Dear Executive Directors of the World Bank,

ACRES is a pioneering Singapore-based non-profit and non-government organisation, founded in 2001 with the aim of advocating for an end to animal cruelty in Asia. Our mission is to create a caring and socially responsible society where animals are treated as sentient beings.

As an animal protection organisation, we strongly request the World Bank for the inclusion of basic animal welfare standards in the upcoming Safeguard Policies. The World Bank policies will set the standard for all the future public sector lending and investments around the world, particularly in areas like Asia, where animal agriculture is expanding.

Therefore, the World Bank can create a significant difference in the animal's life involved in agricultural projects by adding binding policies to their Environmental and Social Framework that protect them for being abused. All the investments and projects that involve the use of animals for food should follow the Five Freedoms for Farm Animal Welfare:

- Freedom from hunger or thirst,
- Freedom from discomfort,
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease,
- Freedom to express natural behaviour,
- Freedom from fear and distress.

We believe that the Safeguard Policies should explicitly mention the Five Freedoms and the animal welfare term within the text.

Addressing farm animals welfare in the Safeguard Policies will also have positive effects on the local economy and people. Many local small farmers already practice extensive farm animal production and exceed good international industry practice. A Policy from the World Bank that supports animal welfare standards could give these local farmers a market advantage. As well as, because operations that practice good animal welfare require a larger workforce, this will translate into a positive economic growth generating more income earning opportunities for vulnerable groups.
For all the above reasons, we respectfully urge the World Bank to include into the Safeguard Policies text the standards that ensure basic animal welfare in all the invest projects they help to finance.

Sincerely,
ACRES - Animal Concerns Research and Education Society.

[Contact Information]

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