

**External Consultative Group
Second Meeting of 2018**

Summary Minutes

Re:	Second Meeting of 2018
Locations:	November 15: The American University Washington College of Law, 4300 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington DC, USA
	November 16: IDB Headquarters, 1330 New York Avenue, NW, Washington DC, USA
Attendees:	<p>For the GCE: Ana- Mita Betancourt Maximiliano Brandt Juan Martín Carballo Leonardo Crippa Paulina Ibarra Manuel Iván Morales Feijoo Andrea Repetto Vargas Melanie Salagnat</p> <p>For MICI: MICI Staff</p>
Dates:	November 15-16, 2018
Recorder of the minutes:	Isabel Berdeja (MICI)

Summary of the session:

The second 2018 meeting of the External Consultative Group (GCE) was held on November 15 and 16, 2018 in Washington, DC, with the following objectives:

- Enhance in-depth understanding of the Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) of International Financial Institutions.
- Analyze the current regional context and its implications for MICI's work.
- Present developments made in this area.
- Receive feedback and inputs from the CGE members regarding progress and plans in the areas of Learning, Access, Effectiveness, and Transparency of MICI.
- Identify specific actions to be undertaken by MICI in order to continuously improve its functions.

Day 1: IAMs Symposium

On Thursday November 15, GCE and MICI members participated in the conference "*Reflections on IFI Independent Accountability Mechanisms.*" The event took place at American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) and was sponsored by the AUWCL Center on Human Rights; AUWCL Program on Environmental and Energy Law; Bank Information Center (BIC);

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International Development Law Unit, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, and the World Bank Inspection Panel (IP).

Day 2: MICI-GCE working session

On November 16, MICI Director Victoria Márquez-Mees opened the session with welcome remarks, and an overview of the current context and circumstances in which MICI operates.

Context

The regional context is marked by the Regional Agreement on Access to Information signed in *Escazú*, which provides an opportunity to improve the standards for the dissemination of environmental and social information, as well as for the protection of human rights defenders.

GCE members raised the importance of environmental, social, and transparency standards, and the local institutional capacity of governments and the private sector. They commented on the complexities that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and co-financed projects bring to MICI's work.

Learning: Progress and Feedback

MICI released the first document of the MICI Reflections Program “Analysis of the 2010-2017 Request Portfolio”. GCE members suggested including data on co-financing and consulted on the institution's reactions to the launch of the Program. Finally, they commended the initiative to return knowledge to the Bank for purposes of strengthening the design, implementation, and execution of operations.

Access: Progress and Feedback

New disclosure strategies were announced in relation to key actors, including close contact with individuals and institutions specializing in dispute resolution and conflict prevention in Peru and Argentina; participation in the COICA summit, which allowed for direct contact with indigenous representatives; outreach to environmental licensing entities in Latin America, and the first workshop with project implementing agencies in Honduras.

The members of the GCE consulted on a possible correlation between dissemination efforts and the receipt of complaints. They also highlighted the importance of making MICI known beyond CSOs in order to raise awareness among other relevant actors such as the private sector and executing agencies. There was discussion of the challenges posed by the lack of information about the existence of IDB financing and MICI. GCE members reiterated their willingness to publicize MICI within their networks and support efforts to disseminate and promote access with a view to strengthening MICI's work.

Effectiveness: Progress and Feedback

An update was provided on how to manage claims in the Consultation (CP) and Compliance Review (CRP) Phases. There was discussion about the creation of the Roster of Facilitators for the CP, and about the interaction with independent experts and the renewal of the Roster, among other things, in the CRP. The relevance of developing a consultation tool for mechanisms in cases where there is a risk of retaliation was underscored. The assessment of environmental and social safeguards carried out by the IDB's evaluation office (OVE), which includes a brief appraisal of MICI, was also discussed.

Transparency: Progress and Feedback

MICI presented the application of the Aid Transparency Index to assess its own transparency. The proactive and timely disclosure of public information, the standardization of the disclosure format, and the use of simple language were some of the indicators analyzed.

The GCE gave some specific suggestions for the MICI website and the Public Registry, such as including case updates at the top of the webpage and providing a specific section for them. In addition, the GCE proposed using icons and avoiding cumbersome documents that make access difficult.

Scheduling of the next meeting

As agreed, the next meeting of the CGE will be held on May 23-24, 2019.

The attendees also agreed to follow up on the issues listed below:

Agreements (MICI's responsibility)	Responsible party	Proposed completion date
To promote Learning		
Distribute the note "Analysis of the 2010-2017 Request Portfolio" within the GCE. Receive and incorporate feedback, reflections, and comments on the technical note from the GCE.	MICI	December 2018
To improve Access		
Include relevant actors (public and private sector entities relevant to MICI topics, among others) in stakeholder mapping and in the outreach and access strategy, which also focuses on the IDB Group's investment portfolio.	MICI	First quarter of 2019
Promote additional partnerships, for example, with networks of Public Defenders, as well as with indigenous leaders.	MICI	First quarter of 2019
To improve Effectiveness		
Use the Escazú agreement, specifically the chapter on the protection of human rights defenders, as a framework for drawing up guidelines to address the risk of retaliation.	MICI	First quarter of 2019

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Agreements (MICI's responsibility)	Responsible party	Proposed completion date
Share the toolkit for addressing situations involving the risk of retaliation.	MICI	January 2019
To enhance Transparency		
Share the proposed improvements to the website, which were based on the survey on the use of the website and the Public Registry, for comment.	MICI	Second quarter of 2019

Annexes

- I. Agenda
- II. Summary Minutes of the 1st Meeting of 2018
- III. Table of MICI Activities - 2018

Annex I.

Agenda Second Meeting of 2018 November 15-16, 2018

Thursday, November 15:

Conference "*Reflections on IFI Independent Accountability Mechanisms*"
The American University Washington College of Law, Ceremonial Classroom

Time	Agenda Item
8:00	Transportation by private bus from the Hyatt Place Hotel to American University
8:30 -16:30	Reflections on IFI Independent Accountability Mechanisms
16:30 – 18:00	Reception hosted by American University Law School
18:00	Dinner

Friday, November 16:

Time	Agenda Item
8:30	Breakfast and Registration
9:00-9:05	Welcoming remarks and session objectives Victoria Márquez-Mees
9:05-9:30	MICI: Current context and circumstances Victoria Márquez-Mees
9:30-10:45	Impressions and perspectives from the accountability session at American University Facilitated by: Gastón Aín
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00–11:30	Progress in Learning Institutional Reflections Program Eva Heiss Esteban Tovar
11:30- 12:00	Open discussion
12:00–12:30	Progress in Access Eva Heiss Gastón Aín
12:30-13:00	Open discussion
13:00- 14:00	Lunch
14:00–14:30	Progress in Effectiveness Mariana Clemente Pedro León Camila Barriga
14:30-15:00	Open discussion
15:00-15:15	Break and coffee
15:15-15:45	Progress in Transparency Isabel Berdeja Esteban Tovar
15:45-16:15	Open discussion
16:45-17:15	Other topics
17:15 -17:30	Planning of the first session of 2019 and close of the meeting
17:30	End of the Meeting