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Request Sent to WBG to Break its Silence on ICJ Climate Advisory Opinion & Amend Policies to Begin Adhering to its Now Crystallized Climate Change Legal Obligations

Washington D.C., 15 October, 2025, World Bank Annual Board Meetings – Bank Climate Advocates (BCA) has issued World Bank Group (WBG) and its member states [a formal request for immediate corrective action](#): to amend WBG's policies to meet its and its member states' stringent climate change obligations under international that were crystallized in July 2025 by the [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\) Climate Change Advisory Opinion](#).

As [BCA's call to action](#) highlights, the ICJ Opinion confirms and makes clear what BCA's analysis has been demonstrating to the WBG: that its suite of policies – including its Paris Alignment Methodologies, Energy Strategies, and Performance Standards - are far out of alignment with its and its member states' climate change due diligence obligations under international law. Yet, three months after the Opinion issued, the WBG has yet to plan or take corrective action to update its policies, or even assess the Opinion's implications. This is despite WBG's pledge in 2023 to continuously update its Paris Methodologies, and IFC side-stepping action on [BCA's and 28 civil society organizations' concerns about the legal adequacy of its climate policies](#) in [February](#) and [April](#) while noting “we closely monitor legal developments that may be relevant to IFC as an international organization, as well as other legal developments that apply to states...[c]limate related questions that are currently being considered by the International Court of Justice [] are of great interest.”

“In the face of the worsening climate crisis, where limiting global warming to 1.5°C is getting harder and harder by the day, we are more than disappointed by WBG's inaction and absence of attention to aligning with stringent due diligence in the ICJ Opinion at this years' annuals,” said Jason Weiner, Bank Climate Advocates Executive Director & Legal Director. “Civil Society has been reasonably expecting a response from the WBG to the ICJ Opinion for months following IFC's February and April letters ... instead it's just been radio silence and a complete lack of climate leadership from the Bank that, if continued, will cause more irreversible harms to the global south communities it is supposed to benefit.”

As detailed in [BCA's and 28 CSOs' January 2025 ask for IFC to implement its own Compliance Advisor Ombudsman's determinations of IFC's board adopted policy requirements applicable to climate change](#), the climate problems at the WBG extend well beyond implementation of its legally inadequate policies. For instance, BCA continues to see the same old GHG emissions diligence shortcoming we documented over [350 IFC investments](#) and [60 MIGA guarantees](#) from 2012-2023 to the present that has resulted in tremendous avoidable GHG emissions and fossil fuel infrastructure where renewable energy is economically and technically feasible. Take for instance IFC's/IDA's \$700 million investment in the [Barrick Gold Reko Diq Copper Mine in Pakistan IFC approved in June 2025 \(see BCA's full analysis here\)](#) and IFC's Morocco LNG Advisory Services project # 607416 approved in June 2023. Further, there is no indication IFC is making sure its financial intermediary clients, which represent over half of IFC's investments, even meet IFC's own inadequate climate due diligence policies. And BCA remains especially concerned with the new “least cost generation” criteria the WBG has set forth for its Mission 300 project to electrify Africa. This new criteria threatens to erode WBG's weak Paris Methodologies that already fall so far short of the stringent due diligence obligations in the ICJ Opinion because it would allow WBG investments in natural gas, LNG, and other fossil fuel power projects if the WBG determines they are lower cost than feasible renewables that could meet energy demand instead.

About Bank Climate Advocates (BCA): *BCA is an innovative organization helping drive the systemic change in finance needed to avert the worst effects of climate change and help transform the global energy system. Our focus is on aligning the climate change policies and practices of leading public financial institutions (PFIs) with 1.5°C using legal advocacy and action. With such alignment, these PFIs will not only meet their critical share of climate obligations, but the conditions will be created for other public and private banks to follow suit. More about BCA can be found at: www.bankclimateadvocates.org*

Contact information:

Jason Weiner, Executive Director, Bank Climate Advocates, +1 (310) 439-8702, jason@bankclimateadvocates.org