



5 August 2025

Dear Mr. Weiner,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 24 July 2025. We have set out below our replies to the four requests formulated on the last page of your letter.

Accelerated Timeframe and Consultations

On 15 August 2024, at the request of the NGO Forum, a meeting took place between ADB and the NGO Forum to discuss the Energy Policy Review. At that meeting, Asian Development Bank (ADB) communicated that the Energy Policy Review would be completed in Q3 2025. In subsequent meetings, we indicated that the completion of the review may extend up to Q4 2025/Q1 2026. Following internal discussion, including with the ADB Board of Directors in July 2025, the timeline for completion of the review and for Board consideration was moved to Q4 2025. Additional information on the Energy Policy Review is now available on ADB's website for public disclosure including information on the consultation process and timeline along with a more detailed briefing note - <https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/about/energy-policy-review>.

We recap the consultations that have taken place to date. ADB has held consultations with the NGO Forum and its network members on the Energy Policy Review on at least seven occasions, virtually and in-person: 15 August 2024 (online); 27 March 2025 (online); 5 and 7 May 2025 (in-person at the ADB Annual Meeting); 4 June 2025 (hybrid session at the ADB Asia Clean Energy Forum); and 22 July 2025 (online). In addition, on 15 August 2025, ADB will hold two online consultations open to all interested Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). In light of the above, ADB believes that sufficient and timely updates have been provided on the progress of the review.

Publicly release a full draft of the Energy Policy Update

The contents of the proposed amendments in detail have been posted in the above website link as part of the latest version of the brief note. The final wording of the amendments is still under internal discussion and evolving.

Conduct and publicly release a comprehensive SEA analysis

ADB has no formal requirement for undertaking strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) or environmental impact assessments (EIAs) in connection with the adoption of its policies. Conducting such assessments, where relevant, is a requirement under the Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) and Environmental and Social Framework, for the projects that ADB finances.

Overall, ADB's 2021 Energy Policy remains well-suited to current global challenges. Key measures to enhance energy security—such as energy source diversification, improved energy efficiency, accelerated deployment of renewable energy, private sector development, and regional cooperation—are already effectively integrated into the policy. Further, many of the proposed

changes relate to topics (such as the Energy Transition Mechanism or critical minerals) with respect to which ADB has been having ongoing engagement with CSOs.

Initiate an official, adequately publicized period for written public comments

On 8 July 2025, ADB shared with CSOs a brief note summarizing the proposed changes to the 2021 Energy Policy for public review. The e-mail accompanying that document contained a request to provide written feedback to ADB before 1 August 2025. That deadline was subsequently extended to 8 August 2025.

Notwithstanding this, as ADB's engagement with CSOs on the Energy Policy Review has been predominantly through meetings (either in person or virtually), we acknowledge that there might have been scope for misunderstandings in relation to the timelines and modalities for providing comments. To address this issue, we have now created a webpage containing information on the policy review process and deadlines to provide comments. The website can be accessed through the above link and we look forward to receiving civil society's comments on the proposed changes by 28 August 2025. We look forward to continuing our engagement and receiving your written comments.

Finally, we have taken note of the analysis submitted in your letter, including in Appendix A, relating to your interpretation of public international law with respect to the Energy Policy Review.

Sincerely,



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