

February 17, 2010

Members, Board of Governors
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

In the name of social and non-governmental organizations that work in the areas of development, environment, human rights, integration and transparency throughout Latin America, we are writing to you as representatives of our countries and regions within the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), entrusted with revising and financing different policies and projects that have an enormous impact in our countries.

Ever since the IDB announced its Ninth General Capital Increase (GCI-), our organizations and social movements have been requesting information and making proposals of different kinds. We have requested to have access a current version of the IDB's recapitalization proposal prior to the Governor's Assembly in Cancun, to which we have not received a positive response. To date the Bank has not made public any draft proposals about the GCI-9 Proposal nor an updated version of the Results Framework, much less other documents about the requested 9th Capital Increase since the first extraordinary meeting of Governors in Santiago, Chile (July, 2009). The consultation process launched by the Bank has come to a halt in the middle of the process, at risk of not concluding properly.

Less than two months from the Assembly of Governors in Cancun, at which supposedly a proposal for the GCI-9 will be approved, the Bank has not responded in a formal manner to the different proposals submitted in recent months by civil society organizations. In the absence of a formal reply from the Bank, in addition to no access to the requested documents, we cannot evaluate whether or not we have been heard. This is unacceptable and implies a violation of the minimum standards of consultation and process transparency.

The clear tendency of economic recuperation in some Latin American countries and the fact that the World Bank has requested a mere increase of 30% of its capital, as compared to an increase of almost 200% suggested by the IDB, raises questions for us in regard to the quality of the analysis backing up the GCI-9 proposal.

We hope to hear directly from you, our Governors, before the end of February, some explanation about how you are representing the interests of our countries in regards to the Bank's request for support for recapitalization.

As such, we would like to put forward for your consideration the minimum conditions needed, though not necessarily the only ones, for the IDB to transform itself into a bank that is actually effective in terms of reducing poverty in the region in addition to being coherent with a vision of sustainable development.

Managing for Results and Transparency

The IDB lacks an adequate evidence based evaluation system that can systematically show the results of its efforts. The results indicators from the Bank's 8th GCI were not sufficiently rigorous, and information systems were not developed which allowed for proper accounting of either the efforts or the results of the Bank's initiatives.

All of this implies, as would be the case with any commercial bank, something more than simply increasing the volume of lending. There should be much more comprehensive evaluation objectives which include the achievement of clearly specified impacts within a given time frame. If the IDB demands these standards of evaluation from governments as a condition of access to loans, the minimum is that the Bank should comply with those same standards itself.

We Recommend that the Bank:

- 1) Demonstrate evidence of improvement of the quality upon entry of all new operations and programs, which assures the complete 100% adherence to prescribed quality standards for all new projects prior to their approval within a two-year time frame¹;
- 2) Show evidence in the improvement of the quality of supervision and evaluation of projects in execution phase – in particular for non-sovereign guarantee projects or operations – in accordance with international standards with the objective of completion within two years;
- 3) Establish a mechanism that links performance appraisal, salary adjustments, and other institutional incentives to project, program and policy outcomes, through a results framework that incorporates institutional accountability indicators in priority areas: climate change, sustainability, good governance, and reduction of poverty and inequality.
- 4) Establish a mechanism that discloses and informs the public on an annual basis of all advances in the implementation of evaluation recommendations previously approved by the IDB's Board of Directors;
- 5) Adopt a mandatory payment disclosure policy requiring all extractive industry clients to publish their payments to host governments on the IDB website, broken down by revenue stream, and in line with Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative commitments
- 6) Re-organize and strengthen the internal and external evaluation functions at the Bank (OVE, SPDE);
- 7) Establish precise operational mechanisms for access to detailed information for all financial, technical, and environmental data for projects financed by the IDB. The Bank should commit itself to approving a transparency policy which complies with the same standards of the recently approved World Bank policy.

Sustainable Integration

Even though the Bank is an institution whose principle objective is to promote the integration of the Americas, we are concerned that the Bank still neither has clear integration objectives nor indicators to measure its value added in this area. We have seen that the Bank has not responded adequately to the profound changes evident in the hemisphere, especially in South America. The Bank continues to promote an integration model such as IIRSA that emphasizes trade almost exclusively, and which promotes the interests of large, often transnational companies. Although this enormous infrastructure integration initiative was composed of governmental proposals it is in reality the product of another phase and vision of integration that is no longer shared by many governments and rejected by most people.

¹ See Recommendation 4.8 of OVE Report 354 (2009:28) and the incorporation of indicators broken down in OVE Report 329 (2007).

It's not clear that the IDB has an official policy with respect to regional integration. As such we are not surprised by the poor results in actually promoting regional integration, for example the minimum direct participation in IIRSA projects² and the stalled levels of inter-regional commerce in comparison with Asia.

Today there is a new search for integration that doesn't have as its principle objective to intensify trade but that people are able to live well. Commerce is only one aspect in service of this objective and is not a value in and of itself. The determining proof of the Bank's failure as promoter of integration is that the region is creating new financial institutions that are helping other kinds of integration: the ALBA Bank, the Bank of the South, etc. This also demonstrates the low demand for the IDB's services in the area of integration³. The Bank has not appear to have learned from the failure of the FTAA which reflects the search for a different kind of integration in Latin America.

The IDB has to innovate in order to turn itself into a catalyzing force for regional integration.

We Recommend that the Bank:

- 1) Leave the regions and sub-regions of Latin America to define their own integration processes, in consultation with their people, and not try to impose a particular vision of integration. The IDB should open a new process for profound regional integration, which would imply eliminating the exclusive focus on facilitating commerce and incorporate other regional objectives and indicators in the context of ambitious and coherent results in social, cultural, and environmental areas and regulatory standards;
- 2) Not concentrate infrastructure for integration on the necessity for external commerce, but instead on the crucial internal physical integration that would allow for a reduction of impact of greenhouse gas emissions created by the enormous transportation distances needed to inter-connect the markets of global products that can be produced in the same region.
- 3) Take more seriously its analysis about the mitigation or prevention of the risks presented by regional infrastructure. We propose that the recently approved Pasto-Mocoa highway in Colombia, with a strong and binding socio-environmental commitment, not be an isolated example but instead be incorporated into the framework that the Bank wants to define as a program of sustainable transportation;
- 4) Make Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), Environmental and Human Rights Impact Studies (EHRIS), and use of early warning systems as well as decision-making systems obligatory instruments in sectoral planning for the borrowing countries and binding for the Bank itself, in all projects, programs, and policies related to regional integration;
- 5) Carry out previous public consultations prior to the approval of EHRIS, for activities, public works or projects that will be developed in areas occupied by peasant, indigenous, or original communities and peoples, and biodiversity hot-spots. These consultations should be obligatory and the resulting decisions from the process should be respected⁴.

² OVE Report 338 (April, 2008) Evaluation of IDBs actions in IIRSA

³ See table V-4, preliminary estimate for future financial demand by sector, only 6.3% of the total is in Integration. Santiago Working Paper, pg. 47

⁴ See articles 4, 5, 6, 15, and 18, of ILO Convention 169

6) Demonstrate its capacity to guarantee the participation of civil society in any new regional integration initiative in order to assure the consideration of their perspectives.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Some advances in the integration of environmental and social sustainability notwithstanding, the qualification of the IDB as a “green bank” remains to be seen. The Bank’s resources should be oriented toward dealing with the principle challenges that confront the region (the effects of climate change, the loss of bio-diversity, the increase in deforestation, and the huge social inequalities); and the creation of regional institutional capacity, with a special emphasis on the analysis and management over the long-term of the indirect and accumulative impacts of its operations. The capacity of the Bank to contribute high quality technical support in the area of sustainability has been frustrated by institutional design and the low ability of management to attend to the demand in these critical areas. Recent initiatives in climate change and sustainable energy are marginal relative to the principle operations of the Bank, while poorly planned investments in infrastructure and the extractive sector have increased their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.

Taking into account that the IDB is planning an increase in the infrastructure sector, it should update its environmental policy, the policy’s implementation mechanisms, and internal incentive structures, as to not only focus on mitigation and prevention of harm, but also to proactively promote “doing good” by achieving sustainable development.

We Recommend that the Bank:

- 1) Initiate a public consultation for the adoption of a more comprehensive climate change strategy with clear objectives and goals of reducing greenhouse gases while guaranteeing the region’s most poor people access to energy;
- 2) Increase financing for renewable energy to 40% of its portfolio of energy operations within 5 years and increase investments in climate change adaptation in accordance with levels suggested by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), eliminate assistance to fossil fuels and guarantee the rights of indigenous people and Afro-descendent communities in the establishment of forest governance;
- 3) Increase and re-orient its assistance for strengthening of state institutions capable of designing and implementing national level climate change strategies;
- 4) Promote the creation of regional capacities from the perspective of biomass, more than just from the national perspective, which should be done in a way that supports and builds the technical capacities of the governments;
- 5) Commit itself to provide comprehensive public information about the levels of greenhouse gases of all its relevant operations and policies, within a maximum period of five years⁵;
- 6) Promote a review of the social and environmental safeguards of the Bank, as proposed in 2006, and which should have been revised in 2009 but whose process appears to not have started to date. The recommendations of the external panel should be binding and tied to the recapitalization process.

⁵ IDB GCI-9 Civil Society Issue Brief 2: IDB and Sustainability: Climate-Energy-Forests, June 23, 2009. <http://www.bicusa.org/es/Article.aspx?id=11274>

Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism

We believe that the Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (ICIM), the final proposal of which is being prepared for distribution to the Board of Directors, should take into account the suggestions and requests already expressed by many of the civil society organizations that signed this letter.

We Recommend that the Bank:

- 1) Incorporate a figure independent of Bank management that guarantees the impartiality of the final decisions that are taken around complaints and requests for information regarding an investigation into all of the Bank's policies and operations. The position of independent Ombudsman has been adopted by other multilateral entities, and benefits from the backing of civil society;
- 2) Expedite the processing of complaints submitted to the ICIM and guarantee that all people requesting information or presenting complaints are attended to immediately;
- 3) Refer to these proposals as an advance for the IDB in the democratization of public access to information, increase in accountability, and the participation of civil society in the activities of multilateral banks.

Human Resources

The IDB lacks adequate mechanisms geared toward combating corruption. On the 9th of December, 2009, the IDB announced a reinforcement of whistle-blower protection and publically reaffirmed its policy of protection against reprisals against staff but to date has not adopted any explicit policies on the issue.

In this area, the IDB does not provide the same level of protection for its staff as other multilateral development banks, although at the level of discourse the Bank recognizes the importance of its staff in the strengthening of its anti-corruption framework.

We Recommend that the Bank:

- 1) Implement the recently adopted whistle-blower protection policy and extend it to third parties;
- 2) Implement, before 2010, the recommendations of the report issued by the Thornburgh Panel for the strengthening of the anti-corruption framework.

Regarding the Situation in Haiti

We recognize the interest of the IDB, other banks, and international cooperation agencies in dealing with the current situation in Haiti. We believe it is important to carry out a re-founding of Haiti, which makes it a viable country. Given this, we join with the Campaign for the Complete and Unconditional Cancellation of Haiti's Debt vis-à-vis international banks. We call for the establishment of an efficient international monitoring mechanism

that would oversee the correct use of assigned resource from such a measure, guaranteeing transparency in operations and respect for the sovereignty of the Haitian people.

In Conclusion

As a minimum, the IDB should present a clear work agenda for the next 18 months, with mechanisms for access to information and participation in the previously detailed points, in order to i) disclose before the Cancun Governors Assembly the latest version of the GCI-9 Proposal and Results Framework, which explains the relationship between results, job tenure, and salary of the Bank's personnel; ii) Bind the IDB's climate change strategy to results of a public consultation process with the post-drafting of a draft document and plan of implementation; iii) Bind the new regional integration strategy to the results of a public consultation process; iv) Accelerate the process of revising the social and environmental safeguard policies and bind the external panel's recommendations to the re-capitalization process, which should include a Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment as part of the Bank's policies; and vi) Begin a process of updating the Bank's access to information policies so they are more transparent and substantive.

We believe that these points represent the minimum requirements for a real development bank, and the minimum conditions to proceed toward a coherent capital increase at the IDB. We hope that the Bank incorporates these recommendations in its policies, practices, procedures, and operations in a consistent, obligatory, and effective manner.

Cordially,

Centro de Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente (CEDHA)	Argentina
Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO)	Argentina
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN)	Argentina
Fundación PROTEGER	Argentina
Fundacion M'Bigua	Argentina
Fundación Desarrollo y Equidad, Tucumán	Argentina
Fundación para la promoción de políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS),	Argentina
Revista y Radio LIDERAZGO	Argentina
Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD)	Belgium
European Network on Debt and Development - Belgica	Belgium
CEADESC	Bolivia
Red Pantanal (40 organizaciones miembro)	Bolivia, Brasil, Peru
Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos (INESC)	Brasil
Associação de Defesa Etnoambiental Kanindé	Brasil
ECOIA (ECOLOGIA E AÇÃO)	Brasil
Amigos da Terra – Amazônia Brasileira	Brazil
Fundacion Hemera	Colombia

Campaña Mis derechos no se negocian	Colombia
Communication & Sustainability	Colombia
Grupo Semillas	Colombia
Instituto Latinoamericano de Servicios Legales Alternativos (ILSA)	Colombia
Unidad Cafetera Nacional	Colombia
ASOPANELA Antioquia	Colombia
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Unidad de la Fuerza Indígena y Campesina (UFIC A.C.)	Colombia
CDN- ANUC_UR	Colombia
Asociación de ecología social (AESO)	Costa Rica
Oilwatch Costa Rica	Costa Rica
Radio Dignidad Costa Rica	Costa Rica
Radio Urgente Costa Rica	Costa Rica
Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos – APDH	Ecuador
Centro de Estudios y Asesoría Social (CEAS)	Ecuador
Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM)	Ecuador
Coordinador de la Asamblea de Afectados por Texaco	Ecuador
Colectivo de Mujeres Acción Política por la Equidad	Ecuador
CONAIE	Ecuador
Observatorio Ciudadano de Servicios Públicos	Ecuador
Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo – PIDHDD	Ecuador
Coordinadora Política de Mujeres Jubileo 2000 - Red Guayaquil	Ecuador
Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales Ecuador Decide	Ecuador
Nexos Culturales	Ecuador
Urgewald e.V.	Germany
Instituto para la Ecología y la Antropología de Acción (INFOE)	Germany
GegenStrömung - CounterCurrent	Germany
Coordinadora Servicios y Cooperación Externa Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas (CONGGROUP)	Guatemala
Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)	Japan
Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)	Mexico
DESCA y Social Watch México	Mexico

FUNDAR, Centro de Análisis e Investigación	Mexico
Guardianes de los Árboles, A.C	Mexico
Promotora de Servicios para el Desarrollo S.C.	Mexico
Red Mexicana de Accion Frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC)	Mexico
Union de Comunidades Indigenas de la Zona Norte del Istmo (UCIZONI)	Mexico
National Alliance of Latin American Y Caribbean Communities (NALACC)	Mexico, Central America & Caribbean
Artículo 19	Mexico
Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental - CEMDA	Mexico
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Presencia Ciudadana Mexicana	Mexico
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Sobrevivencia-Amigos de la Tierra Paraguay	Paraguay
Amazon Conservation Association	Peru
Asociacion Civil Labor	Peru
Asociación Nacional de Centro- ANC	Peru
Asociacion para la Conservación del Patrimonio del Cutivireni ACPC	Peru
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos- APRODEH	Peru
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Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)	Peru
Equidad	Peru
Federacion de Comunidades Nativas Fronterizas del Putumayo	Peru
Forum Solidaridad Perú	Peru
Instituto de Defensa Legal	Peru
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Escuela de Derechos Humanos de la Amazonia Peruana - FECONBU - AIDSESEP.	Peru
Federacion de Comunidades Nativas del Bajo Ucayali - FECONBU - AIDSESEP	Peru
Articulacion y Campaña de la Red Nacional de Comunicadores Indigenas del Peru	Peru
Instituto Bien Comun (IBC)	Peru

Programa de Acceso a la Justicia en Comunidades Rurales (PROJUR)	Peru
Grupo Propuesta Ciudadana	Peru
Asociacion PUTUMAYO VZW	Peru
Center for Economic and Social Rights	Spain
Forest Peoples Programme, United Kingdom	UK
Instituto del Tercer Mundo (ITeM)	Uruguay
Amazon Watch	US
Bank Information Center (BIC)	US
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	US
Government Accountability Project (GAP)	US
Land is Life, Inc.	US
International Rivers	US
Colombia Peace Project Los Angeles	US
Oilwatch Mesoamérica	
International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN) - punto focal Colombia	
Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe (REPEM)	
Red Latinoamericana sobre Deuda, Desarrollo y Derechos (LATINDADD)	

Cc:

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Nancy Lee, U.S. Treasury Office of Multilateral Development Banks
Dirk Joldersma, U.S. Treasury, Deputy Director Office of Multilateral Development Banks
Rachel Bayley, U.S. Treasury, Office of Multilateral Development Banks
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