

Att: Panel of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness

I urge the Australian Government to implement the following changes:

1. End the practice of using aid to further Australia's national interests by:
 - a) Removing the reference to national interest from the objective of Australia's aid program - our aid program should focus on alleviating poverty and sustainable development in accordance with the needs and priorities of recipient communities
 - b) Establishing AusAID as a distinct department with a Minister in Cabinet responsible for international development.
2. Recognise that the impacts of climate change will drastically undermine development prospects for low-income countries by:
 - a) Committing at least A\$2.1 billion per year funding for climate aid, commensurate with Australia's contribution to global ODA
 - b) Ensuring that this climate aid is new money, not funds redirected from other development priorities and that it is aimed primarily at assisting the most vulnerable communities.
3. Improve the transparency, accountability and monitoring of Australian aid spending by:
 - a) Making the Office of Development Effectiveness an independent body separate from AusAID, as per the British Independent Commission on Aid Impact
 - b) Publishing timely, accessible and detailed information about all aid initiatives
 - c) Publicly releasing all parts of commercial aid contracts which do not satisfy the Department of Finance and Administration's 'Confidentiality Test'.
4. Reduce the proportion of aid money spent on Technical Assistance to at least the OECD average. Identification of Technical Assistance needs should be led by aid recipients and use of local advisors prioritised over external advisors.
5. Require all aid providers to demonstrate how their initiatives are guided by host governments, communities and civil society organisations in the planning, implementation and evaluation of aid initiatives.
6. Demonstrate how Australia's policies on trade, investment, finance, migration, security and climate change are consistent with the promotion of poverty alleviation, gender equity and sustainable development.

Yours Sincerely,
James Godfrey