

ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS

APRIL 2016

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Spring Meetings 2016

Panel hosts a high-level meeting to release first report in its Emerging Lessons series.

Panel Chairman Re-elected

Gonzalo Castro de la Mata re-elected as the Panel chairman for another year.

Retaliation Guidelines

Panel releases guidelines to address retaliation against complainants.

Uganda Transport Investigation

Panel team completes investigation visit to Uganda.

Progress Report

Panel receives first management progress report in Ethiopia PBS case.

Glass Half Full Report

Panel participates in a discussion about the report "Glass Half Full? The State of Accountability in Development Finance."

ABOUT THE PANEL

The Board of Executive Directors created the Inspection Panel in 1993 to promote accountability and improve development results at the World Bank. The Panel is an independent complaints mechanism for people and communities who believe that they have been, or are likely to be, adversely affected by a World Bank-funded project and wish to seek redress. For more information visit:

www.inspectionpanel.org

FEATURE

INSPECTION PANEL RELEASES FIRST EMERGING LESSONS REPORT



The Inspection Panel on April 12 released a report documenting emerging lessons about involuntary resettlement from the Panel's 22-year caseload. The report is the first in a series of Emerging Lessons reports that the Panel plans to produce this year. Panel Chairman Gonzalo Castro de la Mata released the report at a discussion at the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Group Spring Meetings. Bank Executive Director Franciscus Godts moderated the discussion, which also included Alberto Ninio, the Bank's deputy general counsel for operations, and Michael Cernea, former

World Bank senior adviser for social policies. Chairman Castro de la Mata told the audience of more than 150 people, including representatives of civil society and Bank management, that the Emerging Lessons series is intended to help build the institutional knowledge-base, enhance accountability, foster better development results and, ultimately, contribute to more effective development outcomes. The Panel's report on involuntary resettlement will be followed by reports on environmental assessment, indigenous peoples and consultation. [More](#)



ACTIVE CASES

IRRIGATION SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT (ARMENIA) - Panel Issues Notice of Registration

On March 18, the Panel received a Request for Inspection raising concerns relating to the Irrigation System Enhancement Project in Armenia. The Request was submitted by members of the Goght community affected by the Gegardalich Gravity Irrigation Scheme. The Requesters are concerned about a lack of water for irrigation and inadequate consultation and participation. The Panel issued a Notice of Registration on April 26. Bank management has 21 business days to respond. [More](#)

TRANSPORT SECTOR DEVELOPMENT (UGANDA) - Investigation Visit



Following the World Bank Board's January approval of the Panel's recommendation to investigate issues raised in the September 2015 complaint concerning a road upgrade in Uganda, the Panel issued an investigation plan. Between March 28 and April 8, the Panel conducted a visit to Kampala and to several communities along the Fort Portal-Kamwenge Road to review the allegations related to gender-based violence and child protection—including teenage pregnancies by road workers, child labor and school dropouts—failures in the involuntary resettlement process, lack of consultation, environmental impacts, and occupational health and safety issues. The Panel hired four renowned experts in the relevant fields to assist with the investigation. In the course of its visit, the Panel met with government agencies, the contractor, and service providers, as well as many community members. [More](#)

POWER PROJECT (KOSOVO) - Investigation Ongoing

The Panel is in the process of writing its investigation report about a June 2015 complaint from residents of Obiliq municipality in Kosovo regarding resettlement and compensation issues. A Panel team visited Pristina in January and had extensive interaction with a range of stakeholders, including the Requesters, the government, the mining authority and civil society. The completion of the report has been delayed somewhat as the Panel decided to wait for the availability of a few key resettlement-related documents. The Panel hopes to submit the report to the Board of Directors in the coming weeks. [More](#)



SPRING MEETINGS

The Panel was active in the recently completed Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group. In addition to sponsoring a discussion on April 12 to release the [first report in its Emerging Lessons series](#), Panel members and staff took part in several events at the Civil Society Forum. Chairman Gonzalo Castro de la Mata and Executive Secretary Dilek Barlas were among those who discussed the possible effects of the Bank's new safeguards policy on Panel operations at a session



sponsored by the Bank's Operational Policy and Country Services group as part of the forum. Panel member Zeinab Bashir El Bakri was on the panel at the forum event sponsored by the Center for International Environmental Law that discussed the report "Glass Half Full? The State of Accountability in Development Finance." Panel members and staff also attended and participated in other events, including one sponsored by the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman titled "How Do We Work Together to Protect Complainants?" and another sponsored by Joy for Children on "Social Im-

pacts of an Influx of Workers in Infrastructure Investments." [More](#)



PROGRESS REPORT

ETHIOPIA – First Management Progress Report



On March 3, the Panel received the [First Progress Report](#) on the implementation of management's action plan in response to the Ethiopia PBS investigation report. According to the Progress Report, nine of the 15 actions have been completed and the

remaining six are due for completion before the end of 2016. Management will prepare another Progress Report in February 2017. [More](#)

PANEL NEWS

GONZALO CASTRO DE LA MATA RE-ELECTED AS PANEL CHAIRMAN



Members of the Inspection Panel unanimously elected Gonzalo Castro de la Mata to continue to serve as chairman for another year. He was originally appointed as chairman on November 1, 2014. His new term will expire on October 31, 2017. [More](#)

RETALIATION GUIDELINES RELEASED

The Panel released [guidelines](#) to address retaliation aimed at those who are seeking to work with it. The guidelines build upon the Panel's experience and established practices by other institutions, as well as informal consultations within the Bank, with accountability mechanisms of other organizations, and with relevant civil society organizations. [More](#)

PANEL OPERATING PROCEDURES - ANNEX 2

The Inspection Panel in March made two changes to its [Operating Procedures](#) with the aim of enhancing consultation with Requesters and facilitating the tracking of action plans implemented by World Bank management following a Panel investigation. Both changes were discussed with the Bank's Board of Executive Directors' Committee on Development Effectiveness and are now included in Annex 2 to the [Panel's Operating Procedures](#). Bank management released its first report on implementing action plans in April. [More](#)

PANEL RELEASES TWO EXPLANATORY VIDEOS

The Panel has released two videos aimed at explaining its mandate and procedures. The first video – "[What is the Inspection Panel?](#)" – provides an overview of the Panel's history, composition, role and process. The second – "[How does the Inspection Panel work?](#)" – details what kind of World Bank projects the Panel investigates, who can file a complaint about those projects, how they can file that complaint, and what happens once a complaint is received. Both videos are available on the [Panel's website](#) and will be used at events the Panel holds to reach out to potentially affected communities. [More videos](#)

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM TEAM VISIT

On February 11, a team from Center for International Environmental Law and International Accountability Project visited the Panel to brief the chairman and staff on the Early Warning System (EWS). The EWS aims to alert communities in advance about potential harm that may be caused by projects being funded by multilateral development banks, including the World Bank. EWS is designed to provide information to communities and local civil society organizations about such projects early in the project cycle, preferably before approval. [More](#)

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Rob Doherty](#) became the Panel's communications adviser in February. He began working at the World Bank as a communications consultant in April 2015 after more than three decades as a journalist, including 25 years with Reuters in Washington, Cyprus and London.

[Tove Holmstrom](#) joined the Panel in early April from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for a practical learning experience. Tove is serving as the associate expert in human rights at the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section of the OHCHR and will be with the Panel Secretariat until late May. [Patricia Nunez Benitez](#) joined the Panel in late March for three months before she returns to MICI, the Inter-American Development Bank's accountability mechanism, where she has worked as an intake officer since September 2014.



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