

**Information Disclosure Policies of International Financial Institutions - A
Comparative Study
September 01, 2010**

Dear all,

Many of us live and work in countries where international financial institutions (IFIs) have a considerable influence. These institutions provide loans, assistance and advice Governments in relation to development projects. Many of them are in a position to influence government policies which ultimately have a bearing on the lives of people- rich and poor, more so the vulnerable and the marginalised segments of society. Being intergovernmental institutions with transnational jurisdiction and diplomatic immunity these institutions are not covered by the information access laws in any country where they operate. Civil society organisations have time and again expressed serious concerns about the lack of transparency in the working of these institutions.

However in recent years the major IFIs have begun to adopt information disclosure policies. Some of them have revised their disclosure policies based on the experience of the working of earlier versions. The most recent example is that of the the World Bank which has adopted a much more progressive policy since July, 2010. The Asian Development Bank is also in the process of revising its disclosure policy. We are not sure how effective these policies are or will be and how they have contributed to increased levels of transparency in IFIs and the projects they support and the overall policy milieu that they influence.

CHRI has undertaken a comparative study of the disclosure policies of the following major IFIs whose operations affect people living in Commonwealth countries:

- The African Development Bank
- The Asian Development Bank
- The European Investment Bank
- The Inter-American Development Bank
- The International Finance Corporation
- The World Bank

The main features of these policies are arranged in the form of a comparative table.

This is a draft document which is also accessible at:

http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ai/rti/international/ifi_info_disc_pol.pdf

We have only provided a comparative picture along common themes. We have not yet included any analysis of the policies under study. I thank Ms. Ann Wilkings who came to us from Canada for a brief internship stint and completed the first draft of this comparative study.

We look forward to your comments on the draft comparative study. Please tell us what we are missing or what could be changed or done better. Please send your comments to this email address by 15th September, 2010.

In order to access the complete text of this analysis and also our previous email alerts please click on:

http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=65&Itemid=84

You will find the links at the top of this web page. If you do not wish to receive email alerts please send an email to this address indicating your refusal to receive email alerts.

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