

Final Draft-Network Gender Safeguards Policy:

We welcome the Bank's intention to develop a gender safeguards policy through its current Safeguards Review and Update process. The Bank urgently needs a strong, rights-based gender safeguard that protects the rights of women, men, girls and boys. To contribute to the Bank's safeguards consultation process, members of the Global Gender IFI Watcher Network, which represents nearly 270 members from 83 countries, collaboratively identified the following essential principles of a strong gender safeguard. We urge the Bank to integrate each of the mandates below into the new Gender Safeguards Policy to ensure its effectiveness.

All World Bank Group investments must:

- Protect women's human rights and comply with international women's and human rights standards, treaties, and due diligence practices;
- Identify and prevent potentially harmful impacts on women, men, girls and boys, including changes in livelihood, environmental degradation, and heightened violence directly or indirectly related to projects, programs or policies;
- Integrate gender analyses and risk assessments into all project design and implementation that respond to distinct gender, care work, and lifecycle needs;
- Account for specific needs of female-headed households, as well women and children within male-headed households;
- Collect sex-disaggregated data across project indicators to measure every investment's gender impacts;
- Design projects to proactively address gender inequalities, including men's and women's differential access to assets, property, education, credit, and other resources; and
- Provide full and complete project, program and policy information to inform and equally engage women and men in languages, forms and ways that are culturally appropriate and easy to understand.