

U.S. Position
Eskom – Inspection Panel Request
July 29, 2010

The United States views the Inspection Panel as an essential accountability mechanism of the World Bank. The Inspection Panel helps to ensure that the Bank is accountable to the Board of Directors in fully and consistently applying agreed operational policies and procedures, and provides a critical mechanism of potential redress for individuals who may be adversely affected by Bank operations. As such, the United States has traditionally been a strong supporter of the Inspection Panel's independence and, in this matter, supports the Panel's recommendation that an investigation be carried out on the request regarding the Eskom Investment Support Project.

It is sometimes the case that requests for inspection touch on items that are beyond the mandate of the Inspection Panel. In this regard, the United States appreciates the clarification provided by the Inspection Panel that this investigation will "be carried out on the issues raised by the request that relate to allegations of violations of World Bank operational policies and procedures."

On the issue of climate change, which was raised by the requester, the United States supports the Panel's intention to examine the Bank's adherence to OP 4.00 on Country Systems. In our view, this examination could address the application of the six criteria under the Development and Climate Change Strategic Framework that were used to provide the justification for the Bank's engagement.

Finally, the United States welcomes the disclosure of the report, as required, and the Inspection Panel's Board statement in order to provide additional clarity on the scope of the investigation.