

April 27, 2007

Mr. Paul Wolfowitz  
President  
The World Bank  
1818 H Street  
Washington, D.C. 20433

**Re: Selection process for the World Bank Inspection Panel Vacancy**

Dear President Wolfowitz,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the selection process for the World Bank Inspection Panel position that will commence on September 1, 2007. We understand that applications for the panel position will be closed on April 30, 2007, without civil society involvement or active public circulation of the announcement to interested civil society and NGOs. We are concerned that the filling of this critical position has been treated in a routine manner with only a four week application process, and that over the years the process has become more secretive and internal to the Bank. We submit that the unique character and responsibility of the Inspection Panel position deserves a more open, transparent and participatory selection process. The credibility of the Panel depends on it. *We hope you will extend the deadline for the panel position for at least one month to May 31, 2007, to allow time for proper circulation of the announcement to the public.*

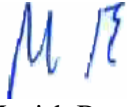
In addition, we would like to suggest that the following selection process be instituted immediately for the Inspection Panel position:

- Broadly circulate the Inspection Panel position announcement via appropriate publications;
- Notify NGOs and civil society groups through the panel itself, the President's office and the World Bank External Relations office and invite nominations from these groups;
- Make public the schedule for the selection process;
- Establish a roster of nominees and applicants with curriculum vitas that would be available upon request or on the Inspection Panel's website;
- Include a civil society representative on the World Bank committee selecting the Inspection Panel member.

These simple steps are not incompatible with the current policy, and could easily be instituted by the World Bank to add transparency to the selection process. It is critical that the Inspection Panel is staffed with independent professionals who have credibility both inside and outside the World Bank. Involving civil society and circulating the announcement widely can only increase the opportunity to find the best candidates.

We look forward to receiving your earliest response.

Sincerely,



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Barbara Lee Shaw  
Vice President  
Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development.

Elaine Zuckerman  
Executive Director  
Gender Action

Cc:

Board of Executive Directors, World Bank  
Edith Brown-Weiss, Chairperson, Inspection Panel  
Kenneth Peel, Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Treasury  
Representative Barney Frank  
Representative Nita Lowey  
Senator Patrick Leahy  
Senator Joseph Biden