



2017 Members Gathering

October 7-9, 2017

OUTCOMES

The Members Gathering brought together 75 Coalition members from across the globe for three full days of strategic analysis, building relationships, and forging collective plans to advance human rights in the face of today's development model. We emerged with an expanded scope of work and new structures to take that work forward. In the synopsis below you will find the high-level outcomes. We encourage you to reference the full discussion notes for more detail and the complete workplan overviews.

THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

Participants reiterated the challenges identified in the Members' Survey – the lack of info/accountability for communities and civil society; more complex and threatening megaprojects; restriction of civil society space and repressive governments; increasing private sector role in development; and weakening of standards at finance institutions and at national level.

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

We had deep discussions about the most effective strategic focus and approach for the Coalition and the movement, given these challenges. We were encouraged to think critically whether our strategies are effectively countering the predominant development model. It was stressed that in a time when civil society is facing attacks from all sides we need to be working on multiple fronts and levels concurrently and we need to be creative and flexible in forging broad alliances.

The following principles emerged to guide our strategic approach:

- Challenge the development model at a fundamental level
- Center the work at community level
- Build accountability of governments and financiers
- Employ multi-level strategies connecting community, local, national, regional, int'l
- Forge broader creative alliances/coalitions with non-traditional allies
- Intervene early – before harm occurs

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

Throughout the Gathering, members expressed the desired ideal of a Coalition that is truly member-led, and we worked to identify structural changes to realize that goal. We were encouraged to do more with external communications (accessible, story-telling) and also internal communications (increasing awareness about Coalition work and resources). It repeatedly came up that the Coalition can and should play a valuable role in synthesizing and disseminating lessons learned, e.g. sharing the World Bank safeguards experience or national-level advocacy

experiences with members working on different institutions/campaigns. One overall constraint identified was a lack of financial resources, and members encouraged the Coalition to facilitate joint funding proposals. There was a strong interest in the Coalition fostering more work and collaboration at the national and regional levels.

The following decisions were taken:

- Program areas and working groups will implement plans to create greater, more representative, structures.
- Coalition will establish regional, thematic, and DFI-specific focal points to serve as a resource and point of connection to broader networks
- The community engagement working group will develop a more institutionalized resource/response pool to connect communities with Coalition resources and assistance.
- Coalition will strengthen its regional work through the creation of regional working groups and opportunities for in-person engagement.
- Greater communications infrastructure, disseminating member updates, will help connect Coalition work across program areas, and community, national, regional, and int'l work.

COALITION PROGRAM AREAS AND WORKPLANS

The Coalition's program areas were revised to better reflect members' priorities. While the World Bank program area got folded into other work, additional program areas and working groups emerged reflecting an overall interest in the Coalition playing a wider role and responding to the varied interests and priorities within the membership. Identified in bold below are the members who will serve as co-chairs/advisors, or take these discussions forward.

Community Engagement – Community Engagement Partnerships will continue and expand through the development of a Resource Pool/Collective which will more systematically match communities with resources. The Community Engagement Working Group will establish a more formal structure. It was stressed that the community lens should inform all our work and setting of priorities. **Community Empowerment and Social Justice Network (CEMSOJ, Nepal), Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN, Argentina), International Accountability Project, and Both Ends (Netherlands)**

Defenders in Development – The Defenders in Development group is planning outreach and campaign actions starting in March and leading up to the UN Declaration anniversary in December 2018. Will establish advisory group and a more formal working group structure and an in-person strategy mtg in March or April. **Central for International Environmental Law (CIEL), CEE-Bankwatch, and Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM, Philippines)**

Human Rights Standards / Due Diligence – The human rights due diligence project will establish a more formal advisory group to take forward the work on due diligence tools and advocacy, including pilots. This program area will serve as an umbrella for work on various DFIs around human rights standards and due diligence. **CIEL, Bank Information Center, BothEnds,**

CEE-Bankwatch, and Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM, Philippines), Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR, Peru)

DFI-specific working groups. It was determined that our work on specific institutions should be more flexible, responsive to members/community needs, versus our previous focus on more intensive efforts on just two institutions (World Bank and NDB). World Bank work will no longer be a central campaign, but we will still engage on the World Bank Group to a lesser degree through due diligence work, and potentially an accountability campaign or possibly a larger umbrella campaign around human rights standards in development, to be determined.

We will support information-sharing and advocacy at various banks, in particular:

- New Development Bank (BRICS Bank) – The NDB program area and working group will continue information-sharing and advocacy activities to shape NDB and monitor projects. The working group will work to diversify and expand membership to include more grassroots groups. **Conectas (Brazil) & Fundeps (Argentina)**
- Inter-American Development Bank. This is a new program area that will focus at first on the upcoming safeguards review at IDB and policy changes at IIC. **Fundeps (Argentina)**
- African Development Bank. This is a new program area that will focus on AfDB's safeguards review, civil society engagement, and energy portfolio. It will be facilitated either through an AfDB or Africa-focused working group. **Lumière Synergie pour le Développement (LSD, Senegal) and BothEnds (Netherlands)**
- Chinese-led banks. There is interest in facilitating greater information sharing and engagement among members around Chinese-led banks. We will assess how the Coalition should best engage on this work so as not to duplicate existing efforts. **China-Latin America Sustainable Investment Initiative (CLASII) and Inclusive Development International.**

Alternatives to the Development Model – There was interest in facilitating more work around development alternatives. A small group will take forward a discussion on this topic to determine the specific approach and structure for the Coalition's work in this area – whether it is a working group, set of projects, or approach etc. **Fundar (Mexico) and Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns**

Gender – There was interest in facilitating more work to incorporate gender analysis and work. A small group will take forward a discussion on this topic to determine the specific approach and structure for the Coalition's work in this area – whether it is a working group, set of projects, or approach etc. **CEE-Bankwatch.**

Overarching campaign. There was also interest in having an overarching campaign that will pull together the various program areas and institutions, to address lack of accountability and declining standards at the banks and within national laws, and demand that respect for human rights be a baseline for development – by DFIs and governments. Perhaps tying this into the anniversary of the UN declaration on human rights. **Conectas, ATM, Ekta Parishad (India), DAR, FARN, CIEL.**