

## WORLD BANK GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DIALOGUE WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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### Information Note

The World Bank is undertaking a **dialogue with indigenous organizations in the Latin America and Caribbean region** to seek their input on how the Bank can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the environmental and social safeguard policies and their application. It aims also at defining mechanisms for greater inclusion and cooperation of indigenous peoples in the Bank's regional portfolio and strategy on sustainable development. Dialogues with indigenous organizations are being held in other regions in support of the global safeguard policies review process.

### Context

The World Bank is in the process of reviewing and updating its environmental and social safeguard policies. Based on the [Approach Paper](#), the Bank is seeking to elicit multi-stakeholder participation and input throughout the review and update process. The regional dialogue with Indigenous Peoples is a dedicated engagement being held in each region to support this review process. In preparation for this regional Indigenous Peoples dialogue, the Bank met with Indigenous Peoples in 2013 to gather their input and ideas on best ways for engagement on the safeguards review. The input from these early meetings clearly emphasized the need for an engagement not only as a platform to provide feedback on the application of the safeguard policies and on issues to be taken into consideration during the review, but also as an opportunity for sharing views on sustainable development and how to achieve it.

Within this context, the Bank is capitalizing the ongoing process of review and update of its safeguard policies to hold a **strategic dialogue with indigenous organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean**. Other dialogues are being held in Africa, East Asia and Pacific, East Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia.

### Background

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Bank is currently financing up to US\$30.8 billion through 274 projects covering a variety of sectors. Fifty eight percent of this portfolio funds projects that could potentially involve Indigenous Peoples areas and well being. In every country of the region, Indigenous Peoples represent a largely disproportionate percentage of the poorest population, and compared to non-indigenous populations indicators for all Millenium Development Goals are very low. It is important that in its commitment to end poverty and share prosperity across the world, the Bank works together with governments and indigenous peoples to jointly design, implement and evaluate transformational projects that include and benefit these communities.

This dialogue builds on a series of preparatory meetings between the World Bank and representatives from indigenous peoples networks that took place in Guatemala, Peru and the United States (April and May 2013) in parallel of broader consultation meetings on the Bank's safeguards review. The Indigenous Forum Abya Yala, the only indigenous network bringing together representatives from across Latin America, offered to become the partner organization in the dialogue process through their Technical Committee to help identify objectives and scope of the dialogue as well as coordinate it. Abya Yala is a network made up of six sub-regional organizations: Consejo Indígena Centroamericano (CICA), Consejo Indígena Mesoamericano (CIMA), Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA), Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas, Red de Mujeres por la Biodiversidad, and Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas.

### Objectives and Structure of Dialogue

The dialogue, structured around the review and update of the Bank's safeguards policies and developed collaboratively and jointly with the Indigenous Forum Abya Yala, aims at creating a space for sharing information between the Bank and the indigenous peoples in the region and a platform that can lead to policy proposals, technical assistance, operational tools and a long-term engagement on inclusive development and shared prosperity.

The dialogue is planned to focus on the following broad objectives:

- Inform the safeguards review process with a Latin American perspective based on the experiences of the indigenous peoples from the region.
- Strengthen the engagement between the Bank and the Indigenous Peoples to build together operational tools to achieve common sustainable development goals in the region.

- Create a space for lessons learned from the application of the policy to inform joint work that can fulfill the shared goal of sharing prosperity, 'living well' and sustainable development for all people.
- Define mechanisms for greater inclusion of indigenous peoples in the Bank's regional portfolio.

### *Scope and Timeframe*

The dialogue has been jointly and broadly designed along three main phases.

**During a first phase** (approx. November 2013 - January 2014), the Dialogue aims at identifying, from an indigenous peoples perspective, the critical issues the safeguards policies review should take into account as well as identifying opportunities and collecting recommendations for further engagement in subsequent phases. The Technical Committee Abya Yala, representing six indigenous networks in Latin America and the Caribbean is supporting this phase and with input from all participating groups and the Bank will design the most appropriate communication and socialization tools to build the necessary information base to undertake the Dialogue. The tools will be in the most appropriate format for widespread dissemination.

**The second phase** is being planned with a focus on the following: (i) recommendations from indigenous peoples on the proposed first draft of the Bank's updated safeguards policies, and (ii) proposals of operational and engagement tools to strengthen the effectiveness of the Bank's work through greater participation of the indigenous peoples in the development process of the Region.

**The third phase** should explore mechanisms of strategic participation of indigenous peoples in Bank's portfolio programming processes. It aims at ensuring the continued participation of indigenous peoples in the global process of review and update of the Bank's safeguard policies review.

### *Participation to Dialogue and Communication*

Participation in the dialogue is coordinated by the Indigenous Forum Abya Yala, is open to all interested indigenous peoples, their organizations and leaders.

All information about the global safeguard policies review and consultation process as well as the information about the overall [Regional Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples](#) is available on the safeguards website ([www.worldbank.org/safeguardsconsultations](http://www.worldbank.org/safeguardsconsultations)). The website is also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, English, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish. It includes documentation from meetings and other relevant information and resources as the dialogue and the safeguard process progress.

The locations, dates of meetings, the summary of each discussion and the participant list are made available on the safeguards review [website](#) after the meeting and with the consent of the participants of each meeting. Participants' comments will not be attributed by name in the summary report.

For more information on these meetings as well as the overall review, consultation plan and dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, please see the safeguards review [website](#) at [www.worldbank.org/safeguardsconsultations](http://www.worldbank.org/safeguardsconsultations).