

**3rd Meeting of the second generation of MICI's External Consultative Group (GCE<sup>1</sup>)**

**Summary Minutes**

<b>Date</b>	November 15, 2023
<b>Attendees</b> (Alphabetical order)	<u>GCE Members</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• César Gamboa</li> <li>• Joseph Milewski</li> <li>• Jimena Psathakis</li> <li>• Paula Torres Holguín</li> </ul> <u>MICI Staff</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gastón Aín</li> <li>• Katty Araya</li> <li>• Maria Camila Barriga</li> <li>• Anja Brenes</li> <li>• Mariana Devercelli</li> <li>• Camila Luz</li> <li>• María Elisa Dugo</li> <li>• Rebeca García</li> <li>• Sebastian Gonzalez</li> <li>• Martin Packmann</li> <li>• Andrea Repetto</li> <li>• Esteve Sala</li> <li>• Ava Scott</li> <li>• Dalia Stein</li> <li>• Esteban Tovar</li> </ul>
<b>Type of Meeting</b>	Virtual meeting for GCE members and hybrid meeting for MICI staff (duration: 2 hours).

**A. Meeting Summary**

The third meeting of the GCE was held in a hybrid format with the following objectives:

1. Give a general update on the actions carried out by MICI at the end of 2023.
2. Generate an open space for discussion to encourage the exchange of knowledge on the topic of reprisals<sup>2</sup>.
3. Define the logistics of the next face-to-face meeting in 2024.

To achieve the objectives, this meeting had three blocks of activities, which are detailed below (see also Annex I with the agenda):

First Block: MICI presented its general overview and update on the Requests received and the cases handled by both the Consultation Phase and the Compliance Review Phase. It also

<sup>1</sup> For its acronym in Spanish: “*Grupo Consultivo Externo*”.

<sup>2</sup> This topic was agreed upon at the May 3 and 5, 2023 session.

reported on the meetings held with the Boards of Executive Directors of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Investment Corporation.

In reference to the knowledge exchange activities carried out, it was shared with the GCE that in the 2023, the Mechanism carried out a session on contextual risks with the IDB Group Management; as well as the participation of MICI within the IDB Invest Knowledge Week.

Regarding the strategic relationship actions, the Mechanism detailed the dissemination pilot plan that was carried out in Ecuador and Peru during the months of June and October, where meetings were held with local organizations and ombudsmen's offices to make the Mechanism and its process known. Likewise, the progress of the new MICI website was shared, as well as the creation of profiles on the LinkedIn and Facebook platforms.

Regarding the training of the team, it was highlighted the training received on gender issues by the Danish Institute of Human Rights.

Finally, the Mechanism shared that in 2024 it will focus collectively on defining actions on gender issues within its processes, in addition to being attentive to the institutional changes expected for the IDB Group and their implications for MICI.

Second Block: the Mechanism made a presentation on how it has handled the issue with claimants, how it implements the Guidelines for Addressing the Risk of Reprisals in cases where this fear is alleged, as well as the first-hand tools or actions it can implement such as: the various public documents where it can report on the situation on the ground; the establishment of rules for sharing information with relevant actors including Executing Agencies and IDB; managing expectations with Requesters of what to expect from the Mechanism; identifying and linking to/with/of relevant local organizations; the possibility of giving visibility to Requesters; and learning and capacity building of the MICI team.

The Mechanism staff also shared practical experiences of cases where they have implemented the Guidelines and generated Plans of Attention to the Risk of Reprisals.

The session continued with open questions and interventions related to:

- Limitations of MICI's mandate and the presence in Latin America and the Caribbean of pre-existing contexts of conflict-ridden situations of attacks on human rights and environmental defenders.
- Given the situation in the region and the fact that the Mechanism cannot control what happens on a day-to-day basis, all Requests can be classified as confidential.
- Mobilization of relevant actors and funding for collaborative actions.
- Internal advocacy role of MICI in all IDB agencies for to obtain training and best practices.
- Conducting specific human rights Due Diligence to accompany the project documents.
- The possibility and feasibility of MICI making an informative toolkit for each project where there may be fears of reprisals, as well as a differentiated approach by country.
- The creation of a mapping of risk that could be done almost automatically by answering questions such as where the project in question is located.

## **B. Agreements and next session**

After the sessions, agreements were reached to continue the dialogue and reflection on the topics of interest in the future. The main points are reflected below:

- The next session will be held again in the month of May 2024 and will be held in person in Washington, D.C.
- Regarding the topics to be addressed, MICI has committed to review all those that were previously agreed upon in the first session of the group in 2022 and to define, according to priorities, which of them will be addressed during the sessions (virtual and face-to-face) in 2024.

In the end, the members expressed their satisfaction with the way in which the spaces for conversation were generated in 2023 and urged the MICI to continue with constructive dialogue meetings, with practical examples that can improve the work of the Mechanism in the future.

**Annex 1. Session November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023- Agenda**

<b>Wednesday November 15th, 2023</b>	
11:00am-11:30am	<b>Session 1- Opening and update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General overview of MICI at the end of 2023 – 20 minutes</li> <li>Q&amp;A - 10 minutes</li> </ul> <i>MICI team and GCE</i>
11:30am-12:00pm	<b>Session 2</b> Risk of Reprisals in MICI Complaints Management <i>MICI Presentation</i>
12:00pm- 1:00pm	<b>Session 2- continuation</b> Guiding questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What else can MICI do to address, within its process, allegations of reprisals?</li> <li>What type of training would you suggest the MICI receive on this topic?</li> <li>With which organizations would you recommend that MICI establish a relationship to redirect complainants at potential risk of suffering reprisals?</li> <li>What else can MICI do to prevent reprisals?</li> <li>What should we require/expect from IDB, IDB Invest and IDB Lab management to prevent and react when there are allegations of reprisals?</li> </ul> <i>MICI and GCE open discussion</i>
1:00pm-1:10m	<b>Break</b>
1:10pm-1:25pm	<b>Session 3- Planning 2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topics planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of discussion on reparations</li> <li>Responsible exit from IDB Group projects</li> <li>Strategic relationship with potential requesters and executing agencies (public and private sectors)</li> <li>Inclusion of gender and diversity withing MICI functions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Potential in-person meeting date in 2024</li> </ul> <i>MICI team and GCE</i>
<b>End of Activities</b>	