

Key Recommendations for the draft Policy on Disclosure of Information at the African Development Bank Group

What follows is a list of key recommendations on how to improve the AfDB's draft Disclosure Policy. These recommendations are based upon precedents at other multilateral development banks and/or transparency principles already endorsed by the AfDB. A more detailed explanation of each of the points listed below can be found in the relevant sections (indicated in brackets) of the *Bank Information Center Comments on the Proposed Changes to the AfDB's Policy on Disclosure of Information: November 2003* (11 pages). Please note that the Bank Information Center's comments also include recommendations that are not listed below.

Policy and Strategy Development

1. Release draft AfDB policy and strategy documents at least 45 days prior to Board discussion and disclose external comments throughout the review. [section 1.1]
2. Disclose relevant background materials and provide information on review processes and consultation plans before they commence. [section 2.1]

Project Documentation

3. Disclose comprehensive project profiles, summaries or abstracts for all private and public sector projects at least six months in advance of Board discussions. [section 1.2]
4. Disclose complete environmental and social impact assessments and/or management plans at least 120 days prior to Board presentation for all Category 1 and Category 2 projects. [section 1.3]
5. Require the disclosure of staff project reviews, supervision reports and regular environmental and social monitoring reports throughout project implementation. [section 2.2]

Archives

6. Implement a clear archives policy that meets the minimum mandatory transparency standards set by other donor institutions. [section 1.5]

Governing Bodies

7. Disclose a semi-annual work plan, monthly calendars and contact information for the Board of Directors. [section 1.4]
8. Treat all Board proceedings as a matter of public record. With limited exceptions, disclose transcripts and written statements by Executive Directors. [section 2.4]

Disclosure Policy Compliance

9. Establish a semi-independent body to monitor compliance with the Disclosure Policy, provide an impartial opinion on the interpretation of constraints to disclosure and hear citizen appeals regarding refusal to disclose information. [section 2.5]
10. Establish clear "process guarantees" requiring timely decision-making and written explanations of all refusals to disclose. [section 3.4]

Access to Information

11. Establish Public Information Centers in every borrowing member country and use appropriate local medium to proactively disseminate information [section 3.1]
12. Develop and implement a translation strategy [section 3.2]

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