

World Bank
Access to Information and Stakeholder Engagement

Written update to the 24th Working Group of the Parties meeting
Thematic session on promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums
October 2020

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Bank's Policy on Access to Information completed 10 years on July 1, 2020. The Policy led to groundbreaking change in how we make information publicly available. The public has access to more of our information than ever before, including details about projects under preparation or implementation, analytic and advisory activities, and Board proceedings. In the last 10 years of the AI Policy, the Bank has received 6,334 information requests. For requests that are denied, the public can appeal by alleging a violation of policy and/or the public interest. The internal Access to Information Committee (AIC) serves as the first level of appeals, and its decisions are final for appeals alleging a public interest ground. A second and final recourse for appeals alleging a violation of policy is available through the external and independent Access to Information Appeals Board (AIAB). In the 10 years until the end of July 2020, the AIC decided on 74 appeals up, averaging 7.4 appeals per year. All AIC decisions on appeals are publicly available ([click here](#)). The AIAB has decided on 12 cases up to September 2020, averaging 1.2 cases per year. The decisions of the AIAB are also publicly available ([click here](#)).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), which enhances requirements for transparency and stakeholder engagement, applies to all new investment project financing (IPF) as of October 1, 2018. The ESF requires meaningful consultation with stakeholders by establishing a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement and meaningful consultation throughout the project cycle. It includes a dedicated standard (ESS10) on stakeholder engagement and information disclosure.

An ESF Implementation Update, published September 2020, summarizes the substantial work done during this initial implementation period of the ESF and includes further information on experience with stakeholder engagement and related issues. This report is available [here](#). In March 2020 the World Bank issued a statement reiterating its strong commitment against reprisals and/or retaliation. This statement includes a list of measures and tools at the World Bank's disposal for the prevention and redress of reprisals and/or retaliation. The statement is available [here](#).

The World Bank has moved quickly to help developing countries address the potential health, economic and social and environmental impacts of COVID-19. Given the complexity of the environmental, health, social and worker and community protection risks associated with COVID-19, new guidance was issued addressing the specific circumstances of the emergency response, including stakeholder engagement. More information on the World Bank COVID-19 response is available [here](#).