

Via electronic email

December 6, 2024

Ilan Goldfajn, President
Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Avenue
NW Washington, D.C. 20577

Dear Mr. Ilan Goldfajn,

We are writing to convey our concern regarding the lack of well-coordinated institutional channels that would, among other things, enhance civil society participation in the organization of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Annual Meeting, scheduled to take place in Santiago, Chile, in March 2025.

During the Annual Meeting held in the Dominican Republic in March 2024, you announced two commitments regarding civil society engagement:

1. **Review of the IDB-Civil Society Engagement Action Plan:** The review of the Action Plan promised to foster a more effective and continuous relationship with civil society as a strategically important actor in the region's development. This represents an opportunity to establish a more coordinated and strategic partnership that would facilitate our engagement in processes like the IDB Annual Meeting. However, no consultation process regarding the Action Plan has been initiated, and we are unaware of the timeline for its approval.
2. **Inclusion of Civil Society in Country Strategies:** It was announced that Country Strategies, to be developed under the New Institutional Strategy, would involve consultation with civil society organizations and impacted communities in relevant countries. We have participated in two such consultations, but it remains unclear how our input is being incorporated into these strategic documents, which are essential for robust upstream planning that promotes better client and project selectivity.

Regarding the 2025 Annual Meeting, it is unclear how civil society can meaningfully participate in its preparation without an Action Plan establishing the foundation for the IDB Group's engagement with civil society. We have hoped to build on the successful meeting in the Dominican Republic to continue to grow the relationship with civil society. But as of today, we lack clarity on the following points: How can all stakeholders wishing to participate register for the meeting? How can civil society submit proposals for topics to be addressed at the event? How can civil society participate in the event's organization process in a coordinated manner? How can civil society representatives make proposals for the various panels and discussion seminars?

The IDB is missing an opportunity to incorporate the perspectives and expertise of civil society and impacted communities on matters of shared interest. While we appreciate your openness and that of your team, the discussion around the Action Plan is a critical opportunity to address all the aforementioned issues and establish a more effective and collaborative working approach.

We request that the IDB Group provide details and responses to our concerns by the end of January 2025 before the Annual Meeting. We propose holding an in-person meeting with you during the Annual Meeting to discuss and agree upon the foundations of a more robust and concrete civil society engagement system. We are convinced that working together will benefit both parties and contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of IDB operations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sincerely,

Accountability Counsel (United States)

Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad, AAS (Colombia)

Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente, AIDA (Regional)

Bank Information Center (United States)

Center for International Environmental Law, CIEL (International)

Centro de Estudios HEÑÓI (Paraguay)

Coalición para los Derechos Humanos en el Desarrollo (International)

Cohesión Comunitaria e Innovación Social A.C. (México)

Colectivo Voces Diversas (El Salvador)

Gender Action (United States)

Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos naturales - DAR (Peru)

Ecoa - Ecologia e Ação (Brazil)

Foro Boliviano sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo, FOBOMADE (Bolivia)

Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales - FARN (Argentina)

Fundación CAUCE: Cultura Ambiental, Causa Ecologista (Argentina)

Fundación Tierra (Bolivia)

Fundeps (Argentina)

GT Infraestrutura e Justiça Socioambiental (Brazil)

Instituto Maira (Brazil)

Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad (Regional)

Red Latinoamericana por Justicia Económica y Social, LATINDADD (International)

Sociedad y Discapacidad - Sodis (Peru)

Sustentarse (Chile)

CC: Vicepresidenta de Países, Anabel González, Asesora Senior Presidencia, Judith Morrison, Asesora Senior Presidencia Amanda Glassman, Vicepresidencia de Países, Asesora Senior, Flavia Milano