Dear Mr. Zoellick,

The undersigned mandate-holders and representatives of the three United Nations mechanisms with specific mandates regarding the rights of indigenous peoples express our hope that the International Finance Corporation develops guidelines that are in accordance with international human rights standards regarding the rights of indigenous peoples to consultation and consent.


Any reforms to the International Finance Corporation's Sustainability Policy, Performance Standards and Disclosure Policy should be consistent with international standards regarding the rights of indigenous peoples, including those enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in reports concerning indigenous peoples by the United Nations treaty bodies, especially in relation to the rights of indigenous peoples to consultation and to free, prior, and informed consent.

Mr. Robert B. ZOELLICK
President, World Bank Group
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
USA

cc:
Ms. Kathy SIERRA
Vice-President, Sustainable Development Network
Mr. Roberto Daffino
Vice-President, Legal Department
Mr. Navin Rai
Chief Counsel, Environmental and International Law Unit
Indigenous Peoples Advisor
Additionally, we understand that the World Bank is also currently reviewing the implementation of its policy on indigenous peoples and it plans to discuss the review with the Board of Executive Directors within this calendar year. We emphasize that reforms in this context should similarly respect relevant international standards regarding the rights of indigenous peoples.

Please accept, Mr. Zoellick, the assurances of our highest consideration.

James Anaya  
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human Rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

Carlos Mamani  
Chairperson  
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

José Carlos Morales  
Chairperson  
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples