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Gender Improvements Needed to the AIIB 2016 Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)

Gender Action developed and applied the 11 gender indicators listed in the far left column of the table below to analyze the AIIB 2016 ESF's gender sensitivity. The AIIB, unlike most other MDBs, from the ADB to the World Bank, lacks a freestanding gender policy or standard. It must adopt one but until it does, it mainly relies on its ESF to protect and advance the rights of women, men and sexual and gender minorities (SGMs).

The middle column of the table below presents a gender analysis of the AIIB's 2016 ESF and the far right column makes recommendations on how to strengthen gender dimensions of the forthcoming updated ESF.

Gender Action's 11 ESF Gender Indicators	**Gender Analysis of the AIIB 2016 ESF Applying Gender Action's Gender Indicators**	**Recommendations for the Forthcoming Updated AIIB ESF** **<u>The updated ESF must</u>:**
Gender Mandate/ Standard	- Lacks a mandatory gender standard - Encourages but does mandate that clients identify gender-specific impacts and develop mitigation measures to reduce them	- Provide a freestanding robust gender standard and integrate gender dimensions into all other standards - Require prioritizing gender concerns within all AIIB investments - Require, not merely "encourage", clients to promote gender equality and prevent harmful gender impacts
Gender in Environmental & Social Risk Assessments	- Encourages but does not require clients to incorporate gender into all risk assessments	- Incorporate gender into all risk assessments - Spotlight gender inequalities as potential investment risks
Gender Discrimination & Rights	- Suggests measures to ensure that discrimination is mitigated "to the extent possible" for vulnerable groups but fails to specify gender-differentiated groups - Lacks training for project staff and contractors on gender-equal rights	- Require prevention of gender discrimination against women, men and SGMs - Ensure training for all project staff and contractors on gender-equal rights
Gender in Environment & Climate	- Fails to address gender in relation to environmental protection, climate or biodiversity	- Identify and address gender roles in managing water, land, and biodiversity in project-affected areas based on the dominant division of labor whereby women are primarily responsible for the production, processing and preparation of food, collecting water and fuel, and taking care of household members harmed by interrelated biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution - Analyze and address projects' gender-differentiated harmful environmental and climate impacts, especially on women's livelihoods and

		health, for example from repeated loss in AIIB projects of women's access to farmland and clean water
Gender & Information Disclosure	- Requires that clients ensure relevant information about environmental and social risks be made available to project-affected people and states that process should be gender-inclusive, accessible, responsive and tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups	- Provide all available project information prior to project design to all affected women, men and SGMs to meet the right of all project-affected people to accept or refuse projects before project development and approval
Gendered Consultations & Consent	- Requires that projects provide forums for meaningful public consultations, which are 'gender inclusive, accessible, responsive,' and tailored to ensure the participation of women - Fails to require that informed consent be obtained from all affected women, men and SGMs; stipulates Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a requirement only for indigenous people	- Require gender inclusive consultations in all project activities from project identification onward - Provide all available project information prior to project design to all affected women, men and SGMs to meet the right of all project-affected people to accept or refuse projects before project development and approval
Gender in Resettlement & Compensation	- States that resettlement processes should take "gender into account regarding land ownership and customary rights to natural resources" when considering customary/ communal/ collective forms of land tenure - Requires that projects conduct a census of persons to be displaced including their assets/ tenure, taking gender into account - States that resettlement processes must improve or restore livelihoods of all project displaced persons, yet fails to specify gender-sensitivity in these instances	- Require gender-sensitive resettlement and livelihood restoration and other compensation measures that avoids perpetuating or deepening gender-unequal patriarchal property and land ownership and use patterns
Gender Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	- Encourages but does not require gender-disaggregated data collection and analysis to promote women's socio-economic empowerment "where relevant" - Lacks gender-specific mechanisms for M&E	- Require systematic collection of gender-disaggregated baseline and monitoring and evaluation data in all project activities
SGBV & Harassment	- Commits to review 'all allegations of unlawful and abusive acts of project security workers,' yet fails to specify SGBV and gender-related harassment - Creates a project grievance mechanism to register social complaints but similarly fails to specify SGBV and gendered harassment	- Institute strong measures to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence in all project activities - Ensure that project grievance mechanisms address SGBV and gender harrassment complaints
Sexual & Gender Minority (SGM) Targeting	- Fails to mention SGMs - Lacks protective mechanisms for SGMs	- Include mechanisms to protect SGMs
Gendered Labor	- Lacks specific labor protections for women and SGMs - Fails to mention gender in relation to hiring practices, occupational health, and safety protocols	- Guarantee gender-equal labor protections for women, men and SGMs - Ensure gender-equal hiring practices, occupational health, and safety protocols

Conclusion & Recommendation: The 2016 AIIB ESF contains some but too few measures to prevent gender-related harm and achieve gender equality in Bank investments. The AIIB must strengthen its updated ESF's gender dimensions by creating a mandatory robust gender standard and systematically integrating gender dimensions into all other ESF standards by adopting the recommendations in the above table.