

## **Bank Information Center’s Statement on the World Bank Group Board’s Interference with Independent Accountability**

(June 30, 2026) Last week, the World Bank Group’s (WBG) Board of Directors took the unprecedented step of [overruling](#) the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman’s (CAO) finding that the International Finance Corporation (IFC) violated its own policies in its microfinance investments in Cambodia. By rejecting CAO’s [investigation report](#), the Board absolved IFC management of any obligation to develop an action plan to address harms caused by its investment, including loss of land and livelihoods, hunger, increased suicide risks, and threats of retaliation. The Board’s actions amount to a coup against the CAO and the WBG’s accountability system as a whole, opening the door for future findings of institutional noncompliance to be ignored whenever they prove inconvenient. Through that same interference, the Board has denied communities harmed by these IFC investments any meaningful chance of remedy. We commend the CAO Director General Janine Ferretti for her principled decision to resign in response to the Board’s illegitimate interference with the WBG’s accountability system, demonstrating the kind of independence and integrity that effective accountability mechanisms require.

At the same time, the Board recently announced its plans to integrate the WBG’s accountability mechanisms, the CAO, the Inspection Panel, and the Dispute Resolution Service. We have [supported modernizing](#) the WBG’s accountability system, which too often fails to deliver remedy, but only if the [strongest policies and governance practices](#) are preserved. The Board’s decision to undermine CAO’s findings does the opposite and leaves us deeply concerned about the future of accountability at the WBG.

We call on the WBG Board to:

- Reaffirm its commitment to an independent accountability system at the WBG, which is often the only avenue through which communities harmed by WBG-finance projects can seek remedy or justice.
- Commit to a transparent and inclusive [selection process](#) for the head of the new integrated independent accountability mechanism, including civil society representation on the selection committee and public disclosure of the job posting and terms of reference publicly.
- Adopt a strong policy for the integrated accountability mechanism that safeguards its independence, fulfills the Board’s commitment to no regression, and protects the mechanism from management interference and political pressure.