July 5, 2013

Comments from Australia on Approval by mail: Duties of Gender Specialist in the CIF Administrative Unit responsible for collaborating with the MDBs on Gender Issues

Dear Patricia

Thank you for the work that has gone in to preparing the ToR and the output plan. Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on these and apologises for the delay in responding.

We understand previous committee discussions may have indicated a Grade F level position would be appropriate. On reflection, we support an upgrade of this position to a Grade G, senior expert position, as also suggested by other committee colleagues. We believe this would better ensure more effective pursuit of gender strategic objectives and influence.

Additionally, to ensure effective collaboration and integration of gender considerations into CIF activities we would appreciate clarification that “collaboration” in the delineation of tasks includes travel opportunities (as appropriate) to ensure gender aspects are considered ‘on the ground’.

Notwithstanding our appreciation of seeing your efforts in generating efficiency savings (which in part were derived from restricting travel for CIF AU staff) as part of the latest annual budget, we would be happy for the annual budget to be amended as reasonably appropriate to accommodate these suggestions. We think the extra funds will result in more influential and sustainable gender outcomes.

Best regards

John Anakotta

Policy Manager | International Development Policy & Financing Branch | AusAID