Promoting the principles of the Convention: the EIB model

Thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums

Geneva, 27 June 2019
Current status and plans of EIB Group’s policies

- The 2018 EIB Group Complaints Mechanism (CM): a citizen-driven accountability mechanism reviewing compliance of the EIB’s actions/omissions with the applicable regulatory framework (including the Aarhus Convention/Regulation)

- The 2015 EIB Group Transparency Policy (TP) sets out the EIB Group’s approach to transparency and stakeholder’s engagement. It defines the EIB procedures concerning information requests from the public as well as the information that the EIB makes routinely available to the public

- The 2009 EIB Statement and the 2018 EIB Environmental and Social Standards
Current status and plans of EIB Group’s policies

The three levels of EIB stakeholders’ engagement:

- **Board of Directors’ level**: Annual Seminar with Civil Society
- **Policy level**: public consultations and open dialogue on key policies and strategies. Regular workshops and other events on subjects of relevance both for the Bank and its stakeholders. Bilateral meetings with CSOs on specific issues
- **Project level**: the EIB requires promoters to implement open and transparent engagement approaches with all relevant stakeholders in operations financed by EIB (Standard 10 of the EIB Environmental and Social Standards). The EIB firmly believes that stakeholder engagement conducted throughout the project cycle enhances the EIB’s positive impact on the ground.
Practical material & Capacity Building

- March 2015: EIB Board of Directors approves the EIB Transparency Policy following extensive public consultation

- November 2018: the EIF Board and the EIB Board approve the new EIB Group CM Policy following extensive public consultation

- Guidance notes for promoters and partners on the EIB Group’s Transparency Policy

- Technical workshops on other draft Guidance Notes and Guidelines
Main challenges

a. The EIB-CM’s experience with cases concerning access to information

- Increasing complexity of applications

- Broad variety of information (environmental and not) held by the EIB, depending on the EIB product at stake

- Complex web of legitimate interests to be protected given the *sui generis* nature of the EIB, as a public institution and a Bank.
Main challenges

b. The EIB-CM’s experience with cases concerning stakeholders’ engagement

- Facilitate dialogue between parties in a strained relationship

- Meaningfully involve stakeholders who are not parties to the financial agreement

- Ensure actual compliance with Standard 10 by monitoring the adequacy of the project-level grievance mechanisms
Opportunities for help/support from Government/stakeholders

- Constructive stakeholders’ scrutiny leads to positive outcomes for the whole community and consolidates the ownership of projects.

- Well-equipped Aarhus Focal Points provide crucial support in liaison with government and governmental agencies

- Regional/local government – how to reach?

- Isolation vs Cooperation in interests representation
Thank you

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