

24 July 2017

Dear Mr. Hassan,

I write in reference and response to your letter dated 17 July, 2017.

We thank the NGO Forum on ADB for its ongoing interest in the review of ADB's Public Communications Policy and for the Forum's participation in some of the many additional consultations that ADB has held within and outside of the region over June and July. We have been happy to meet with the Forum separately to discuss the policy on a number of occasions too. We look forward to receiving further comments from you on the planned new disclosure policy and welcome further meetings with the Forum or others to discuss the proposed new policy.

As you know, the goal of holding consultations in an extra seven countries was to secure a wider range of feedback on the proposed Access to Information Policy and to gain further insights on how ADB can improve implementation of the policy. While doing so, and to maximize outreach, we opted to use videoconferencing and teleconferencing facilities so stakeholders outside of those seven countries could participate in the discussion. Some technological difficulties notwithstanding, we feel that approach garnered additional insights from a broader geographical spectrum of stakeholders that will help ADB to shape and implement its policy. Several of the consultations ran well beyond indicative time frames so that we were able to ensure participants had ample time to express their views and none were ended with questions or comments outstanding.

Comments on the proposed new policy and implementation issues are all very valuable at this first-draft consultation stage and will be considered carefully as ADB prepares the next draft of the policy. We have noted the issues in your letter dated 17 July, 2017

We continue to accept comments on this first policy draft until the end of July and will make the second draft publicly available for further online comment later this year. Comments made during consultations and from submissions received so far have now been posted on the ADB website, where there are also details of the upcoming consultations with stakeholders from Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Warm regards,



Satinder Bindra
Principal Director
Department of External Relations



Cc:

Board of Directors

Ms. Karen Lane, Head, Information Disclosure, Department of External Relations

Mr. Chris Morris, Head, NGO and Civil Society Center