

**U.S. Position on “Changes in the Senior Management Positions of the Inspection Panel Secretariat and Formalization of Selection Procedures for its Executive Secretary in Accordance with the Resolution Establishing the Inspection Panel”**

The legitimacy of the World Bank depends on a robust accountability mechanism. The Inspection Panel provides a voice to peoples affected by World Bank-financed projects -- frequently some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our client countries. Given the vital role played by the Panel, it is critical that the Panel's independence, integrity and credibility are beyond reproach and the United States strongly believes that any proposal about the Panel should be viewed through the lens of strengthening the Panel's independence and integrity.

An effective Inspection Panel requires strong panel members supported by strong staff. When the Panel advertises for a new Executive Secretary, the United States strongly urges the Panel to consider a wide range of skills, as well as the ability to engage constructively with affected communities, governments, civil society, and Bank staff. The United States also urges the Panel to consult broadly with the Board, civil society and other external stakeholders about the appropriate profile for the position and good avenues to identify the best possible candidates. Finally, the United States urges the Panel to take appropriate measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest for the Executive Secretary. The United States notes its disappointment that there is not a mandatory “cooling off period” before an outgoing Executive Secretary would be eligible for re-employment at the Bank, as has been recommended previously for the Executive Secretary position. The United States requests to be recorded as abstaining on the proposal.