

April 4, 2024

Mr. Mark Fodor
Defenders in Development campaign Coordinator
Coalition for Human Rights in Development

Dear Mr Fodor,

Re: Response letter

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Ajay Banga from March 1, 2024, regarding the draft law on “foreign representatives”, known officially as the Draft Law “on Amendments to the Law on of the Kyrgyz Republic non-commercial organizations”.

We have followed the discussions in the Kyrgyz Republic regarding this law and appreciate civil society organizations (CSOs) sharing their concerns and keeping us informed regarding the possible repercussions the law could have on their work. The World Bank Group has always been supportive of the critical role that CSOs play in the development of a robust and inclusive society and in enhancing accountability and transparency in countries.

Within our own remit, we are committed to ensuring that Bank-financed operations and projects in our member countries are implemented in accordance with the applicable environmental and social requirements, standards, and policies.

Those requirements, standards, and policies require borrowers to ensure robust environmental and social assessments; comprehensive citizen and stakeholder engagement; effective public participation; transparency and accountability arrangements, and accessible grievance redress mechanisms.

I would also draw your attention to the World Bank’s statement regarding reprisals and retaliation against persons who share views concerning Bank-financed projects. Any intimidation against those who comment on Bank projects goes against our core values and mission.

We will continue to follow developments in the Kyrgyz Republic around the “foreign representatives” law and the treatment of CSOs more generally.

On my next visit to the Kyrgyz Republic, I will be available to meet with local CSOs to better understand the draft law’s potential impact on stakeholders and beneficiaries in the context of the operations we finance. We will continue monitoring the developments in the Kyrgyz Republic closely.

Thank you once again for reaching out to us.

Sincerely,



Tatiana Proskuryakova
Regional Director
Central Asia

Cc:

Ms. Chinara Aitbayeva, NGO Nash Vek, Head of the Coalition of the External Aid Monitoring Network, Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek

Ms. Sadicha Konakbayeva, Leader of the community based NGO KAREK, Kyrgyzstan, Barskoon village

Ms. Maria Kolesnikova, The Director of Move Green, a Youth environmental movement in Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek

Mr. Ilgiz Kambarov, Head of the Association "Green Alliance", Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek

Ms. Djamilya Kaparova, Head of the NGO "Diamond", Kyrgyzstan, Osh, Gender expert Coalition for Equality, International Federation for Human Rights, Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek

Ms. Tolekan Ismailova Public Association "Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino", Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek

Ms. Oleksandra Matviichuk, Head of Center for Civic Liberties, Nobel Peace Prize 2022, Ukraine, Kyiv

Ms. Aina Shormanbayeva, President at International Legal Initiative, Public Foundation, Kazakhstan, Almaty

Ms. Brigitte Dufour, Director, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)

Ms. Manana Kochladze, Strategic Area Leader, CEE Bankwatch Network International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Mr. Rayyan Hassan, Executive Director, NGO Forum on ADB