

March 19, 2018

Via Electronic Mail

Ms. Lucie Guillet, Grievance Mechanism Officer
Environmental and Social Complaints Mechanism Secretariat
French Development Agency
5 Rue Roland Barthes
75598 Paris Cedex 12

Dear Ms. Guillet:

We are writing in response to the recent creation of the Environmental and Social Complaints Mechanism at the French Development Agency (AFD). As civil society organizations and practitioners who advocate for accountability in development finance and support those who have been harmed by development projects, we are encouraged to see this development at the AFD. We welcome you in this new role and hope to see the mechanism succeed in providing redress for affected communities and ensuring institutional accountability.

In order for the AFD to achieve its development mandate, it must uphold its own policies and international law to protect human rights and the environment. The mechanism has an important part to play to ensure that the institution is achieving positive development outcomes for all stakeholders and adhering to those standards. We hope that the creation of this mechanism reflects AFD's recognition of the importance of accountability in the pursuit of equitable, sustainable development.

You may be interested in the analysis on accountability and access to remedy through mechanisms at other development finance institutions in the report *Glass Half Full? The State of Accountability in Development Finance*, authored by several of the organizations supporting this letter. For an accountability system to function effectively for those who may be negatively affected by development projects, both the institution—its leadership and management—and its independent accountability mechanism must meet their respective responsibilities. The report evaluates the policies and practices of 11 development finance institutions and their corresponding mechanisms. The full report (attached) and its annexes are available at: glass-half-full.org. Please consider it as a resource in this critical stage of the mechanism's development.

We look forward to further engagement as you begin your work ensuring accountability at AFD and providing a forum for project-affected people.

Sincerely,

Accountability Counsel – USA
Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN) – Cameroon
African Law Foundation (AFRILAW) – Nigeria
Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development Organisation (BIRUDO) – Uganda

Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie (COCODHD) – Cameroon
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) – USA
Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) – Netherlands
Community Policing Partners (COMPPART) – Nigeria
Equitable Cambodia – Cambodia
Friends of the Earth US – USA
Friends with Environment in Development (FED) – Uganda
Global Rights – Nigeria
International Accountability Project – USA
Jamaa Resource Initiatives – Kenya
Lumière Synergie pour le Développement – Senegal
Narasha Community Development Group – Kenya
Network Movement for Justice and Development – Sierra Leone
NGO Forum on ADB – Regional (Asia)
Observatoire d'Etudes et d'Appui à la Responsabilité Sociale et Environnementale (OEARSE) – Democratic Republic of the Congo
Observatoire de la Société Civile Congolaise pour les Minerais de Paix (OSCMP) – Democratic Republic of the Congo
Professor David Hunter, American University Washington College of Law – USA
Public Interest Law Center (PILC) – Chad

cc: Mr. Yves des Rieux, Ethics Advisor, AFD
Mr. Rémy Rioux, Chief Executive Officer, AFD