

**Side-Event Forum at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
Hosted by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and sponsored by the Independent
Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs)**

**“Contributions of the Citizen-Driven Accountability to Sustainable Development”
Date: June 18, 2012**

A. PURPOSE:

This side-event is an initiative of the Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) at International Financial Institutions (IFIs) around the world. The IAMs respond to complaints from affected people and communities concerned about social and environmental harm from IFI-financed development projects and activities. These mechanisms serve to give a greater voice to people affected by development projects, support solution-seeking process and dialogues aimed at attaining better development outcomes; and hold IFIs accountable to their own policies and standards designed to avoid harm and benefit countries, their people and the environment.

The first IAM established was the World Bank’s Inspection Panel in 1993 in response to an increasing demand for “citizen-driven accountability” and participation in international development in the wake of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Since that time, several IFI (for example, the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank) have established independent mechanisms mandated to address complaints from project affected people. As a meaningful product of the Rio Summit, the IAMs have accumulated some 20 years of experience in addressing critical social and environmental issues at the project-level and have worked to promote greater transparency, accessibility and participation of civil society in international development projects.

This event will allow IAMs to share their experience with academia, civil society and others to generate discussion about what citizen-driven accountability looks like in the 21st century and how it can better support more equitable and more sustainable development outcomes. Discussions will highlight the participation of and interactions with civil society, governments, private sector, and other actors in the work of the IAMs, and the role of IAMs in development operations - such as catalyzing collaborative science and bringing technical expertise to the process. The discussion will also open up the themes that have arisen through the work of the IAMs in addressing project-level harm over 20 years – i.e. from natural resources extraction, conflicts over land, water access and water use, to meaningful consultation and information disclosure, participation in decision making, and the upstream distribution of project benefits. The discussion will be framed by the rich experience of the IAMs in dealing with a multitude of social and environmental issues raised by affected people - including Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups - in challenging sectors, environments, and locations around the world. The event will be supported by analytical work summarizing the evolution of the IAMs, their effectiveness, and what their experience to date tells us about current development trends.

B. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

The discussion will attempt to answer questions such as:

- Track record of the IAMs in enabling affected people and local communities to bring concerns about IFI-financed operations to the highest levels of decision making, thus introducing "bottom-up" or "citizen-driven" accountability in these organizations. What is the record of the IAMs over two decades? What kind of issues do they address, and what are their findings? What types of approaches have been most effective in getting results for affected people? What types of systemic improvements have the IAMs catalyzed in IFI development operations?
- The role of civil society organizations as a catalyst for communities to raise issues of accountability and participation in relation to the sustainable development agenda, and on issues such as REDD, green economy, biodiversity conservation, climate change, water management, and renewable energy. What can be done to protect and strengthen the rights of people to voice their concerns and obtain redress? What options have been shown to be most effective?
- The role of science and the research community in supporting the fact-finding activities of IAMs, and generating analysis of the core issues of social and environmental sustainability addressed by the IAMs. How can science, technology, and technical data assist IAMs in helping affected and marginalized people?
- The role of government, the private sector, and other actors in collaborative solution-seeking or dispute resolution processes and investigations handled by the IAMs - in particular, what are the different roles and responsibilities of these actors, including the IFIs, when it comes to accountability for project outcomes? What are the models for engaging with these different actors to address social and environmental harm?
- The future challenges for "bottom-up" accountability in a time of changing international social and environmental standards and safeguards and the introduction of new financial instruments. What does an analysis of trends tell us about the "drivers" of social and environmental conflict around development projects?

C. PARTICIPANTS:

Participants will include and be open to:

- Members of academic and global civil society who have an interest in citizen-led accountability and participation
- Representatives of the governments attending the Rio Summit
- Representatives of the private sector attending the Rio Summit
- Members of IFI's attending the Rio Summit
- Principals and staff from the IAMs

D. FORMAT OF THE EVENT:

The proposed program is designed for a 4 hour event (from 1:00 to 5:00 PM) comprising multiple sessions for an audience of approximately 120 people. There will be one **keynote speaker**, a formal **IAM presentation**, and one **multi-stakeholder panel**.

- **Welcoming remarks:** President of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and Representative of the Government of Brazil (TBC).
- **Keynote Speaker:** This address will be on citizen-driven accountability, giving voice to vulnerable people.
- **IAM Presentation:** The session will present key messages emanating from the analytical work conducted by the IAMs for Rio+20 which will introduce the role and function of the IAMs; their evolution and effectiveness; and broader, systemic social and environmental trends gleaned from findings from IAM cases over 20 years.
- **Multi-stakeholder panel discussion:** This panel will respond to the issues framed by the analytical papers presented above and include civil society, private sector, and academia. A moderator will pose questions in a debate style, including questions from the audience, for the panelists to respond and comment.

E. PROPOSED DRAFT PROGRAM

Event's General Moderator – Mr. Marcos Pedlowski, Professor, Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense, Brazil

1. **Welcoming Remarks: President of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and representative of the Government of Brazil** (TBC) (10 minutes)
2. **Keynote Address: Mr. Theotônio dos Santos**, Economist and Political Scientist, Brazil, Coordinator and Chair of the UNU-UNESCO Network of Global Economy and Sustainable Development (TBC) (20 min)
3. **IAMs Presentation: Citizen-driven Accountability for Sustainable Development: Giving Affected People a Greater Voice—20 Years On** (30 min)
 - **Alf Jerve** (Norway), Chairperson, World Bank Inspection Panel: “*The evolution of the IAMs*”
 - **Meg Taylor** (Papua New Guinea), Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman, IFC Compliance, Advisor and Ombudsman (CAO): “*What the IAMs have done – trends and outcomes*”
 - **Q & A**

4. **Multi-stakeholder moderated panel discussion:** This panel will respond to the issues framed by the analytical papers presented (**Moderator: Isabel Lavadenz**, Ombudsperson, Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism of the Inter-American Development Bank).

Panelists are:

- **Ms. Renu Modi**, Professor, University of Mumbai, India;
- **Mr. Manuel Rodriguez Becerra**, Professor, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia;
- **Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**, Chair, Tebtebba Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education;
- **Mr. Felismino Alcarpe**, Principal, EIB-CM
- **Werner Kiene**, Chair, Compliance Review Panel ICIM; and
- **Mr. Carlos Eduardo Martins**, Doctor of Sociology, Professor, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;