

March 30th, 2017

To:

Mr. Arun Jaitley

Chairman of the Board of Governors
New Development Bank

Mr. Marcello de Moura Estevão Filho

Chairman of the Board of Directors
New Development Bank

Ref.: Letter requesting the New Development Bank to hold meaningful consultation with civil society before the approval of the NDB strategy and for its implementation and review

Dear Sirs:

The New Development Bank (NDB) will hold in the next days its 2nd Annual Meeting. It is expected that the bank will discuss the expansion of membership and the adoption of its strategy for the next years. These developments are more than welcome and we state our commitment to constructively engage with the NDB to help it elaborate and implement its approach to sustainable development.

The NDB has been operating for almost two years now. It has brought to development finance some interesting innovations, such as lending in local currency. However, the NDB has up until now operated with little transparency about proposed projects or real engagement with civil society in policy-making.

The choice of approving policies and projects without prior meaningful consultation with external stakeholders distances the NDB from the highest standards on participation and accountability among multilateral development banks (MDBs). Other well-established MDBs hold consultations even when designing operational policies and strategies. The NDB has decided to follow a different pattern, as illustrated by the process of formulation of its Environmental and Social Framework and its Interim Information Disclosure and Access to Information Policy. The NDB approved these policies without prior consultation with stakeholders, and has opted for the inclusion of a ‘review clause’.

Given the importance of the strategy, which will consolidate NDB’s identity, set out its investment priorities and define its approach to “sustainable infrastructure”, we urge the NDB to open a meaningful consultation process with civil society and other stakeholders before approving a final version of the document and to ensure that the implementation of the strategy and any future review will also be conducted with significant participation of civil society.

We further call on the NDB to develop formal mechanisms for meaningful consultation and participation with affected communities and civil society groups in project design and implementation as well as policy and strategy development.

Sincerely,

Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples (REBRIP)

BRICS Feminist Watch

Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS)

Conectas Human Rights

Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)

Economic Justice Network (EJN) of FOCCISA

Friends of the Earth, US

Institute for Socioeconomic Studies (Inesc)

International Rivers, Global

National Alliance of Women Organization (NAWO)

Oxfam

Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR)

Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition

Vasudha Foundation