



**Overseas Private Investment Corporation**

## **Office of Accountability**

**The Independent Accountability Mechanisms  
of the International Financial Institutions:  
Strengthening Public Participation in  
Sustainable Development**

**San Jose, Costa Rica**

**22 January 2010**





## The Accountability Mechanisms' mission

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- Direct channel for communities to express concerns and seek recourse
- Compliance with environmental and social policies
- Greater public accountability at the international financial institutions

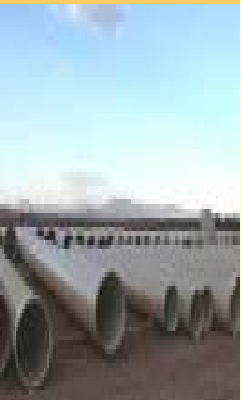




## Fundamental principles

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- Reports to top management and Board of Directors
- Independent of line management
- Accessible to communities and diverse stakeholders





## Fundamental principles, *cont'd*

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- Transparent in our operations and outputs
- Share best practices with other Accountability Mechanisms





# Eligibility criteria

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- An OPIC-supported project
- *Prima facie* evidence of material, adverse and direct impacts
- Prior effort to resolve dispute
- Representatives have clear authority





## What complainants can expect from Accountability Mechanisms

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- Immediate acknowledgement
- Timely visit
- Focus on community
- Neutral fact-finding and mediation





# Cooperation with civil society

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National and international NGOs:

- pressure international financial institutions to establish Accountability Mechanisms
- disseminate information about Accountability Mechanisms to project-affected communities
- help communities prepare complaints





# Your thoughts?

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How can civil society's engagement with IFI-supported projects be made easier? Barriers?

How can the Accountability Mechanisms of the IFIs help improve public participation in environmental decision-making?





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Muchas gracias!

