

June 20, 2017

Dear President Moreno, Executive Directors and Members of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Administration,

We are writing you regarding the celebration of the Annual Meeting of the Boards of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC), which took place between March, 30th and April, 2nd 2017, at the city of Asunción, Paraguay.

We, the undersigned, are a group of civil society organizations working on financing for development, environment, human rights, integration and/or transparency agendas. We monitor the activities and processes of different International Financial Institutions, promoting the opening of spaces of communication and effective participation in order to improve the impact and performance of the projects financed in our countries. Many of us follow IDB funding in the Latin American and Caribbean region and participate in several agendas related to the institution's work, the IDB and the IIC as well as the Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (MICI), with which we hold an active and constructive relationship.

We are aware that, since the year 2014, the participation of civil society in the Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors is not contemplated nor allowed, in contrast with what happened in the past, when the Bank itself organised and promoted this participation; and contrary to what happens with other actors like the press and the private sector, for instance, that are able to participate in this meetings. Many of the organizations hereby signing used to participate in this meeting when there was space for civil society to participate, which allowed us to create constructive dynamics of work with different Executive Directors and members of the Institution's administration.

We are also aware and recognise the Bank's efforts to promote different initiatives for its relationship with civil society, such as de Civil Society Consultative Groups (ConSoc), the public consultations or even the Annual IDB-Civil Society Meetings. In fact, many of the signatory organizations of this letter have participated in some way or are currently participating in these spaces.

However, we consider that these kinds of spaces of relationship with civil society that the Bank currently has are not fully representative and active participation in these spaces is limited. Also, in general there is no possibility to interact with certain representatives of the Bank in those spaces, such as the Executive Directors or the Governors of the Institution, among others. Considering that the Executive Directors and Governors are public officials representing our countries, and the fact that their decisions are key to the decision-making process of the Institution as well as of the development projects that it promotes in our countries, we consider that the Banks must ensure the effective participation of civil society in these spaces.

Taking into account what was mentioned above, we would like to request that the Bank and its staff:

- 1) Open the possibility for civil society to participate in the next Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors of the IDB and the IIC, to be held in 2018 in the city of Mendoza, Argentina.
- 2) Build a participation space for civil society in the framework of the Annual Meetings, that facilitates interaction between Bank members, civil society, the press, the private sector and other relevant actors; and similar to the existing one in the framework of the Spring and Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (known as *Civil Society Policy Forum*)
- 3) Meet with us on a face-to-face and/or virtual basis in order to discuss the proposals previously mentioned and be able to build a space for interaction mutually beneficial for the Bank and civil society. An option for this could be a possible meeting in Washington D.C. during the Annual Meetings or the Spring Meetings of the World Bank-IMF (generally in April or October), taking advantage of the possible participation of several of the signatory organizations in the framework of those events. To do this, please contact Juan Martin Carballo (juanmcarballo@fundeps.org) and Mariana González Armijo (mgonzalez@fundar.org.mx).

With nothing more to add, we await for your answer to our letter,

Sincerely,

1. Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS) – Argentina
2. Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR) – Peru
3. Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad (AAS) – Colombia
4. Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación – Mexico
5. Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad – Regional
6. Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN) – Argentina
7. Fundación para el Desarrollo Sustentable (FDS) – Mexico
8. Fundación Fiscalización Ciudadana – Dominican Republic
9. Conectas Direitos Humanos – Brazil
10. Fundación Jubileo – Bolivia
11. International Rivers – International
12. International Accountability Project – USA
13. Lumière Synergie pour le Développement – Senegal
14. Friends of the Earth US – USA
15. Asociación de Desarrollo Comunitario Rural (ADECOR) – Guatemala
16. Acción Ciudadana, Capitulo Guatemalteco de Transparencia Internacional – Guatemala
17. Ecoa. Ecologia e Ação – Brazil
18. Oxfam – International
19. Accountability Counsel – USA
20. Solidaridad Marista AC – Mexico

21. Centro de los Derechos del Campesino – Nicaragua
22. Coordinadora Civil – Nicaragua
23. Centro de Iniciativas en Políticas Ambientales – Nicaragua
24. Red de Asociaciones de la Sociedad Civil de Managua – Nicaragua
25. Hope Alliance Liberia – Liberia
26. Cultura de Gobierno Abierto – Colombia
27. Cultura 52 – Costa Rica
28. Kejibaus Youth Development Initiative – Nigeria
29. Center for International Environmental Law – USA
30. Triumphant Hand of Mercy initiative (THOMI AFRICA) – South Africa
31. Colectivo Profesionales para la Ciudadanía – Costa Rica
32. Association des Blogueurs de Guinée (ABLOGUI) – Guinea
33. DigitalSENSE Africa Media – Nigeria
34. Asociación Costa Rica Íntegra – Costa Rica
35. Open Gov Algeria Lab – France
36. OT Watch – Mongolia
37. Rivers without Boundaries – Mongolia
38. Media Initiative for Open Governance in Uganda (MIFOGU) – Uganda
39. Association for promotion sustainable development – India
40. Veuillez rajouter Association Nigérienne des Scouts de l'Environnement – Niger
41. Alliance de Lutte Contre la Faim et la Malnutrition (ACFM Niger) – Niger
42. Rainforest Foundation Norway – Norway
43. Fundación Economía para el Desarrollo (FEDES) – Guatemala
44. Democracia & Desarrollo Internacional (D&D Internacional) – Peru
45. Centro de Incidencia Ambiental de Panamá (CIAM Panamá) – Panama
46. Amazon Watch – USA
47. Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE) – El Salvador
48. Consejo de Pueblos Wuxhtaj – Guatemala
49. Association Aide aux Familles et Victimes des Migrations Clandestines (AFVMC) – Cameroon
50. Rural Area Development Programme (RADP) – Nepal
51. CreaThink AC – Mexico
52. Semillas para la Democracia – Paraguay
53. Latindadd. Red Latinoamericana de Deuda, Desarrollo y Derechos – Regional
54. Fundación M'Biguá. Ciudadanía y Justicia Ambiental – Argentina
55. Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA) – Regional
56. Comunidades Unidas – Colombia
57. Corporativa de Fundaciones A.C – Mexico
58. Coordinadora de Organizaciones Populares del Aguan (COPA) – Honduras
59. Red Argentina de Ambiente y Desarrollo (RAAD) – Argentina
60. Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO) – Argentina.