

October 31, 2025

Dear Mr. Weiner,

Thank you for your letter and for your continued engagement with the World Bank Group (WBG) on the critical issue of climate change. We appreciate your comments and the concerns you have raised, and we noted your engagement in person at several events and meetings during the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings this month.

We recognize that the ICJ's 2025 Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change is an important milestone in the area of climate change and international law. With respect to climate change and other aspects of our work, we are guided by our development mandate, the priorities of our clients, good international practice, and relevant national and international law. There is an ongoing dialogue within the World Bank Group and with other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) about the implications of the ICJ Opinion, and it will be an important reference point as we continue to refine our strategies, policies, and approaches to serve our clients and deliver on our mission.

We value the input of interested stakeholders and have considered your analysis and views. While we do not agree with all the assumptions you make and conclusions you reach, we do not intend to engage in a public debate about the matters you raise, in particular about interpretation of international or domestic law obligations.

The World Bank Group is committed to helping its clients to apply the mitigation hierarchy to manage, avoid, minimize, mitigate and offset social and environmental risks and adverse impacts caused by the projects its investments support, including those related to climate change. This is spelled out in the Sustainability Frameworks, which apply to IFC and MIGA and their clients, and the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), which applies to IBRD and IDA and their clients. These include climate-related obligations applicable to the project or client.

The comprehensive update of IFC/MIGA's 2012 Sustainability Framework will be guided by our development mandate, the priorities of our clients and shareholders, as well as stakeholder input. We appreciate your participation in several meetings that have been part of the update process and hope you will continue to do so.

The World Bank Group is committed to supporting member countries achieve their development and climate goals. We continue to review and refine our approaches to climate risk, and in doing so take into account relevant legal, policy and scientific developments.

Sincerely,

Valerie Hickey, Jamie Fergusson and Sebnem Erol Madan