To the panel of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness,

I believe we need to make changes to Australia's aid program so that it makes a positive and long-lasting contribution to the lives of the poor.

Australia's aid program can make a huge difference to the lives of millions of people.

I therefore call upon the Australian Government to implement the following changes:

- **End the practice of using aid to further Australia's national interests:**
  - **Remove reference to national interest from the objective of Australia's aid program**
  - **Establish AusAID as a separate department (currently under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) with a Cabinet level minister responsible for international development.**

- **Recognise that the impacts of climate change will drastically undermine development prospects for low-income countries:**
  - **Commit to at least A$2.1 billion per year funding for climate aid, commensurate with Australia's contribution to global ODA.**
  - **Ensure 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.**

- **Improve the transparency, accountability and monitoring of Australian aid spending:**
  - **Make the Office of Development Effectiveness an independent body separate from AusAID, following the example of the UK's Independent Commission on Aid Impact.**
  - **Publish timely, accessible and detailed information about all aid initiatives.**
  - **Publicly release all parts of commercial aid contracts which do not satisfy the Department of Finance and Administration's 'Confidentiality Test'.**

- **Reduce the proportion of aid money spent on Technical Assistance (TA) to at least the OECD average. Identification of TA needs should be led by aid recipients and use of local advisors prioritised over external advisors.**

- **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.**

- **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,

Ms Nizza Siano