Side Event: Accountability and Access to Recourse for Communities Impacted by Development Projects
IAIA Conference, International Convention Center, Room 22DEF, Durban

Hosted by: Independent Accountability Mechanisms of the African Development Bank, European Investment Bank, and World Bank Group, and the Legal Resources Centre

When: Tuesday May 15, 2018, 09:00-11:00am
Where: International Convention Center, Room 22DEF, Durban

Representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations are cordially invited to a side event on Accountability and Access to Recourse for Communities Impacted by Development Projects, which will be co-hosted by the Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) of the African Development Bank, the World Bank Group and the European Investment Bank, and the Legal Resources Centre, a non-profit public interest law clinic. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, from 09:00 – 11:00 at the International Convention Center, Room 22DEF, and Durban.

The IAMs were set up to address complaints from communities regarding the environmental and social impact of projects supported by the multilateral development banks. The main objectives of this event are to raise awareness with civil society and non-governmental organizations about the work of the mechanisms and their dispute resolution and compliance functions, and to discuss challenges and opportunities for improving community participation and engagement around environmental and social impact assessments and effective resolution of grievances arising from development projects.

This event will have limited space, thus please confirm your participation by 2 May 2018 to Ms. Sharita Samuel, sharita@lrc.org.za. If you have any questions about the event, please contact: Mr Birima Fall, b.fall@afdb.org or Ms Andrea Repetto, repetterovargas@worldbankgroup.org

We hope that either you or one of your colleagues will be able to attend and look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely

The Organizing Committee
ABOUT US

Legal Resources Centre
Legal Resources Centre (LRC) is a national public interest, non-profit law clinic in South Africa that was founded in 1979. The LRC has since its inception shown a commitment to work towards a fully democratic society underpinned by respect for the rule of law and constitutional democracy. The LRC uses the law as an instrument of justice to assist vulnerable and marginalised individuals and communities to assert and develop their rights; oppose all forms of unfair discrimination; contribute to the development of human rights jurisprudence and to the social and economic transformation of society. The LRC operates nationally in South Africa from its offices situated in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Grahamstown. Through strategic litigation, advocacy, education and training, the LRC has played a pivotal role in developing and contributing to a robust jurisprudence in the promotion and protection of equality and non-discrimination. A significant proportion of the LRC’s work, since 1996, has been in the sphere of access to justice and it welcomes the invitation to participate in this dialogue.

AfDB Compliance Review and Mediation Unit (BCRM)
The Compliance Review and Mediation Unit (BCRM) is the office that administers the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB). The mandate of the IRM is to provide people who are adversely affected by the AfDB financed projects with an independent recourse mechanism through which they can submit their complaints. The IRM covers both public and private sector operations and examines complaints relating to the ADB noncompliance with any of its safeguards policies and procedures. The IRM handles the complaints through compliance review; problem solving or both. It is also mandated to deliver advisory services, outreach and knowledge management for institutional learning purposes. For further details on IRM Rules, register of complaints and other activities, please visit the IRM Website: https://www.afdb.org/en/independent‐review‐mechanism

EIB Complaints Mechanism
The EIB Complaints Mechanism (EIB-CM) is designed to facilitate and handle complaints against the European Investment Bank (EIB) by individuals, organisations or corporations affected by EIB activities. Complainants do not need to prove that they are directly affected by an EIB decision, action or omission and are not required to identify the rules, regulations or policies in question. Main activities of the EIB-CM are compliance review and/or dispute resolution. http://www.eib.org/about/accountability/complaints/index.htm

The EIB, as a public EU institution, provides for a two tiers approach when handling complaints: First, the EIB-CM, which is operationally independent from the Bank’s other departments, will try to find a solution to the case and may advise the EIB on remedial and/or corrective action where necessary. Secondly, should the EIB-CM fail to find a solution and/or provide an appropriate response, it is possible to refer the complaint to a fully independent European Union institution, the European Ombudsman.
World Bank Inspection Panel
The World Bank Board of Executive Directors in 1993 created the Inspection Panel as an independent accountability mechanism for people and communities who believe that they have been, or are likely to be, harmed by the World Bank’s failure to follow its operational policies and procedures in designing or implementing a Bank-financed project.

The Panel, the first IAM created at an international financial institution, is an impartial fact-finding body, independent from the World Bank management and staff, reporting directly to the Board. The Panel process aims to promote accountability at the World Bank, give people a greater voice in activities supported by the Bank that affect their rights and interests, and foster redress when warranted. www.inspectionpanel.org

IFC/MIGA Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO)
The Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) is the independent accountability mechanism for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the private sector arms of the World Bank Group. CAO’s mandate is to address complaints from people affected by IFC and MIGA projects in a manner that is fair, objective, and constructive, with the goal of improving environmental and social project outcomes and fostering greater public accountability of IFC and MIGA.

Reporting to the President of the World Bank Group, CAO works to resolve complaints using a flexible, problem-solving approach through its dispute resolution arm and oversees investigations of IFC’s and MIGA’s environmental and social performance through its compliance arm. CAO’s advisory arm provides independent advice on broader environmental and social concerns with the goal of systemic improvements in IFC and MIGA performance. www.cao-ombudsman.org