



July 31, 2020

Dr. Manuela V. Ferro, Vice President  
Operations Policy and Country Services (OPCS)  
World Bank Group  
Washington, DC 20433 USA  
Via electronic mail

Re: DPL Review/Retrospective

Dear Dr. Ferro:

We have noted the World Bank Group's ongoing efforts to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic and appreciate the need to deploy all available tools, including development policy loans (DPLs), in such efforts.

However, Big Shift Global members are concerned that DPLs are still being used to facilitate fossil fuel and other investments that run counter to achieving the 1.5°C-degree target of the Paris Agreement and those of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, we understand that OPCS has initiated or is planning a review or retrospective for the policy lending instrument. We have not received any information on the type of review being undertaken, nor details as to the process and timeline of this review. Such a review is welcome, given the concerns noted above and that OP/BP 8.60 (Development Policy Lending) does not directly address climate impacts. Given the broad impacts this review will have on citizens who will ultimately be impacted by these loans, and that achieving sustainable development requires stakeholder engagement, we encourage the Bank to adopt a process that allows for public consultation on the review process, within a timeline that adheres to good practice.

As civil society groups concerned with improving development outcomes, we are keen to engage in such a process. We would greatly appreciate for the Bank to make any information about the review process available and engage civil society as early as possible in such a process, including on identifying key questions to be answered as part of the review. Given that this retrospective was initially due to take place in 2018 and is already two years delayed, and that DPLs are likely to remain an essential instrument for the Bank in the years to come, we hope that the Bank will undertake a thorough and robust review of the implications of DPLs for the Bank's work and commitments on climate change, in particular. We look forward to discussing this further with you at your earliest convenience.

With kind regards,

Big Shift Global

Cc: Jürgen Zattler, Executive Director EDS05, Chair, Committee on Development Effectiveness  
Alison Evans, Director General, Independent Evaluation Group