

## **Open Letter from Civil Society groups regarding the election process of the future president of the IDB Group.**

Civil society organizations and communities affected by Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) projects hope that the current election process for choosing the IDB Group's president is an opportunity to appoint a person that is prepared to lead the transformations the institution needs. The Bank should be led by someone who can effectively respond to the environmental and social emergencies (and challenges) in Latin America. The new president must support operations, technical assistance, and programs that promote real and sustainable benefits for the different communities and peoples of the region.

The next leader of the region's most prominent development finance institution must articulate a clear vision of the IDB Group's development mission. The new president's vision will shape the course of the institution for the coming years and must be committed to community-led development, gender equality and equity, the fulfillment, and promotion of human rights, responding to the climate crisis and guaranteeing transparency and accountability throughout the Bank's actions.

For all of these reasons, the candidate to lead the IDB group should be someone who is not only committed to the effective implementation of the Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF), but has also shown knowledge and commitment to the following issues:

- Displays knowledge of the Latin American and Caribbean region with experience working with its institutions and diverse communities.
- Expresses a commitment to human rights and sustainable development, which means prioritizing the well-being of communities and promoting a development approach centered on people and that is respectful of the autonomy of peoples who can democratically manage their territories and natural resources. In this regard, the candidate should know and commit to the work of defenders of human rights, the territory, and nature, including the effective implementation of the commitment to not tolerate reprisals in IDB-sponsored projects.
- Boasts comprehensive experience with a vision for sustainability, environmental protection, and the diversity of livelihoods in the region. With the aforementioned experience, the candidate should display a solid background in international development, for the IDB Group to address the challenges of climate change and the reduction of poverty and inequality in a fair and inclusive manner.
- Commits to opening multiple spaces for effective engagement with civil society and project-affected groups at all institutional levels. For example, the candidate

provides specific opportunities and space for civil society to participate and effectively engage in the Bank's Annual Meeting. The IDB Group should be receptive to these interactions by receiving input and constructive criticism from external stakeholders, particularly civil society and project-affected communities.

- Prioritize the discussion around developing a remedy framework for project-affected communities, in line with the recommendations of the United Nations [Remedy in Development Finance Report](#).
- Lead by example and act in line with the highest ethical standards related to integrity, transparency, the fight against corruption, gender equity, non-discrimination, and commitment to the institution's accountability.
- Commits to regional and international treaties and agreements that address the issues of climate change, the protection of biodiversity, the defense of human rights, and sustainable development, such as the Paris Agreement and the Escazú Agreement, as well as the protection and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the region.

As a part of the process, the IDB must develop a clear job description, and guarantee a transparent selection process with the IDB Board of Directors by communicating regularly with stakeholders on the progress of the selection process and the criteria used beyond those established in the [regulations](#) for the election of the President of the Bank.

The new President of the IDB has a unique opportunity to promote cultural change at the institution that leads to a stronger IDB that is more responsible, more effective, closer to the communities and peoples of the region, and leads the way towards sustainable development.

Signatures:

- Accountability Counsel
- AMATE, El Salvador
- Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad, Colombia
- Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)
- Asociación Unión de talleres 11 de septiembre, Bolivia
- Bank Information Center
- Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Coalición para los Derechos Humanos en el Desarrollo
- Conectas, Brasil
- Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR), Perú
- Ecoa, Brasil

- Environmental Defender Law Center
- Fórum Nacional da Sociedade Civil nos Comitês de Bacias Hidrográficas FONASC CBH, Brasil
- Forest & Finance
- Fórum Mato-grossense de Meio Ambiente e Desenvolvimento (Formad), Brasil
- Fundación CAUCE: Cultura Ambiental - Causa Ecologista, Argentina
- Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (Fundeps), Argentina
- Greenpeace, Brasil
- Instituto Energía e Meio Ambiente (IEMA), Brasil
- Instituto Madeira Vivo- IMV, Brasil
- Instituto Maíra, Brasil
- International Accountability Project (IAP)
- International Rivers
- Movimiento Tapajós Vivo (MTV), Brasil
- Oxfam
- Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad
- Protection International Mesoamérica
- Rede de Empreendimentos Econômicos Solidários e Produtos da Sociobiodiversidade (REESOLBIO), Brasil
- REDE Pantanal, Brasil
- Sociedad y Discapacidad (SODIS), Perú
- Sustentarse, Chile