

Via electronic email

July 7, 2025

Mr. James P. Scriven
Chief Executive Officer
IDB Invest
1350 New York Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20577

RE: Concerns and Meeting Request Regarding the Lack of Consultation in the Development of Responsible Exit Principles for IDB Invest

Dear Mr. Scriven,

The undersigned organizations, members of the IDB Working Group—a coalition of regional and international civil society organizations that have been monitoring the work of the Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB Group) for years and advocating for a stronger relationship with civil society—are writing to express our deep concern. We are particularly troubled by IDB Invest’s decision to move forward with the development of the Responsible Exit Framework (REF) without meaningful consultation with civil society and with communities affected by projects where IDB Invest exited irresponsibly.

We have been informed that IDB Invest will adopt the REF developed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), without conducting its consultation process, on the grounds that consultations were already conducted during the IFC process. However, we believe this decision overlooks key aspects that must be taken into account:

1. First, IDB Invest and IFC are distinct institutions, with different mandates, operational frameworks, and regional contexts. IDB Invest operates predominantly in Latin America and the Caribbean—a region facing particular social, economic, and environmental challenges—where organized civil society and communities affected by projects have legitimate rights and expectations to participate in processes that could directly impact their lives.
2. Second, the adoption of the REF—even when aligned with good practices—does not justify bypassing a meaningful consultation process. On the contrary, international best practices on sustainable development and human rights establish that impacted communities and civil society must be heard, especially when developing principles intended to mitigate negative impacts, such as those associated with irresponsible investment exits.

3. The President of the IDB Group, Mr. Ilan Goldfajn, has repeatedly stated that civil society is a key stakeholder for the IDB Group, recognizing that all parties benefit when we work together. Indeed, his administration has shown willingness to strengthen the relationship with civil society through concrete actions, including the review of the IDB-Civil Society Action Plan, the creation of the Department of Public Affairs, hiring of a person dedicated to civil society engagement, and the intention to promote more effective civil society participation in the context of the IDB Annual Meetings. We believe there is strong internal work underway aimed at recognizing that civil society participation must be a part of the institution's cultural DNA. This commitment should be reflected in concrete actions, such as ensuring effective participation in the development of the REF.
4. Several of our organizations, along with communities impacted by IDB Invest-financed projects who also endorse this communication, have witnessed projects where IDB Invest exited while leaving unresolved social, environmental, economic, and cultural impacts—deepening harm and exacerbating risks in the territories. For example, in the Alto Maipo and San Mateo San Andrés projects, no responsible exit processes were carried out. In this context, it is crucial that the REF responds to the concrete realities of the region, acknowledges the mistakes that led to past irresponsible exits by IDB Invest, and prioritizes avoiding their repetition.

For these reasons, we regret that a meaningful consultation process, consistent with international good practices—as conducted by peer institutions and even by the IDB Group itself on other occasions—was not carried out, and that impacted communities and civil society were not included. The meeting we had with IDB Invest on this topic, which only occurred due to our insistence, was limited to a presentation from IDB Invest on decisions already made, without offering a real space to propose changes or suggest modifications to what had already been developed without prior consultation.

As organizations that have historically sought to contribute to the strengthening of the IDB Group's policies and practices, we call on IDB Invest to implement the pilot phase of the REF in a transparent way and to create opportunities for civil society and impacted communities to provide recommendations, which should be duly considered in the final product after the pilot is implemented.

In light of these concerns and considering that under President Goldfajn the Bank has taken meaningful steps to strengthen the relationship between the IDB and civil society and impacted communities, we request a meeting with you to discuss how IDB Invest can foster an institutional culture that is more receptive to interactions, recommendations, and concerns from civil society and communities affected by IDB Invest projects.

Open dialogue with civil society and impacted communities will strengthen the legitimacy and effectiveness of the REF, aligning more closely with IDB Invest's mission to contribute to the sustainable development of 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)

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

Colectivo Voces Diversas (El Salvador)

Conectas Direitos Humanos (Brazil)

Ecoa Ecologia e Ação (Brazil)

Fundación CAUCE: Cultura Ambiental - Causa Ecologista (Argentina)

Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Argentina)

Fundeps (Argentina)

GT Infraestrutura e Justiça Socioambiental (Brazil)

International Platform against Impunity (Regional)

Instituto Maira (Brazil)

Observatorio Ambiental Ciudadano, OAC (Colombia)

Red de Comunidades Impactadas por IFIs en América Latina (Regional)

Sustentarse (Chile)

Wetlands International (Argentina)

CC: President of the IDB Group, Mr. Ilan Goldfajn; Larry Sacks, Chief External Affairs; Gabriel Todt, SEG; Leonardo Mazzei, SEG