An Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Selection Process
for the next World Bank President

We, the undersigned civil society organisations and academics, hereby request that you as the
Minister responsible for Australia’s engagement with the World Bank, support an open, transparent
and merit-based selection process for the position of President.

In 2023, it should no longer be acceptable that a gentlemen’s agreement made in 1944 determine
the selection of the world’s most powerful development organisations. The world is facing mounting
global pressures including existential climate pressures, increasing inequality and debt distress. The
World Bank is a key player in addressing many of these issues. The Bank itself is also under pressure
to create an effective roadmap for reform, which will be a major challenge for a new President.

The outgoing president, David Malpass, came under pressure because his commitment to addressing
the climate crisis was not clear. The US government has now nominated Ajay Banga, vice chair of
General Atlantic, a private equity firm and former CEO of Mastercard. Banga has no experience in
public service and no record in promoting poverty reduction or climate change mitigation and
adaptation.

It is not in Australia’s national interest to have another World Bank president who does not have the
support of government and civil society in the Asia Pacific and globally.

Yours sincerely,

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