



**How Much do AIIB Policies Support SDGs 5, 7 & 13?
Barely - AIIB Must Update its Policies!
November 2022**

Introduction

This assessment of the extent to which six AIIB policies explicitly consider the three UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that focus on our era's pressing gender, energy and climate issues found the policies are deficient. The AIIB's claim that its Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) aligns with the SDGs (AIIB 2019) is insufficient because the Bank's updated 2021 ESF is deficient on many gender, energy and climate themes. This is reflected in the many CSO ESF consultation inputs which the updated ESF did not embrace. Given this circumstance, all AIIB policies should independently address these SDG targets, which include:

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Our findings, summarized below, are followed by a table presenting our analysis:

Findings - key patterns across policies

I. All six policies fail to seriously mention gender and climate issues, and neglect banning all fossil fuels!

We cannot overemphasize the point that not explicitly featuring gender, energy and climate targets within the six Bank policies equals lack of commitment to them. Why? First, Bank managers, staff and borrowers cannot be expected to implicitly read between the lines. Policies must provide explicit guidance. Second, the six policies cannot defer to the updated 2021 ESF since the ESF has too many deficiencies related to the three SDGs. These deficiencies are reflected in civil critiques submitted to the Bank.

II. All six policies lack intersectionality with the three pressing SDGs (see our detailed analysis in the table below):

SDG 5: Discussion of gender issues is absent from almost all six AIIB policies, although not explicitly flagging gender issues is tantamount to being gender-blind. Exceptionally, the Policy on Prohibited Practices (PPP) pays empty lip service to gender by noting, "References in this Policy to a

specific gender shall be equally applicable to any gender”. However, the PPP makes no references to any specific gender groups and fails to include gender-sensitive provisions for reporting prohibited practices which may discourage women and LGBTQ+ people from reporting. The Learning and Evaluation Policy and Policy on Public Information (and other policies) never mention gender, implying that CEIU’s independent learning from and evaluation of AIIB operations need not include a gender lens and public information need not release information in a gender-sensitive way. By failing to explicitly include a robust gender lens in its policies the Bank threatens to entrench gender inequalities in AIIB activities. Also see *AIIB, Women and SDG5* (Recourse & Gender Action 2022).

SDG 7: Discussion of fossil fuel-driven energy and the Paris Agreement to which the AIIB committed to align its operations by July 2023 are absent from all six AIIB policies. To meet SDG 7, the AIIB must prohibit all fossil fuel projects including dangerously polluting gas as a transition fuel. Our planet, countries, humans and wildlife cannot afford gas as a transition fuel. Financing gas not only generates dangerous emissions but diverts funds from clean renewable energy sources.

SDG 13: All six policies fail to mention climate change although two policies raise environmental issues. First, the Procurement Policy offers to optimize environmental sustainability and include environmental objectives but it fails to elaborate these objectives and does not mention climate change. Second, the Policy on the Project-affected People’s Mechanism (PPM) notes that project-affected peoples can use the PPM to make complaints about environmental harms caused by an AIIB project but it does not apply a gender lens that would acknowledge or require addressing the fact that women and LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately at risk of climate and environmental harms. By never mentioning environmental harms and climate change the Policy on Prohibited Practices fails to prohibit practices that harm the environment and exacerbate climate change. To meet SDG 13’s goal of combating climate change and the Bank’s commitment to align with the Paris Agreement by July 2013, the AIIB must prohibit all fossil fuel projects including dangerously polluting gas as a transition fuel.

Analysis of Six AIIB Policies Against Three Key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDGs	SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	References
AIIB Policies				
Policy on Personal Data Privacy	-Includes no mention of gender even though women and LGBTQ+ people suffer disproportionately from data extraction and surveillance -Provides no gender-sensitive mechanisms to ensure that the privacy and autonomy of women and LGBTQ+ people are respected	NA	NA	-See https://privacyinternational.org/learn/gender for further information

	-Provides no mechanisms to ensure secure collection of gender-sensitive data such as SGBV or sexual orientation demographics			on gender, sexuality, and data privacy
Procurement Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Includes no mention of gender -Fails to ban the procurement of contractors whose activities pose high levels of gender risk -Fails to integrate gender equity objectives into the procurement process -Fails to require contractors avoid SGBV and SEAH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fails to ban the procurement of contractors whose activities exacerbate fossil fuel use and dependence -Fails to integrate Paris Alignment commitment to energy sustainability objectives into procurement process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Claims that the Bank's procurement process will optimize environmental sustainability and include environmental objectives but fails to elaborate these environmental objectives -Notes that Environmental and Social procedures remain under-development suggesting the policy needs updating 	
Policy on the Project-affected People's Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Includes no mention of gender even though women and LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately likely to suffer from project harms due to their social vulnerability -Does not include special provisions to assist survivors of SGBV and SEAH -Does not include provisions to ensure women and LGBTQ+ people are able to safely access the mechanism without fear of reprisal -Requires that Requestors ask for confidentiality on a case-by-case basis and states that the PPM 	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Notes that project-affected peoples can use the PPM to make complaints about environmental harms caused by an AIIB project -Does not acknowledge or require addressing the fact that women and LGBTQ+ people are 	See: World Bank Inspection Panel: 1. Responding to Project Gender-Based Violence Complaints 2.

	may refuse this ask, which may present a barrier to reporting by survivors of SGBV, SEAH, and other harms, especially women and LGBTQ+ people		disproportionately at risk of climate and environmental harms caused by AIIB projects	Intimidation and Reprisals
Policy on Prohibited Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Includes no mention of women or LGBTQ+ people in policy -Notes that “References in this Policy to a specific gender shall be equally applicable to any gender” but makes no references to a specific gender group in the document -Fails to include gender-sensitive provisions for reporting prohibited practices which may discourage women and LGBTQ+ people from reporting -Fails to provide gender-sensitive protections for Whistleblowers, even though women and LGBTQ+ people suffer disproportionately from workplace harassment and discrimination -Fails to provide a gender-sensitive process for reporting instances of SGBV and SEAH, instead treating the reporting process for these harms as equal to other harms’ reporting processes, ignoring the fact that evidence and witnesses are often impossible to obtain in instances of SGBV and SEAH -Fails to require the immediate dismissal of any personnel found guilty of SGBV or SEAH -Fails to explicitly prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ+ people even though they are disproportionately at risk of discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Includes no mention of energy practices in policy -Fails to prohibit financing for all fossil fuels such as natural gas which emits toxic methane that harms project-affected people’s health and contributes to our planet’s destruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Includes no mention of environmental harm or climate change -Fails to prohibit practices that harm the environment and exacerbate climate change 	See: World Bank Inspection Panel: Responding to Project Gender-Based Violence Complaints
Learning and	-Includes no mention of gender, implying that CEIU’s independent learning and evaluation of	-Includes no mention of energy practices, indicating	-Includes no mention of environmental harm or	

<p>Evaluation Policy</p>	<p>AllIB operations need not include a gender lens -Threatens to entrench gender inequalities in AllIB activities by failing to include a gender lens in learning and evaluation process</p>	<p>that the independent evaluation of AllIB operations need not pay attention to fossil fuel energy project emissions -Threatens to entrench harmful energy practices in AllIB activities by failing to include energy use considerations in learning and evaluation processes</p>	<p>climate change in policy, thereby implying that the independent evaluation of AllIB operations need not pay attention to operations' climate change impacts -Threatens to entrench environmental and climate harms in AllIB activities by failing to include climate considerations in learning and evaluation processes</p>	
<p>Policy on Public Information</p>	<p>-Includes no mention of gender, exacerbating risks that the disclosure of project information will not be gender-sensitive or accessible to people of all genders -Fails to require that all available project information be disclosed to project-affected people prior to design as the basis for their acceptance or refusal -Threatens to exacerbate operations' gender inequities by failing to incorporate a gender lens in information disclosure processes -Notes that the policy aims to increase transparency to allow for accountability but prevents accountability on gender issues by failing to incorporate a gender lens</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>	

Acronyms

CEIU - Complaints-resolution, Evaluation and Integrity Unit

ESF – Environmental and Social Framework

ESS – Energy Sector Strategy

LGBTQ+ - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning people

NA - Not applicable

SEAH – sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

SGBV – sexual and gender-based violence

References

AIIB. 2019. Mapping Infrastructure Investments Against the SDGs

<https://www.aiib.org/en/news-events/media-center/blog/2019/Mapping-Infrastructure-Investments-Against-the-SDGs.html>

Recourse & Gender Action. 2022. [AIIB, Women and SDG5](#)