

## **AIC decision on appeal #98**

### **CASE NUMBER AI9012 IDENTIFYING PRIOR ACTIONS AS CLIMATE FINANCE (Decision dated October 21, 2024)**

#### **Summary of Decision**

- As part of its due diligence on appeals, the Access to Information Committee (“AIC”) seeks the views of relevant business units on the possible disclosure of the requested information. In this case, after extensive consultations with the relevant business units, the AIC decided, *on an exceptional basis*, to have the responsible business unit collate the requested information for the purpose of making it publicly available. The requested information has since been made publicly available and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

#### **The Decision**

##### *Facts*

1. On February 9, 2024, the World Bank (“Bank”) received a public access request for, in relevant part:

(...) confirming which of these ‘862’ [“Energy Policies & Reform” in the WBG’s public[ly] available prior actions "DPAD database" (Climate Action Dashboard) between FY18-FY23] prior actions [are] tagged as... [or] ... have been categorized as climate finance? (“Request”).

2. The Request included a spreadsheet with a column titled “Has the prior action been tagged as climate finance? (yes/no)”. Pursuant to the Request, the Bank was asked to reply “yes” or “no” on each row listing a prior action.
3. On April 15, 2024, the Bank denied public access to the information responsive to the Request based on the *Deliberative Information* exception under the *Bank Policy: Access to Information*, July 1, 2015, Catalogue No. EXC4.01-POL.01 (“AI Policy”).
4. On May 7, 2024, the requester filed an appeal challenging the Bank’s denial. The appeal was filed on both “violation of policy” and “public interest” grounds (“Appeal”).

##### *Findings and Related Decisions*

5. In reviewing the Appeal in accordance with the AI Policy, the AIC sought the views of the relevant business units on the possible disclosure of the requested information. The relevant business units offered both written and verbal comments to the AIC for consideration.
6. The AIC met twice in September 2024 to discuss the appeal. After much deliberation and considering that the request was solely for the Bank to reply “yes” or no” on a spreadsheet, the AIC decided, *on an exceptional basis*, to have the responsible business unit collate the requested information (i.e., “yes” or “no” answers) for the purpose of making it publicly available. The requested information has since been made publicly available and can be found by [clicking here](#).