

The World Bank Inspection Panel Input

The Inspection Panel is an independent complaints mechanism for people and communities who believe that they have been, or are likely to be, adversely affected by a World Bank-funded project. The World Bank's Board of Directors created the Inspection Panel in 1993 to ensure that people have access to an independent body to express their concerns and seek recourse. The Panel is an impartial fact-finding body, independent from the World Bank management and staff, reporting directly to the Board. The Inspection Panel process aims to promote accountability at the World Bank, give affected people a greater voice in activities supported by the World Bank that affect their rights and interests, and foster redress when warranted.

Over its years of operation, the Inspection Panel has experienced cases in which affected people have felt pressured during the Panel process. The Panel has stated that any form of retaliation threatens the integrity of the World Bank's accountability process, and may have long-term ramifications on a project's quality and the willingness of affected people to voice their concern about harm that might be caused by a Bank-financed project. Therefore, to help reduce the risk of retaliation against Requesters, their Representatives and Associated Persons, the Inspection Panel in March 2016 adopted its "Guidelines to Reduce Retaliation Risks and Respond to Retaliation During the Panel Process".

The link to the Guidelines:

<http://ewebapps.worldbank.org/apps/ip/PanelMandateDocuments/2016%20Retaliation%20Guidelines.pdf>