

June 12, 2026

World Bank Group Board of Directors
1818 H St NW
Washington, DC 20433

Dear World Bank Group Board of Directors,

We are writing concerning the recent announcement of the consolidation of the World Bank Group's independent accountability mechanisms (IAMs) - the Inspection Panel, Dispute Resolution Service, and the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO). As civil society organizations who support communities to advance their own development objectives and have used the WBG IAMs, we have followed this integration process closely. Now that the Board has decided to proceed with one integrated IAM, the next steps will be crucial to ensuring that the IAM provides an effective forum for communities to secure remedy for harms.

We note several commitments in the press release that announced the change as well as the June 10 email from the World Bank Group's civil society team. Primary among these are the commitments to non-regression of the IAM policies and a "transparent and competitive" recruitment process for a Vice President/Director General to lead the new IAM. As the hiring of the VP/DG is being launched "immediately," we write to ensure that the hiring process meets the principle of no regression.

We will consider any selection process that falls below the standard set by the CAO DG VP hiring process enshrined in the CAO's policy and by past practice as a violation of your commitment to no regression.

A strong hiring process for IAM leadership is crucial to the independence and legitimacy of an IAM. The participation of external stakeholders, particularly from civil society, is a standard component of IAM hiring practices, and the CAO DG VP hiring practice has included civil society on the selection committee for many years.¹ In light of this established practice and the Taskforce's recommendation for civil society participation in the selection process, we strongly urge the Board to formally confirm that civil society representatives will have a structured role in the current recruitment process for the VP/Director General of the new IAM.

We also urge you to communicate transparently how that participation will be organized, noting that the [details](#) of the 2020 CAO DG VP selection process were publicly available.² A strong,

¹ IFC CAO Policy paras. 15-17.

² See also [Terms of Reference: Vice President, Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman \(CAO\)](#).

transparent, and participatory selection process would be a concrete and immediate demonstration of your commitment to no regression and a strengthened mechanism, and serve as a cornerstone to build the trust of impacted communities in this new structure.

Sincerely,

Accountability Counsel
Arab Watch Coalition
Bank Information Center
Inclusive Development International
Recourse
SynDev
Urgewald
