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**Questionnaire for International Financial Institutions by the  
UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders  
Mary Lawlor, September 2020**

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Mary Lawlor invites International Financial Institutions to respond to the questionnaire below. Submissions received will inform the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of killings of human rights defenders, which will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2021.

The questionnaire and related concept note on the report are available at OHCHR website in English (original language) as well as in French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic (unofficial translations):  
(<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/SRHRDefendersIndex.aspx>).

All submissions received will be published in the aforementioned website, unless the submitter clearly indicated that they did not wish to have their input be made publicly available when submitting their response.

There is a word limit of 2500 words. Please submit the completed questionnaire to [defenders@ohchr.org](mailto:defenders@ohchr.org)

Deadline for submissions: **5 October 2020**

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### Contact Details

Please provide your contact details in case we need to contact you in connection with this survey. Note that this is optional.

Type of Stakeholder (please select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> International Financial Institution
Name of Stakeholder	
Name of Survey Respondent	
Email	

Telephone	
Address	
Can we attribute responses to this questionnaire to your Business publicly?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Comments (if any):

## Questions

Human rights defenders are persons, who individually or in association with others, work peacefully to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

1. How do you verify that true Free, Prior and Informed Consent was given before you undertake an investment in large infrastructure (extractive mining, hydroelectric dams, agribusiness, etc.)?
2. How do you assess risks that a project might generate violent conflict or social division prior to investing, and how do you evaluate threats and restrictions on public dissent and civic space at both the project and country-level? What early warning mechanism do you follow to detect and respond to threats against human rights defenders?
3. How do communities affected by your clients' operations know about your institution's commitment to safeguard human rights defenders and provide access to remedy?
4. If a human rights defender(s) or their organization is threatened in connection with your client's operations, what steps do you take to help protect them? How do you determine whether a threat to a human rights defender is connected with your client's operations, and what connections are sufficient to cause you, as an investor, to intervene?
5. Has your institution ever publicly condemned an act or threat of violence, criminalization, or death to a human rights defender speaking out about a client's activities and/or impacts? (Please share examples).
6. Could you please share good practices (evidence-based) that have proved effective to respond to death threats against defenders promoting and defending human rights from the adverse impact of your clients' Business operations? Please provide examples of your work with clients to ensure proactive actions to support and protect civic space and defenders