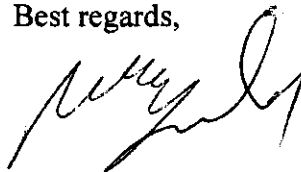
You have also indicated that the proposed timelines would result in a rushed drafting process. We have allowed about two months for drafting, and I am confident that our dedicated staff will work diligently to ensure that inputs from all stakeholders are

captured and carefully considered as we prepare the final proposal for Board consideration.

With respect to your question on simultaneous disclosure, our intention (subject to confirmation by the Executive Directors) is to post the final draft of the policy paper on our website at the same time as it is circulated to the Board.

I hope I have helped allay some of your concerns. Please don't hesitate to give me a call should you have additional issues that you wish to bring to my attention. I very much look forward to our continued partnership as we move this exciting work forward.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Harrold', written in a cursive style.

Peter Harrold  
Director, Operations Services  
The World Bank