

Review of the Inspection Panel's Toolkit

World Bank Group's twin goals are to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity around the world, and the new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)- approved by the World Bank Board of Executive Directors in August 2016 – is an important tool in helping the Bank Group achieve those goals.

The new ESF boosts protections for people and the environment and will drive sustainable development through capacity- and institution-building and country ownership. It brings the World Bank's environmental and social protections into closer harmony with those of other development institutions, and makes important advances in areas such as transparency, non-discrimination, social inclusion, public participation, and accountability – including expanded roles for grievance redress mechanisms. The ESF builds on the Bank's more than 20-year history of policies that serve to identify, avoid, and minimize harms to people and the environment.

The World Bank Inspection Panel (IPN) is an independent accountability mechanism for people who believe that they have been, or are likely to be, adversely affected by a World Bank-funded project. The Board of Executive Directors created the IPN in 1993 to ensure that people have access to an independent body to express their concerns and seek recourse.

For 25 years, the IPN has been a leader in its field, and has been instrumental in helping to bring projects into compliance with World Bank policies. Appreciative of the Inspection Panel's role, the Committee on Development Effectiveness (CODE) is reviewing whether the IPN requires any updates to continue to operate effectively under the new ESF which takes effect later this year.

As part of this effort, CODE commissioned an external qualitative assessment of the IPN toolkit to inform CODE's review. The assessment has been completed and will be considered by CODE along with other technical assessments and analysis of the costs, impacts, risks and benefits during its deliberations.

The external assessment did not make specific recommendations, rather, provided CODE with information and options for determining if and what changes should be made to the Inspection Panel Toolkit. A Board working group has been created to consider the External Review along with other technical assessments and information regarding the costs, impacts, risks and benefits of the various options. The working group is expected to make recommendations to the Committee by the end of October 2018.

[Q&A](#)