

# Righting Wrongs: Using Non-judicial Accountability Mechanisms

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A C C O U N T A B I L I T Y  
C O U N S E L



# Accountability Counsel's Model

## 1. **Supporting Communities:**

Trainings and assistance with human rights and environmental complaints to non-judicial grievance mechanisms.

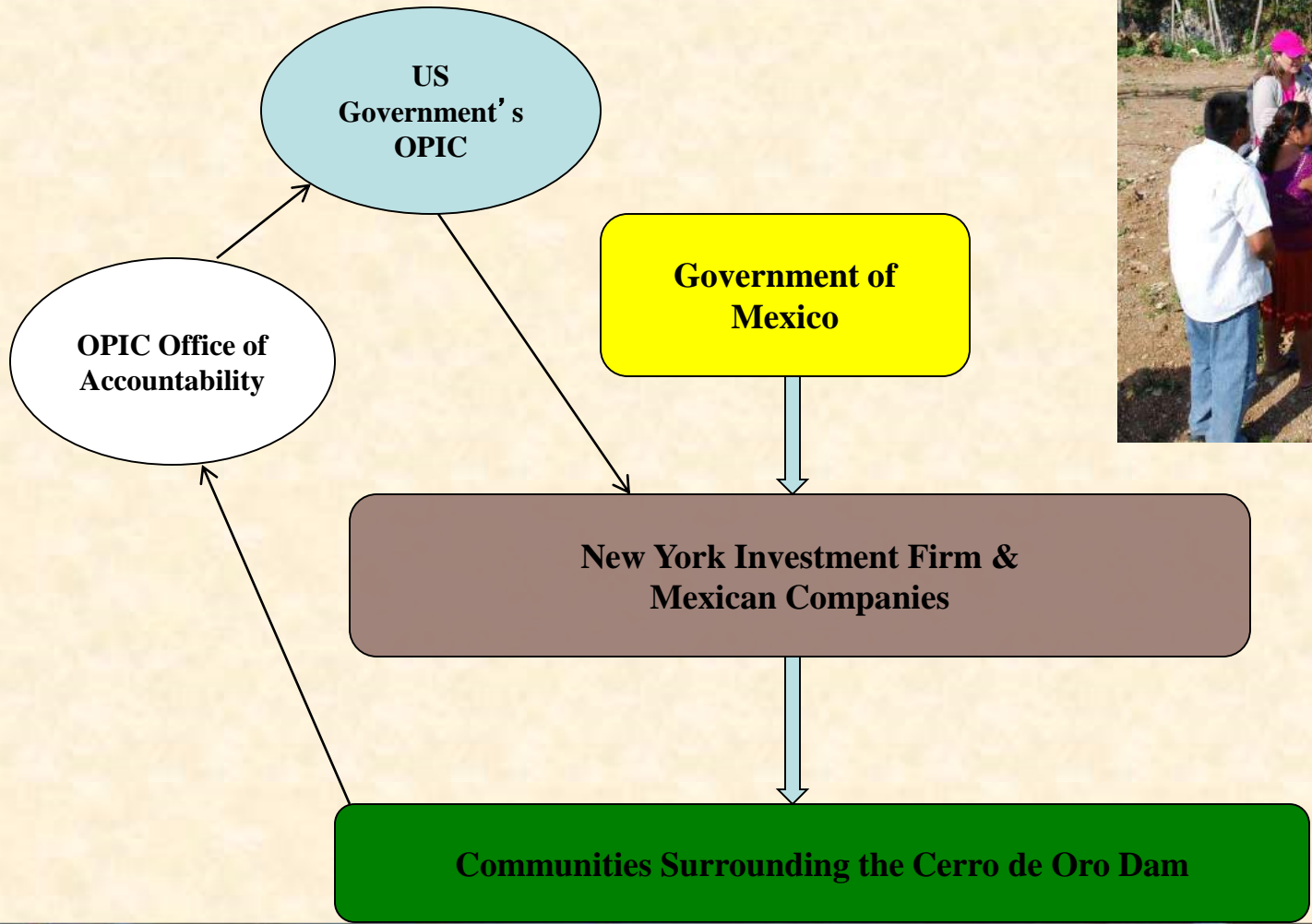
## 2. **Policy Advocacy:** Advocate for stronger existing accountability mechanisms so that accountability is attainable.





# US Investment in Rural Mexico





# Cerro de Oro Hydropower Project



Social and  
environmental  
impacts

# Lessons from Mexico

- Social license to operate
- Popular and political support
- Participation of corporate decision-maker in negotiations



# IFI and Other Accountability Mechanisms

The World Bank  
Group (Inspection  
Panel & CAO)

Export Credit  
Agencies (US,  
Canada, Japan)

OECD National  
Contact Points

UNDP  
GCF

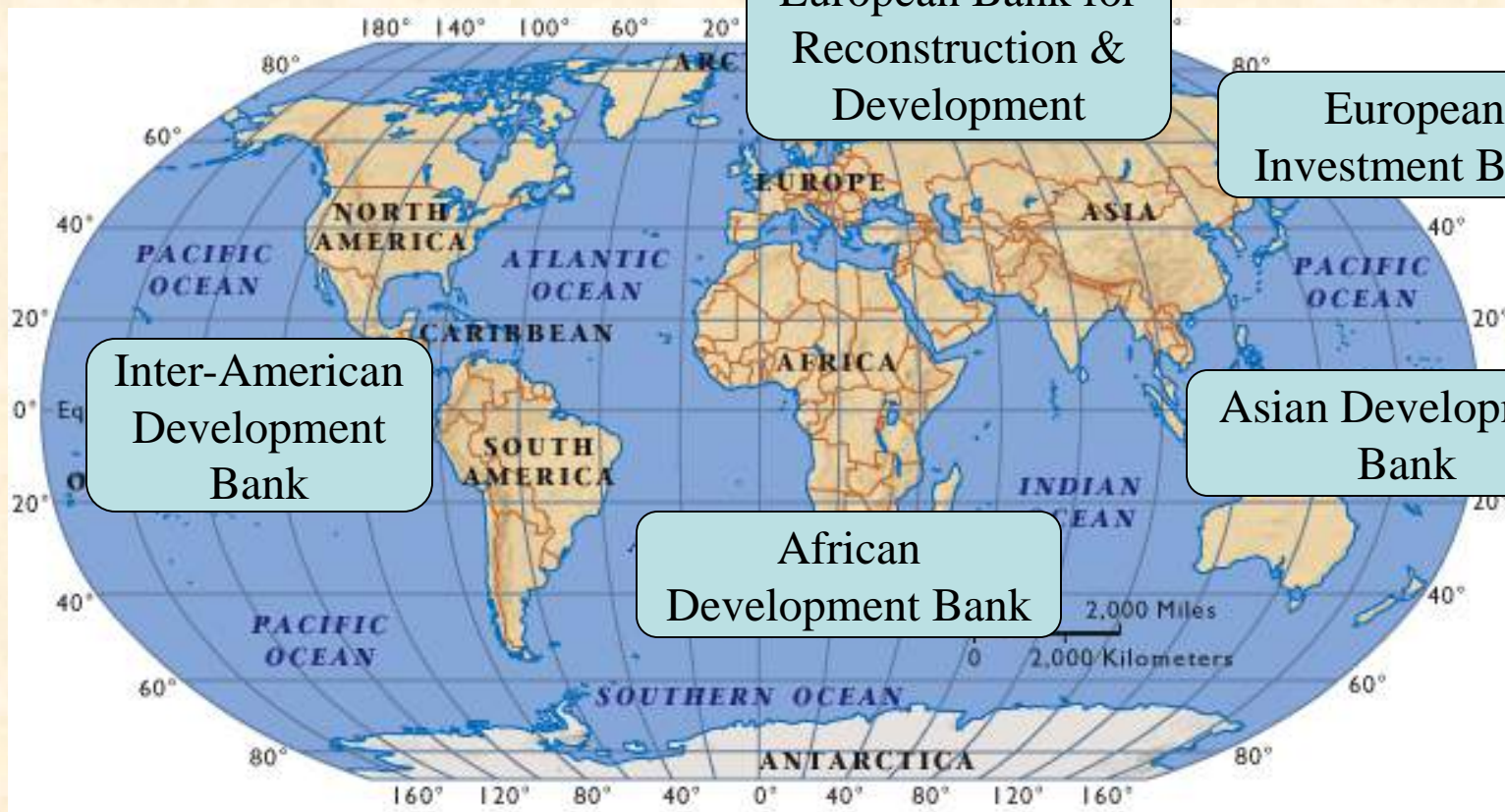
European Bank for  
Reconstruction &  
Development

European  
Investment Bank

Inter-American  
Development  
Bank

Asian Development  
Bank

African  
Development Bank



# IFIs with a “Development” Mandate

- The World Bank’s and ADB’s mandate is poverty alleviation, whereas mandate of EBRD is to foster the transition towards open and democratic market economies.
- The model of development does not use a “rights-based” approach. Human rights and environmental abuses can be on a mass scale.





# What Are Examples of Human Rights Abuses from 'Development' Projects?

- Use of forced labor (oil pipeline)
- Forced displacement of indigenous people (dams)
- Contamination of waterways (mining)
- Discrimination against women in project planning (oil palm/agribusiness)
- Denial of water resources causes outbreak of disease (water privatization)



# Why Use IFI Non-Judicial Accountability Mechanisms

- Often communities have been trying to resolve problems for several years (often *severe* problems)
- No response at local, regional or even national level
- No other accountability option (for a variety of case-specific reasons)
- Transparency through reporting and monitoring are key aspects.
- \* These mechanisms are not perfect; they are relatively new and still evolving.

# Potential Benefits

- Raising profile of a case: increasing national and international attention
- Opportunity for documentation: complaint and other reports
- Organizing and awareness raising among affected people
- Gaining time and information
- Changing procedures and approaches at a financial institution

# Potential Drawbacks

- Energy, resources, and time needed
- Potential for failed negotiation or adverse findings
- Loss of other opportunities to address an issue
- Loss of momentum in a movement
- Reliance on one mechanism
- Retaliation

# 5 Steps to Filing a Complaint

1. Overall Strategic Considerations
2. Community Considerations
3. Technical Preparation
4. Write the Complaint
5. File the Complaint



# Thank you.

For more information about using accountability mechanisms, please contact Accountability Counsel.

[komala@accountabilitycounsel.org](mailto:komala@accountabilitycounsel.org)

Accountability Resource Guide:

[www.accountabilitycounsel.org/resources](http://www.accountabilitycounsel.org/resources)

A C C O U N T A B I L I T Y  
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The logo for Accountability Counsel features the organization's name in a serif font, split across two lines. Below the text is a dark red horizontal bar with a decorative, abstract pattern in shades of gold and brown.