I. ABOUT THE INSPECTION PANEL

The Inspection Panel

The Inspection Panel is an impartial, fact-finding, complaints mechanism that is independent of World Bank Management (Management) and that reports directly to the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors. The Board created the Inspection Panel on September 22, 1993, to offer people and communities access to a neutral body should they wish to raise concerns about—or seek remedy for harm caused by—projects funded by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association (jointly referred to as the World Bank). The Panel's process promotes accountability at the World Bank, gives affected people a greater voice in Bank-supported activities that affect their rights and interests, and provides redress when warranted.

Since September 8, 2020, the Inspection Panel has been part of the World Bank Accountability Mechanism along with the Dispute Resolution Service as two parallel entities for the World Bank Group's public sector financing, with each entity reporting separately and directly to the Board.

Structure of the Inspection Panel and its Team

The Inspection Panel consists of three members appointed by the Board for five-year, non-renewable terms. Members are selected for their ability to deal thoroughly and fairly with the complaints brought to them, their integrity, their independence from Bank Management, and their familiarity with developmental issues and living conditions in developing countries. The Inspection Panel is assisted by dedicated staff who provide technical, operational and administrative support. For its fact-finding and investigations, the Panel also engages independent, internationally recognized experts to ensure objective and professional assessment of the issues under review.

Following the Board's adoption of the World Bank Accountability Mechanism: Inspection Panel and Dispute Resolution Service Resolution (the "Resolution") reorganizing the Accountability Mechanism, on March 7, 2025, the Panel issued revised Operating Procedures in November 2025.

What the Inspection Panel Does

In response to complaints from project-affected individuals or groups concerning World Bank-funded projects, the Panel assesses allegations of harm to people, communities, or the environment and reviews whether the Bank has followed its operational policies and procedures. The types of allegations its assessments cover include issues such as:

- adverse effects on people and livelihoods due to displacement and resettlement related to infrastructure projects—including the construction of hydroelectric dams, transmission lines, roads, and investments in climate resilience, nature conservation and tourism,
- direct or indirect impacts to the environment and people, especially those considered vulnerable and marginalized,
- risks of infringement on Indigenous Peoples' culture, traditions, land tenure, and development rights,
- adverse effects on physical and cultural heritage, including sacred places, and
- harm to natural habitats, including protected areas such as wetlands, forests, and water bodies.

The Panel also provides advisory services through reports and publications on lessons emerging from its cases. Furthermore, the Panel promotes learning and knowledge-sharing through the organization of, and participation in, outreach activities, seminars, and other events to disseminate information about the Panel's mandate and its work.