



The World Bank
Review and Update of World Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies
Pre-Dialogue Meeting with Indigenous Peoples Representatives
Guatemala City, Guatemala

A meeting with Indigenous Peoples representatives from Central American countries took place on April 10, 2013, in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The purpose of the meeting was to define the process and the methodology for a separate dialogue with Indigenous Peoples to be undertaken within the context of the Review and Update of the World Bank Safeguards Policies and to identify the main areas to be discussed during such dialogue.

First, there was a brief presentation on the Review and Update of the World Bank Safeguards Policies, followed by an open discussion about the process and potential thematic areas of the dialogue. The comments from the participants included the following:

- There was a discussion about whether this process would be considered a consultation or a dialogue since Indigenous Peoples understand consultation to be a binding process in which Indigenous leaders have a decision-making power in the process. Also, Indigenous leaders expressed that the consultation should be based on the principles of the ILO 169 Convention.
- It was expressed that each indigenous community have its own consultation process and that consultation have different meanings for different communities. For this reason, indigenous leaders expressed that they could not commit at this point at engaging in a binding process with the World Bank. Also, some Indigenous leaders mentioned that they understand these meetings with high-level leaders as a dialogue, not as real meaningful consultation.
- There was a discussion on whether the World Bank should create a Consultative Council of Indigenous Leaders, which would be responsible for overseeing the dialogue process. However, Indigenous leaders expressed concerns over what would be the eligibility criteria to choose the members of this Council.
- There was an agreement that the dialogue should be egalitarian and equitable and it should include a mechanism of representation with indigenous leaders from different sub-regions. This mechanism should take into account the different organizational structures and decision-making process of different indigenous communities.
- It is important to acknowledge that Indigenous leaders cannot speak for all indigenous groups in their countries of origin.
- As part of the dialogue, more information about the World Bank safeguards policies should be provided to Indigenous peoples, since many of them lack knowledge or understanding of these policies. The World Bank should help establish an information and communications strategy that is easily accessible and culturally appropriate to ensure that the information flow to the level of the communities and to those organizations that lack technical expertise.

- The World Bank should provide Indigenous leaders information about the discussions of the Forest Investment Partnership initiative and of the previous Indigenous Peoples Policy reform and these should be taken into account in this dialogue.
- It is crucial to outline the actors in this dialogue process and understand who needs to be included in the dialogue. It is also important to conduct a dialogue not only at the level of indigenous leaders but also at the community level.
- The Bank should have a mechanism to ensure the implementation of the safeguards policies since the main weakness relates not to the text of the policy, but rather to the implementation of the policies.
- The Indigenous leaders support that the World Bank Safeguards Policies should adhere to the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the ILO 169 and they have expressed that would like to know upfront whether this is something that the Bank can commit to.
- It is important to include women in this dialogue process and to include women's issues in the thematic discussions of the dialogue.

After the open discussion, Indigenous leaders met separately at closed doors and they made the following proposals to the Bank:

- This process should be called a dialogue, not a consultation until there is an actual document that Indigenous leaders can decide whether they agree with the language or not. Once there is a draft document, the Indigenous leaders can engage in a consultation.
- The dialogue process would be structured on three levels: national, regional and global.
 - At the national level, there would be dialogues at the community level, at the level of national indigenous organizations and between indigenous organizations, governments and civil society. This national process would vary according to the particularities of each country.
 - At the regional level, the dialogues would be held between different indigenous networks and between indigenous networks, regional intergovernmental organizations and civil society coalitions. This process would include indigenous women's and youth networks.
 - At the global level, there would be a dialogue between the indigenous people's organizations from all over the world and between the indigenous people's organizations and the World Bank.
- In this process, access to information and broad participation should be promoted.
- The particularities of each indigenous group need to be respected.
- The indigenous networks need to establish a clear criteria for representation in the regional and global dialogues.
- It is important to establish a Latin American vision for the dialogue.
- The dialogue should receive financial support from the World Bank and from other development organizations.
- There is a need for coordination with other international forums.
- All the documents of the dialogue should be translated to Spanish.
- There is a need to analyze the gaps between the World Bank Indigenous Peoples Policy, the UNDRIP, ILO 169 and other international conventions.
- A Consultative Council should only be established after the review of the Safeguards Policies is completed.

- There should be an analysis of how the current Indigenous Peoples Policy has been applied in different World Bank projects and what value the adoption of the UNDRIP and ILO 169 would have added.
- Through this process, the indigenous leaders would be able to identify specific recommendations and establish what the important thematic areas to focus are.