

Dear Mr Ahmad,

I write regarding the stated redraft and consultation on the SPU.

As we acknowledged at the 2008 AGM, Forum members welcomed the agreement from ADB to develop a second draft of the SPS and to consult on this. However, it will be essential that this redraft and process are able to respond to input from non-ADB stakeholders if it is going to advance the SPU in a positive direction.

As has been well documented, there was considerable disappointment and concern with the October 2007 draft and the process of consultation. In order to minimise a repeat of this situation we respectfully propose that the ADB should:

1. Provide to stakeholders a draft Terms of Reference for the 2nd draft SPS and seek feedback and input to this, adjusting the TOR accordingly. This TOR should include, inter alia, contents of what will be included in the SPS; what will be included in the OMs; advice to drafting consultants/staff; languages in which the 2nd draft will be made available; and include a summary document of comments and input received and indication of ADB action/response.
2. Propose a new timeline for SPU to stakeholders and seek feedback on this, adjusting timeline accordingly.
3. Please clarify membership of the ADB's SPU team (staff and consultants)

After discussion with our members and associates, I also would like to propose that for communication with NGOs who are associated with the NGO Forum on ADB, the ADB SPU Team should work with the NGO Forum Secretariat (not individual groups) as you develop next steps to ensure greatest possible transparency.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of NGO Forum on ADB members and allies,

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