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AND INVESTIGATION MECHANISM

**MICI-BID-AR-2022-0188**

**NOTIFICATION OF EXTENSION  
OF THE CONSULTATION PHASE PROCESS**

**RECONQUISTA RIVER SANITATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM — REQUEST V**

**(AR-L1121)  
(3256/OC-AR)**

This document was prepared by Andrea Repetto Vargas, MICI Director.

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**FROM:** Andrea Repetto Vargas, MICI Director

**REFERENCE:** MICI-BID-AR-2022-0188 Regarding the Reconquista River Sanitation Environmental Program — Request V (AR-L1121)

**DATE:** October 16th, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **Notification of Extension of the Consultation Phase Process- Justification and New Deadline**

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Dear Board of Executive Directors:

In accordance with the provisions in paragraph 31 of the MICI-IDB Policy (MI-47-8), I am notifying the Board of Executive Directors of an extension of **six (6) months** for the Consultation Phase Process of Request MICI-BID-AR-2022-0188 related to the Reconquista River Sanitation Environmental Program — Request V (AR-L1121), to be counted as of October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The background and justification for this extension are presented below:

**Background and Justification**

In accordance with paragraph 24 of the MICI-BID Policy, the objective of the Consultation Phase (CP) is to provide an opportunity for Requesters, IDB Management and/or the Executing Agency (the "Parties"), to address the issues raised in the Request in a flexible, voluntary, and consensual manner. The CP is composed of three successive stages called Assessment, Consultation Process and Monitoring.

In accordance with paragraph 31 of the MICI-IDB Policy, the maximum term for the Consultation Phase Process is twelve (12) calendar months. However, this term may be extended if the MICI Director considers that the extension will help resolve the issues raised. Request MICI-BID-AR-2022-0188 is currently in Consultation Phase Process which initiated on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

As identified in the Assessment Report, the central issue raised in the Request and a dialogue agenda priority is "Access to information and ongoing updates on the status, timeline, and completion date for the work on 'Branch Sewer Systems in Moreno Catonas IV Sur-Lote 2'". During the dialogue sessions facilitated by MICI<sup>1</sup>, the Executing Agency presented a tentative schedule for the public works' procurement process and committed to provide constant updates to MICI on the public information to be communicated to the Requesters.

In terms of the procurement process, the call for public bids was published on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the opening of bid envelopes took place. The public record shows that four bids were received. According to the information provided by the Executing Agency, the Evaluation Committee began to assess the bids and the award decision would be made between October and early November, 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> So far, the MICI team has facilitated two dialogue sessions (one in person on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and one virtual on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023). In parallel, MICI has maintained permanent contact with the Parties.

Following the deadlines announced by the Executing Agency and given the current electoral context in Argentina, MICI considers it appropriate to extend the Consultation Phase Process period. The extension aims to allow the necessary time to meet the deadline of the procurement process, which corresponds to a deadline external to the MICI process. In the meantime, the Mechanism will maintain ongoing communications with the Parties through bilateral meetings and, when necessary, plenary sessions to facilitate the exchange of information on the procurement process, as well as assisting the resolution of potential differences that may arise with respect to said process.

For all the above, **the Board of Executive Directors is notified of the extension of the Consultation Phase process for an additional period of maximum six (6) months, which will end on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The purpose of said extension is to have the time necessary for the conclusion of the procurement process. At the end of the indicated extension, MICI will send to the Board of Executive Directors the Consultation Phase Report that will include the results of the process. If an Agreement is reached, the Report will also include the respective Monitoring Plan for the Board's consideration via short procedure.**