



Mr K.V. Kamath

President
New Development Bank

Mr Vladimir Kazbekov

Vice President
New Development Bank

Mr. Xian Zhu

Vice President
New Development Bank

Mr. Leslie Maasdorp

Vice President
New Development Bank

October 22, 2017

Re: NDB needs a Gender Policy, an external Gender Advisory Committee and an Internal Gender Unit

Dear Sirs:

BRICS Feminist Watch (BFW) and other civil society groups, at the 2nd New Development Bank (NDB) Annual meeting in Delhi in April, 2017 urged the Bank to set up a multi stakeholder task force and to develop a comprehensive policy geared to delivering a gender-responsive sustainable and inclusive development. The NDB policies and operations should be enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) principle “No one is left behind” in efforts at social including gender, economic and environmental transformation, as should the governance structures.

Following the Delhi meeting, NDB has been in positive engagement with BRICS Feminist Watch and other civil society organizations. One of the core principles of NDB’s Environmental & Social Framework underlines gender equality: “NDB believes that gender equality is important to successful and sustainable economic development and accordingly considers it imperative to mainstream gender equality issues in all its operations”.



We welcome this as a promising first step and would like to highlight three key steps for NDB to ensure gender equality is mainstreamed in all its structure and operations:

- 1) Set up an external multi stakeholder gender advisory committee**
- 2) Develop a comprehensive, mandatory gender policy to guide all NDB's structure, governance and operations**
- 3) Set up an internal gender unit with senior feminist experts within NDB to lead these processes.**

The international development world is increasingly realizing that gender equality is at the core of sustainable development and inclusive growth. The SDGs, adopted in 2015, acknowledge that gender equality is not only a fundamental right, but it is a prerequisite for a peaceful and prosperous world. Countries that ensure equal access for women and girls to education, health care, decent work, assets, and economic resources, promote their political participation and decision making power, and protect them from violence and gender based discrimination are best positioned to achieve sustainable development and economic growth. As a major development actor, NDB has important roles to play in both recognizing women as independent economic agents contributing to economic growth and development and promoting women and men's equal rights. By fulfilling these two complementary roles NDB would place women at the centre of all development policies and projects. Doing so will have far reaching implications for the Bank's governance, planning, resource allocation, and results measurement and accountability processes. It is also vital that not only does the Bank stringently uphold the do no harm principle, but actively promote women's and men's equal rights and investments which bring a transformational change in the lives of women and girls and ensure women's leadership development, women's collectives and organizations, decent jobs and livelihoods for women, reduce gender gaps, and tackle inequities in ownership of productive resources such as land, technology, energy infrastructure etc.

In reviewing recent NDB activities, it was noted that the concerns for gender equality and women's empowerment have been missed in both the NDB's General Strategy (2017 – 2021) and in key areas of its operations. It seems that the projects were approached without gender selection criteria. The Bank has not defined gender equality and gender issues are not integrated. The lack of explicit commitment to tackle gender inequalities and promote gender justice in the NDB's General Strategy conveys a message that gender is an area that has little relevance to big infrastructure or renewable energy projects despite the fact that women and men are impacted differently by all such projects.

Therefore, we recommend NDB to integrate gender into all aspects of the Bank. BFW along with endorsing organizations below call on the NDB to institutionalize gender responsiveness in all its operations and functions and formulate a mandatory gender policy. We further advice that a gender unit with feminist experts be set up within the Bank, with strong gender focal



points in different units and teams. We also recommend that a multi-stakeholder gender advisory committee be constituted with the mandate to integrate gender concerns into Bank operations, infrastructure projects, and programmes to ensure inclusive, sustainable, and just development, and to help the NDB develop the gender policy.

We look forward to discussing these inputs with you further at the NDB-CSO meeting in Shanghai on 25-26 October, 2017.

Regards,

Priti Darooka
Coordinator, BFW
Executive Director
PWESCR

Govind Kelkar
Senior Advisor
Landesa, India

Divita Shandilya
Programme Coordinator
South Solidarity Initiative
Action Aid, India

Rebecca Perkins
Feminist Policy Influencer
Activist

Marisa Vaina
Executive Coordinator
RESURJ

Elaine Zuckerman
President
Gender Action



List of Endorsing Organisations and Individuals

Organization Endorsement

1. Accountability Counsel
2. Action Aid India
3. Agricultural Missions
4. AMB – Brazilian Women Articulation
5. Aneka
6. Association des Droits de la Femme
7. Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives
8. AWAW -- Association of War Affected Women
9. Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament
10. Brazilian Network for People's Integration (REBRIP)
11. The BRICS Policy Center
12. CADTM International Network
13. Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ)
14. Center for Women's Global Leadership
15. Centre for Women solidarity Network CWSN
16. Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), Feminist Group
17. Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género: Corporación Humanas
18. The Centro de Estudios e Investigación Sobre Mujeres (CEIM)
19. Coordinadora de la Mujer
20. Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative (ECOWA)
21. EKTA Resource Centre for Women
22. Enlaces por la Sostenibilidad
23. EQUIT Institute – Gender, Economic and Global Citizenship.
24. Feminist League
25. FEMNET
26. Forum to Engage Men" (FEM) for Gender Equality)
27. Fresh Eyes
28. FTUDC
29. Gender Action
30. Gramin Punarnirman Sansthan-GPS
31. Green Watch Dhaka
32. Green Watershed
33. Hazards Centre India
34. Institute for Socioeconomic Studies (INSEC)
35. International Centre for Women & Empowerment Child and Development



36. The Judith Trust
37. Kriti Team
38. KULU Women and Development
39. Lebanese Coalition of Disabled People Organizations (LCDP)
40. Le Monde Selon les Femmes NGO
41. Mannar Women's Development Federation
42. NGO Forum on ADB
43. Oxfam Brasil
44. Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women
45. Peshraft Foundation for Human Rights
46. Public Service International (ISP Brasil)
47. PWESCR
48. Regional Centre for International Development Corporation (RCIDC)
49. REBRIP – Brazilian Network for People Integration
50. REPEM-LAC
51. RESURJ
52. Rwanda Women's Network
53. Rythu Swarajya Vedhika
54. RyG – Gender and Trade Network
55. Tamil Nadu Women's Forum
56. Servicios Ecumenicos para Reconciliacion y Reconstruccion
57. Siglo XXIII
58. Utthan
59. Umeedenoo Organization
60. United Religions Initiative
61. Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
62. WIDE+
63. WIDE Austria
64. WIDE Switzerland
65. Women for Afghan Women
66. Women's Hope for Change
67. Women Thrive Alliance
68. World Women March Belgium
69. WUNRN-Women's UN Report Network

Individual Endorsements

1. Agnessa Sarkisyan
2. Alena Popova



3. Dr. Ambreen Ahmad
4. Boris Kagarlitsky
5. Carol Noel
6. Celine Paramunda
7. Chenoy Anuradha
8. Chhaya Datar
9. Daksha Vaja
10. Gabriele Dietrich
11. Gia Gaspard Taylor
12. Hilda Tatria
13. Dr. Indira Rani
14. Irina Evdokimova
15. Joyce Kuaovi
16. Kavitha Dev
17. Khushi Kabir
18. Kimberly Baptiste
19. Kimberly Otis
20. Khushi Kabir
21. Ladi Franklin
22. Lois A. Herman
23. Mahnaz Rahman
24. Mariam Margaryam
25. Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké Okome
26. Nafisa Barot
27. Nirja Bhatnagar
28. Dr. Nirja Mattoo
29. Polina Dyachkina
30. Pratibha Shinde
31. Rajdev Chaturvedi
32. Rajni Sureka Wijerupa
33. Ritu Dewan
34. Rajalakshmi Sriram
35. Saadia Haq
36. Sadia Chaudhary
37. Shubhada Deshmukh
38. Supriya Roychoudhury
39. Subhi Dhupar
40. Tafadzwa Muropa



List of Endorsing Organisations and Individuals – Post NDB- CSO 2017 Meeting

Organization Endorsement

1. Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
2. Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)
3. Bella Foundation for Child and Maternal Care
4. CLASII
5. Equal Ground
6. The Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS)
7. International Institute on Peace Education
8. The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)
9. Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago
10. NGO-Coordination post Beijing Switzerland

Individual Endorsement

1. Diane Elson
2. Ellahi Bakhsh Baloch
3. Lanyan Chen
4. Linda Bach
5. Luke Kapchanga
6. Manda Boolell
7. Dr. Meera Velayudhan
8. Pauline Garzon
9. Rokeya Kabir
10. Sima Samar