

May 26, 2016

Hartwig Schafer
Vice President Operations Policy and Country Services
World Bank
1818 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20433 USA

CC: Committee on Development Effectiveness
Merza Hasan, Dean of the World Bank Board
Yvonne Tsikata, Vice President and Corporate Secretary

Dear Mr. Schafer,

In the interest of transparency and the World Bank's commitment to stakeholder engagement in development finance, we kindly request that the final draft of the World Bank Safeguards package be made public prior to its consideration at the Board for approval. As we understand it, the package would be made up of the Environmental and Social Framework (constituted by the Vision, the Policy and the Environmental and Social Standards), as well as the Procedures, Directives and an implementation plan and budget.

The World Bank would be remiss in making this final process closed when it has repeatedly committed to open engagement during the review. Thus, our request is that the final draft be published on the safeguards consultation website at the same time that it goes to the Board for review, consistent with the Bank's Access to Information Policy (Section III; Paragraph 4). This would give the public and civil society groups the opportunity to assess the policy and engage with their governments regarding any major changes or omissions in the new draft before shareholders make a final decision.

We understand concerns of not wanting to undergo another round of consultations prior to submitting the final draft to the Board. But we hope you agree that this final process must be open and transparent in order to legitimize the many years of civil society engagement and consultation leading up to this moment.

We recognize the effort, time and expense that the Bank has put into civil society engagement thus far. We hope that the consultation process has helped improve upon the safeguards policy set forth in early drafts and it would be a shame to let this important process falter short of the finish line. Now, more than ever, stakeholders should remain informed of crucial decisions being made regarding the World Bank's Social and Environmental Framework. As we are all aware, the new safeguard policy will have enormous implications for human rights and environmental integrity in Bank-sponsored development. The ultimate decision on this policy will see the best result if it is taken in a fully transparent and informed manner.

Sincerely,

1. 11.11.11 Coalition of the Flemish North-South movement, Belgium
2. Accountability Counsel, International

3. Actions pour les Droits, l'Environnement et la Vie (ADEV), Democratic Republic of Congo
4. African Law Foundation (AfriLaw), Nigeria
5. African Resources Watch (AFREWATCH), Democratic Republic of Congo
6. Al-Haq, Palestine
7. Alyansa Tigil Mina (Alliance Against Mining), Philippines
8. Amazon Watch, USA
9. American Jewish World Service, USA
10. ARTICLE 19, United Kingdom
11. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), International
12. Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad, Colombia
13. Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA), Regional
14. Bank Information Center, International
15. BirdLife International, International
16. Bretton Woods Project, United Kingdom
17. Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development Organisation (BIRUDO), Uganda
18. Business and Human Rights Tanzania (BHRT), Tanzania
19. CEE Bankwatch Network, International
20. Center for International Environmental Law, International
21. Centre for Applied Legal Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
22. Centro de Investigación, Documentación y Asesoría Poblacional, Peru
23. Conectas Human Rights, Brazil
24. Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR), Peru
25. Ecoa, Brazil
26. Endorois Welfare Council, Kenya
27. Fauna & Flora International, International
28. Forest Peoples Programme, United Kingdom
29. Foundation For Environmental Rights, Advocacy & Development (FENRAD), Nigeria
30. Foundation for the Conservation of the Earth (FOCONE), Nigeria
31. Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS), Argentina
32. Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación, Mexico
33. Gender Action, USA
34. Groupe d'Appui aux Exploitants des Ressources Naturelles (GAERN), Democratic Republic of Congo
35. Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para América Latina y el Caribe, Latin America
36. Human Rights Watch, International
37. Inclusive Development International, USA
38. Initiative for Social and Economic Rights, Uganda
39. Instituto de Derecho Ambiental y Desarrollo Sustentable, Guatemala
40. International Accountability Project, International
41. International Network on Displacement and Resettlement, International
42. International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), International
43. Jamaa Resource Initiatives, Kenya
44. Justice Pour Tous, Democratic Republic of Congo
45. la Protection des écoregions de miombo au Congo (PREMICONGO), Democratic Republic of Congo
46. Le conseil Régional pour Organisations Non Gouvernementales de Développement Kasai oriental RDC, Democratic Republic of Congo
47. l'Observatoire de la Société Civile Congolaise pour les Minerais de Paix (OSCMP), Democratic

Republic of Congo-RDC

48. l'ONG Secours Net, Mauritania
49. Lumière Synergie pour le Développement, Senegal
50. Mazingira Network (MANET), Tanzania
51. Narasha Community Development Group, Kenya
52. Natural Justice, South Africa
53. Observatoire d'Etudes et d'Appui à la Responsabilité Sociale et Environnement, Democratic Republic of Congo
54. OT Watch, Mongolia
55. Oxfam, International
56. Peace Point Action (PPA), Cross River/Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
57. PILC Tchad voudrais également, Chad
58. Rainforest Foundation Norway, Norway
59. Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (RECODH), Cameroon
60. Tanzania Centre for Research and Information on Pastoralism (TCRIP), Tanzania
61. The Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE-Africa), Nigeria
62. The Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability
63. Transparency International Anticorruption Center, Armenia
64. Uganda Land Alliance, Uganda
65. Ulu Foundation, USA
66. Urgewald, Germany
67. Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), United Kingdom
68. Women Action Toward Economic Development, Tanzania
69. Zoological Society of London (ZSL), United Kingdom