

December 17, 2019

Board of Directors  
Inter-American Development Bank  
1300 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20577

**Re: Recommendations for the upcoming in-person consultation process on the Draft IDB Environmental and Social Policy Framework**

Dear Directors and Counselors,

The purpose of this letter is to express the interest and commitment of the undersigned civil society organizations and indigenous groups to engage effectively in the upcoming in-person consultation meetings to be held by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on the draft Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF). These meetings' timing and dates are key factors to enable the effective participation of local stakeholders in Latin America. Therefore, we urge the Board of Directors to ensure that the following recommendations are taken into account:

**1) March should mark the beginning of in-person consultation meetings.** Consultation meetings should be timed for when local stakeholders can actually attend and engage. In most countries in Latin America, official holidays and carnival-related festivities take place in January and February. Other salient reasons for deferral are the recent changes of government that occurred in Argentina and Guatemala as well as the recent political turmoil experienced in Chile and Bolivia. Accordingly, we strongly recommend the IDB start holding these meetings in March 2020, not earlier.

**2) In-person consultation meetings should be held every two weeks in the different countries.** These meetings should not be held simultaneously. Staggering the meetings in this way is needed to afford sufficient time to stakeholders to share insights and inputs among themselves between the meetings in different countries. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the IDB hold these meetings no more frequently than every two weeks to allow stakeholders to be better prepared for them.

We hope the Board of Directors supports these process-focused recommendations to enable local stakeholders to engage and participate effectively in the upcoming consultations. We look forward to working with IDB Management to ensure the consultation process is meaningful and participatory, with the goal of improving the safeguards to best reflect international standards.

Sincerely,

Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad (AAS), Colombia  
Asociación de Desarrollo Sostenible de Poblaciones vulnerables (ADECEP), Peru  
Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA), Regional  
Asociación Manuelita y Analy (MAW LSP), Peru  
Asociación Peruana de Abogados con Discapacidad visual, Peru

Asociación Unión de Talleres 11 de Septiembre, Bolivia  
Bank Information Center (BIC), US  
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), US  
Centro de los Derechos del Campesino, Nicaragua  
Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Laboral y Agrario (CEDLA), Bolivia  
Centro de Incidencia Ambiental de Panamá (CIAM), Panama  
Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA), Mexico  
China-Latin America Sustainable Investments Initiative (CLASII), International  
Coalición Regional por la Transparencia y Participación, Regional  
Colectivo 21, Peru  
CONNECTAS Direitos Humanos, Brazil  
Derecho, Ambiente, y Recursos Naturales (DAR), Peru  
Federación Nacional de Mujeres con Discapacidad del Peru (FENAMUDIP), Peru  
Fondo Tierra Viva, Honduras  
Fraternidad Cristiana de Personas con Discapacidad (FRATER), Peru  
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN), Argentina  
Fundación Cambio Democrático (FCD), Argentina  
Fundación CAUCE, Cultura Ambiental Causa Ecologista, Argentina  
Fundación Humedales, Argentina  
Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS), Argentina  
Gender Action, US  
Indian Law Resource Center (I.L.R.C), US  
Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos (INESC), Brazil  
International Accountability Project (AIP), International  
Mesa Discapacidad y Derechos de la Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, Peru  
ONG Sustentarse, Chile  
Organización Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Colombiana (OPIAC), Colombia  
Otros Mundos Chiapas, Mexico  
Oxfam  
Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad, International  
Sociedad y Discapacidad (SODIS), Peru  
Soluciones Integrales Ver SAC, Peru