

JOINT STATEMENT ON GENDER EQUALITY AND GENDER EQUITY

“Gender Equality” and “Gender Equity” concepts are recognized by the international sustainable development agenda as being crucial for accelerating sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, and fight against poverty and inequality across the world.

The concepts of “Gender Equality” and “Gender Equity” are viewed to be interconnected in the sense that ensuring gender equity can contribute to eliminating gender biases, which, then, can motivate towards gender equality.

Raising awareness and ensuring commitment to close persistent gender gaps are critical for developing economies as empirical studies prove a positive correlation between higher female labor participation and increase in productivity and savings to be channeled to investments, which in turn can contribute to economic growth and social development among other benefits.

Therefore, the international development finance community emphasizes the importance of promoting approaches in favor of gender equality and gender equity; and values the transition to gender-sensitive strategies within the organizations. The recognition that financial services can have transformational influence on industries, results in the implementation of various financial products, incentives and certifications at both national and international level.

In this context, it is of utmost importance that development banks within their sustainable development mission, incorporate a gender focus into their policies and strategies.

By signing this **Joint Statement on Gender Equality and Gender Equity**, we, members of IDFC, commit to make progress towards implementing gender-sensitive policies through our internal and external practices.

We deem necessary to move forward in two dimensions that include (i) mainstreaming internal strategy with a gender focus and enhancing internal commitment level to promote gender-sensitive opportunities within the organizations and (ii) utilizing financial and non-financial resources for creating external impact, capacity building and raising awareness on gender equality and gender equity.

We call for a strong network and continuous dialogue between members in the area of gender equality and gender equity.

We endeavor to promote financing investments that contribute to the enhancing gender equality and gender equity in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.

We consider implementing this commitment gradually according to the institutional environment of each member.

This declaration will be reviewed time-to-time.

Approved by IDFC at its Annual Meeting of October 2019