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
CONECTAS 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