IV. THEMATIC WORK

During FY 2026, the Panel engaged in the Group-wide process of advancing the integration of the World Bank Group's three independent accountability mechanisms and undertook a range of thematic and institutional initiatives focused on operations, collaboration, and organizational capacity. Respective activities included:

Working Group for WBG Accountability Mechanisms Integration

At the request of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board's Committee on Development Effectiveness, a Working Group was established to assess potential pathways for integrating the Inspection Panel, the DRS, and the CAO into a unified World Bank Group accountability mechanism. Following the later establishment of a Task Force, the Panel supported its work by providing requested information and data, participating in thematic discussions, supporting stakeholder consultations, and conveying comments and questions through designated channels. The Task Force submitted its final Report and Recommendations on May 6, 2026. On June 8, 2026, the World Bank Boards approved the integration of the Panel, DRS, and CAO into a single World Bank Independent Accountability Mechanism.

IAMNet 22nd Annual Meeting in Barbados

The Panel participated in the 22nd Annual Meeting of the IAMNet, held in Barbados from October 6–9, 2025. Led by Chairperson Ibrahim Pam, the Panel delegation included Panel Members Evelyn Dietsche and Ajay Deshpande and staff members Serge Selwan, Richard Wyness, and Kojo Bedu-Addo. Panel representatives contributed to discussions on IAM policy reviews, accountability in turbulent times, climate change, data harmonization and artificial intelligence, inter-organizational cooperation, and risk of retaliation against Requesters. The meeting provided an important opportunity to exchange experiences and strengthen collaboration among IAMs.

Framework Agreement between the Inspection Panel and the ADB's Compliance Review Panel supporting the Full Mutual Reliance Framework

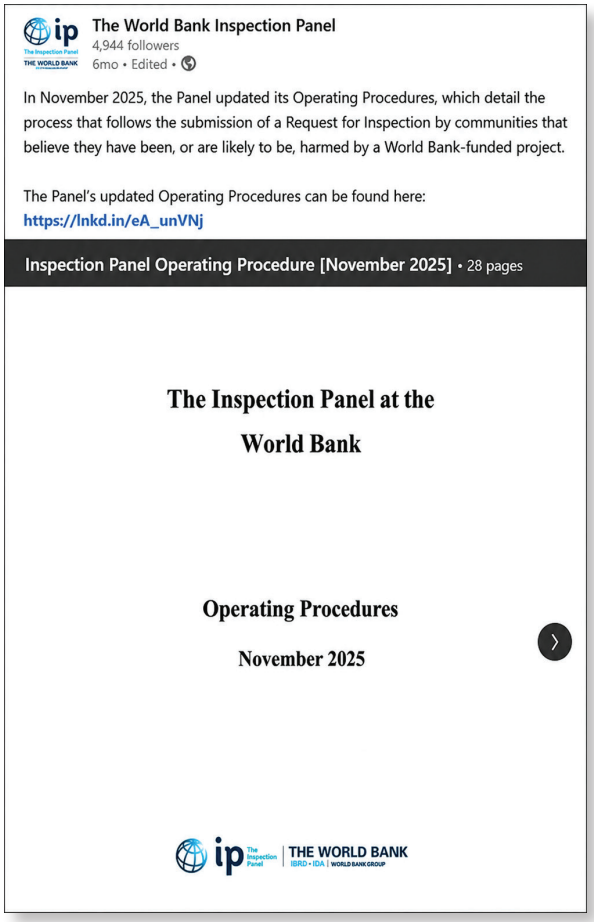
On October 10, 2025, the Inspection Panel and the ADB's Compliance Review Panel signed a Framework Agreement governing the processing of complaints concerning projects co-financed under the ADB-World Bank Full Mutual Reliance Framework. The agreement established the scope and general ar-

rangements for coordination between the accountability mechanisms of the lead and trail institutions when complaints arise in relation to co-financed projects. The agreement represents an important step in accountability in the context of mutual reliance co-financing.

In addition, the Panel has had a few exchanges with the mechanisms of the EIB and the mechanism of the IDB Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (MICI) on reliance agreements for co-funded investments.

Update and Issuance of 2025 Operating Procedure

Following the structural changes to the World Bank Accountability Mechanism approved by the Board in January 2025, the Panel revised its Operating Procedures to align them with the new institutional arrangements. The revised Operating Procedures incorporated the changes relevant to the Panel's functions and provided updated guidance for implementing its mandate and processing Requests for Inspection. Following completion of the revision process, the Panel published the updated Operating Procedures on November 12, 2025.

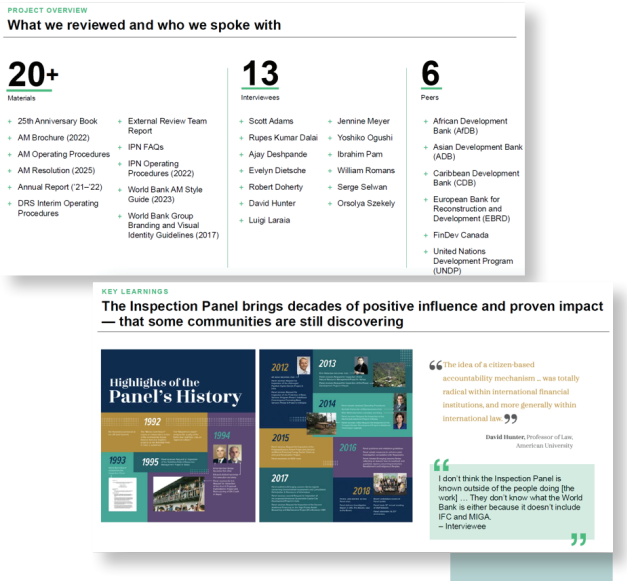


Communications Strategy and Administrative Procedures

The Panel strengthened its communications strategy and related administrative procedures during FY 2026. The work aimed to improve the consistency and effectiveness of communications on the Panel's mandate, casework, and institutional activities.

Branding Exercise for the Inspection Panel and DRS

The Inspection Panel and DRS undertook a joint branding exercise. The initiative sought to clarify the branding strategy for the Accountability Mechanism, including its visual identity and communications approach, while appropriately reflecting the Panel and DRS as distinct, parallel functions. The work formed part of broader efforts to communicate the institutional arrangements and identities of the Accountability Mechanism and its constituent functions more clearly to internal and external stakeholders.

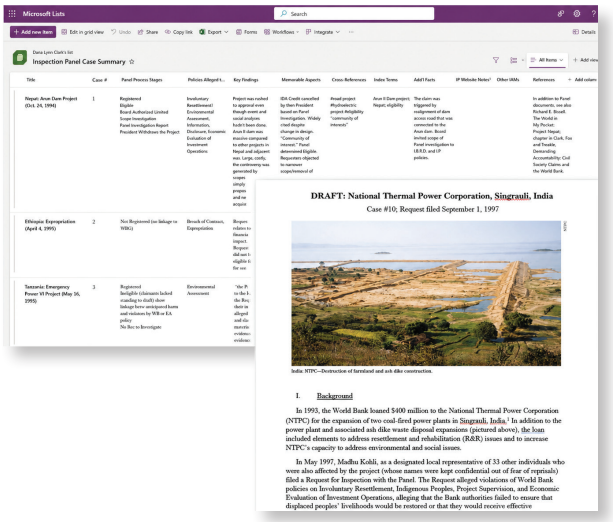


Exploration of AI in Support of the Panel's Work

During FY 2026, the Panel explored opportunities to use World Bank artificial intelligence (AI) tools to support its work. Following an introductory session on mAI (the World Bank's AI research tool), staff began assessing potential applications of tools such as mAI, particularly for internal research, translation, and other knowledge-intensive tasks. A staff member was also designated to organize a dedicated workshop on how AI tools could be effectively leveraged in the Panel's work.

Panel Case Compendium

The Panel continued developing a Case Compendium covering its cases since its establishment in 1993. The initiative is being undertaken in phases, beginning with the first 10 years of the Panel's case history, and seeks to analyze and synthesize lessons learned, cross-cutting themes, and policy issues emerging from Panel cases. The Compendium is intended to preserve and strengthen institutional memory and serve as a resource for Panel staff, World Bank Management, and external stakeholders.



IAMs Reprisal Working Group Meeting

The Panel continued its engagement with other independent accountability mechanisms on approaches to addressing risks of retaliation and reprisals against people engaging with accountability processes. Through the IAMs Reprisal Working Group, participating mechanisms exchange experiences, practices, and emerging lessons related to assessing and responding to reprisal risks. The discussions contributed to broader efforts within the accountability community to strengthen approaches for safeguarding Requesters and others participating in IAM processes. This engagement complements the Panel's continuing attention to retaliation and reprisal risks in its own casework and stakeholder engagement.

Case Efficiency Results Monitoring

The Panel continued to monitor the efficiency of the case-processing stages of its active cases during FY 2026, building on its efforts to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of its operations. Monitoring focused on the time required to complete key stages of the Panel process, including the registration, eligibility, investigation, and verification phases, while accounting for procedural pauses and other factors affecting processing time. The results are reported to the Board on a quarterly basis.