Middle East Investment Initiative

Overarching Environmental and Social Policy Statement

Middle East Investment Initiative (MEII), an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to stimulating economic growth and job creation in the MENA region has an **Environmental and Social (E&S) Policy** to comply with its donor regulations and all applicable national and international laws on environment, health, safety, social, labor issues, and best practices.

Purpose

To ensure that effective environmental and social management practices are being implemented by all MEII programs and products and that MEII does not support projects that unnecessarily harm the environment, public health and the community.

Scope

This E&S Policy is an overarching policy which applies across MEII's offices and range of activities and programs. It applies to all those who are employed within MEII and to the businesses and partners it supports.

Responsibilities

- Ensure compliance with the ten principles of the Unites Nation's Global Compact (UNGC) with respect to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption;
- Ensure that all projects are reviewed and evaluated against environmental and social requirements and donor agencies (e.g. DFC, USAID, Sida) prohibited activities and exclusion lists and that environmental and social risks are identified and assessed at an early stage.
- Ensure that credit decisions are supported by appropriate due diligence documentation and appropriate environmental representation, warranties and covenants incorporated in all consents and agreements;
- Ensure equal opportunity and diversity in the workforce. Ensure compliance with all applicable laws pertaining to treatment of employees and job applicants without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or any other legally protected status;
- Ensure the Grievance Mechanism is effectively implemented to identify risks of negative impacts and avoid escalation of disputes;
- Maintain a safe and healthy workplace environment and conserve energy, whenever possible;
- Honor the Whistle Blowing Policy that is designed to provide an opportunity to employees to report to management any incident of unethical behavior, actual or suspected, fraud or violation of MEII's code of conduct; and
- Ensure that management and employees, partners and supported businesses understand the E&S Policy commitments;

This policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains compliant in light of any relevant changes to laws, donor policies, and contractual obligations.

This policy is available to the public at any of our offices and posted on our web site www.meii.org