

**Bank on Human Rights Coalition**  
**Notes & Outcomes of the 2015 Gathering of Members and Allies**  
**Johannesburg, South Africa**  
**February 5-7, 2015**



## **I. OVERVIEW**

In February 2015, over thirty members and allies of the Bank on Human Rights Coalition (see Annex 1: Participants List) met in Johannesburg, South Africa for three days of analysis, strategizing and relationship-building on development finance and human rights. As the first in-person meeting of the BHRC, the 2015 Gathering was designed with the following goals:

- 1) Strengthen members' knowledge and understanding of the Coalition, its members, and opportunities for collaboration*
- 2) Identify 5-yr programmatic objectives and activities/actions which will help us reach the objectives*
- 3) Identify opportunities to improve the operational functioning of the Coalition to maximize benefits for the members under common objectives*

## **II. WHO AND WHAT IS THE COALITION?**

The Bank on Human Rights Coalition is a global coalition of social movements, civil society organizations, and grassroots groups working to ensure that all development finance institutions respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. The Coalition was formed in April of 2014 in recognition of a diversifying landscape of development finance institutions and untapped opportunities for greater sharing of strategies and coordination of collective action under the banner of human rights. The Coalition helps provide greater coordination within a global movement led by grassroots communities and supported by civil society organizations.

### **Current Work Areas**

The Coalition has been working through three program areas: Community engagement, National-level advocacy, and Institutional-level advocacy.

Community engagement. (Supporting communities facing development and human rights challenges) The Coalition strengthens the ability of member organizations to provide effective capacity-building and campaign support to communities facing development-related human rights concerns, and to assist communities in articulating their own development plans. During this first year we have been mapping out what our members are currently doing at the community level, where the gaps are, and how we can best engage as a Coalition.



National-level Advocacy. (Shifting national policies and priorities around development) BHRC has engaged in lobbying national capitals around the World Bank safeguards and supporting national-level strategies to increase transparency around development decisionmaking and to open the space for human rights perspectives. BHRC is utilizing the World Bank safeguards review and the ratification of the BRICS New Development Bank as entry points to engage National Human Rights Institutions and parliaments and to diversify national-level decisionmaking around development.

Institutional-level Advocacy / with Development Finance Institutions. (Shifting the policies and practices of development finance institutions) In this first year, the Coalition has focused advocacy on the revision of the World Bank safeguards, building consensus around key human rights asks, organizing advocacy and engagement with Bank staff and management and building a greater coalition of voices on this issue. The Coalition is also working with preeminent experts in human rights and social impact assessment to develop a policy proposal and methodology for incorporating human rights norms and principles within the traditional social and environmental assessment and management framework utilized by development banks. The Coalition has also supported members' advocacy around regional development banks and helped to increase information sharing and build collaboration around new development finance institutions such as the BRICS New Development Bank and various new infrastructure funds.

### **How we work**

Members share information and work collectively through monthly membership calls, a listserv, and topical working groups. This year, we have operated with a working group on the World Bank safeguards, communications, and human rights due diligence, and more informal groupings and conversations regarding national-level advocacy.



## Governance and membership

Bank on Human Rights has 38 member organizations from around the globe, representing the diverse impacts of development finance, including human rights organizations, campesino and land movements, disability rights networks, indigenous peoples organizations, women's movements, and environmental groups. It is governed by a 12-member Steering Committee. Steering Committee members serve two-year renewable terms at which time an open call will be issued to members for new Steering Committee candidates.

### III. THE CHANGING WORLD of DEVELOPMENT FINANCE



In Johannesburg, participants mapped out the complex landscape of development finance institutions, where each institution is based, where its financing comes from, and what it is financing. You may refer to Annex 1 for unedited notes on the various institutions discussed.

Reflecting on this new landscape, participants generated the following ideas for how we should do our work:

- This is a new landscape, so we need new and different strategies and a different paradigm. We're just scratching the surface and tend to use the same old tactics and strategies. Need to analyze the impact of our existing strategies.
- The actors are diversified – money is coming from everywhere – no longer North-South. Need a global coalition/strategy.
- If you look at where the money is going and who is still poor, it's clear that this model of "development" isn't working, need to call for a different model.
- There are so many institutions to deal with, need crosscutting strategies, power analysis.
- Real change will come at the community level and the national level, that's where our focus needs to be. However the institutions are still critical levers.



#### IV. THE CURRENT WORK OF BHRC MEMBERS AND ALLIES

BHRC is a coalition, and therefore its strength is the strength of its members. Participants were asked to describe three activities or areas of work so that we see where our strengths and priorities lie and identify opportunities for collaboration. \*Note, this is not an exhaustive list.

<b>WITH COMMUNITIES</b>	
Early Warning System	CIEL; IAP; Urgewald
Technical assistance/ Community Development Plans / Structures/Leadership support	CCDT (biocultural protocol); Natural Justice (biocultural protocols); IRPAD (agriculture); LRC; Movimiento Ngobe 4 de Marzo (organization); Ekta Parishad (land/livelihood)
Training/materials	IAP; CCDT; Lumiere; RECODH; COMPPART; NGO Forum on ADB; ZELA; Movimiento Ngobe 4 de Marzo
Research/advocacy/monitoring/ Participatory action research	HRW (WBG); C4J (WB); AfDB Coalition (AfDB); Lumiere (AfDB); IGLHRC; FARN; Amnesty; Movimiento Ngobe 4 de Marzo; Urgewald; CCDT; IAP; RECODH; International Rivers
Facilitate participation in policy-making	CCDT; IAP; Natural Justice; C4J; International Rivers
Using IFI accountability mechanisms	Accountability Counsel; CIEL; TIAC; Lumiere;
Litigation/Gov't complaint mechanisms	TIAC; LRC; CALS; COMPPART; FARN
Solidarity/Campaign support	Amnesty; HRW
<b>WITH NGOs</b>	
Training	AfDB Coalition (AfDB sfgds); Accountability Counsel (IAMs) ; NGO Forum ADB;
Sub-granting	IGLHRC
Access to decisionmakers	IGLHRC (UN/HRC); TIAC (Aarhus/UN rapporteurs)
Development of alternatives	NGO Forum ADB (Peoples Safeguards)
<b>TARGETING NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS</b>	
Lobbying national gov't re: DFI policies and human rights	Urgewald (Ger&Europe); IAP (various); CIEL (US &various); HRW (various: HR); Lumiere (Senegal); Solidarity Center (Education privatization); DAR (LatAm: Soc/env); Ekta Parishad (India:Forest/land/housing); Amnesty (various); LRC (Rule of Law); RECODH (NAP on BHR)
Transparency & Accountability	CCDT (extractives); CALS (Financial regulation); COMPPART (UNVPSHR); TIAC (lending agreements); Amnesty (Development positions)
Training	COMPPART (Security forces); ZELA (legislators)
Litigation	LRC (rule of law)

Legislative advocacy	LRC; FARN
<b>TARGETING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS</b>	
Research and Advocacy on DFI policy	CIEL; HRW; Urgewald; IAP; Natural Justice (WB); LRC; Lumiere (WB, AfDB, extractives); ZELA (Mining); DAR (DFIs in LatAm); NGO Forum on ADB (ADB, AIIB); Solidarity Center (WB); International Rivers (Dams); Amnesty (WB, EBRD); FARN
Improving Independent Accountability Mechanisms	Accountability Counsel; CIEL; Amnesty
Project-related advocacy	(*See With Communities above)
IFI- Country strategies	HRW (Burma, Egypt, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Uzbekistan); TIAC (Armenia); Solidarity Center (Indonesia, Philippines)
<b>INTERNATIONAL STANDARD-SETTING</b>	
UN	IGLHRC (SOGIE)
Regional	CALS (African Commish: Gender, extractives); Natural Justice (African Commish: IP); IGLHRC (SADC: inclusion/exclusion/SOGI); LRC (African Commish); FARN (Inter-American Comish)

**V. BHRC OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES 2015-2018**

Based on the discussion of priorities, existing work and strengths of Coalition members, and the strategy requirements of the changing landscape of global development finance, the following draft objectives and strategies were identified for the Coalition’s next three years.

**Community Engagement**

**Strengthen communities and build their capacity to successfully defend their human rights in the context of development activities by**

1. Increasing access to information on the risks of development proposals, relevant human rights, and available levers of change and avenues for accountability.
  - Coordinate a toolkit for communities on development finance and human rights, including briefing papers on DFIs in each region, advocacy and accountability tools, and tools for creation of community-led development plans.
  - Publicize through an interactive map on website, work areas and



- community resources and services offered by member organizations.
  - Expand the capacity and use of the Early Warning System.
  - Financially support member-led training/capacity building with communities on human rights and development finance.
2. Leveraging the resources of the Coalition and its members to campaign in support of two emblematic communities/cases/projects per year.
    - Make available to two selected communities/cases the various resources and services of the Coalition and its members.
    - Encourage and support members to conduct collaborative case-related advocacy research, utilize strategic communications, and facilitate access to relevant decision-makers and judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms in support of each case.
  3. Facilitating access to relevant decisionmakers at national and international level and with DFIs.
    - Support lobbying visits to capitals and DFIs in conjunction with the Coalition’s national and institutional advocacy priorities.

## National-level Advocacy

### **Support and link together national-level campaigns to redefine what is considered development, how development decisions are made, and who benefits by**

1. Increasing transparency of national-level decisionmaking on development finance.
  - Support members to identify, through research and access to information tools, who makes national development decisions and how, what kind of information is produced, when is it disclosed, and how the information can be accessed.
2. Democratizing national-level decision-making on development finance.
  - Support members to advocate for development decision-making to be community-led, consultative, participative, informed and transparent.
  - Increase the involvement of human rights-supporting government agencies and institutions such as NHRIs in development finance decisionmaking.
  - Support members’ engagement in national-level consultations related to DFIs.
3. Increasing the human rights consistency of national positions on development finance.
  - Support lobbying with capitals, including by representatives of affected communities.
  - Facilitate triangulation between stated government positions in capitals and government positions within institutions.



- Assist members to identify and share model policies and successful strategies for improving development processes.

### Institutional-level Advocacy

#### **Coordinate political and policy advocacy and campaigning among Coalition members and allies to force policy and practice within development finance institutions by**

1. Strengthening World Bank safeguards to reflect BHRC’s priority human rights asks.
  - Coordinate collective analysis and policy statements.
  - Coordinate advocacy efforts with Bank and national government representatives.
2. Shaping BRICS New Development Bank standards, transparency, accountability, and access to remedy.
  - Coordinate advocacy and information sharing around BRICS national ratification processes.
  - Support member’s campaigns to strengthen positive influences within the NDB, national governments and national development banks.
3. Supporting members’ efforts to shape DFI policies and processes to ensure respect for human rights, transparency, access to information, access to remedy, accountability, and the ability of affected communities and civil society to participate and influence decisionmaking.
  - Coordinate identification, consensus building, and advocacy around human rights asks.
  - Provide opportunities for information sharing and collaboration among members.
  - Host trainings on how to lobby DFIs.
  - Engage with existing coalitions on AfDB, ADB, and facilitate spaces of information sharing where they might not exist, e.g. re: China Development Bank.
4. Increase the understanding and use of human rights due diligence (HRDD) in the context of development finance.
  - Engage in policy analysis and consensus building around HRDD for DFIs.
  - Refine and expand the development of the HRDD methodology, including tools for country-level analysis of human rights risks.
  - Pilot the HRDD methodology on a World Bank project.
  - Promote the use of the HRDD methodology with additional banks and bilateral institutions.



## VI. HOW CAN THE COALITION WORK FOR YOU

BHRC works to build and grow a global coalition of social movements, civil society organizations and community groups that strengthens the capacity and impact of its members to engage in collective and coordinated action to ensure that development finance institutions respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. BHRC will



- Coordinate and support collective analysis, information sharing and action among Coalition members across three program areas: community level, national level, and institutional level. We will ensure coordination among these three areas and especially integration of community-level inputs throughout. Continue the info-share calls.
- Work will continue to be done through working groups. The structure and functioning of the working groups will become more formal, with identified co-chairs and clear plans.
- Facilitate opportunities for collective strategy development, reflection, and analysis of impacts.
- Bring in new voices to the Coalition and to the development finance and human rights struggle, both sectorally and geographically. Work with the coalitions and networks that members already engage in.
- Provide virtual and in-person opportunities for members to share information and successful strategies. We will convene in-person gatherings in conjunction with upcoming events, such as the World Bank spring meetings in Washington DC. We will also seek funding for full membership meetings or meetings of the working groups and explore an interactive web portal.
- Provide opportunities and support for collaborative efforts and projects among members.
- Amplify the visibility of members' individual campaigns and collective actions through strategic communications showing the human impacts of development finance.
- Support the development of cross-cutting tools and strategies.
- Leverage financing for greater work on development finance and human rights.

## VII. DEVELOPMENT FINANCE IN AFRICA

For the final day of the Gathering, participants were joined by additional South African colleagues, a representative from the





African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, and representatives of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), South Africa's national development bank for a discussion on development finance in Africa. You can find more details from this discussion in ANNEX III and IV.

## VIII. NEXT STEPS FROM THE 2015 GATHERING

- Allies who are not yet formal members are invited to apply for membership – contact Gretchen if you have not received a membership form.
- Objectives and strategies: We welcome your input on the above proposed objectives and strategies. These strategies and activities will be carried out through the standing working groups and ad-hoc groups of members as necessary.
- Gretchen is reaching out to those who expressed interest in the following working groups to establish co-chairs if those do not yet exist. Once co-chairs are established, the chairs will announce over the membership list their next working group meeting.
  - World Bank Safeguards Working Group
  - Human Rights Due Diligence Project Working Group
  - Community Engagement Working Group
  - National-level Advocacy Working Group
  - BRICS Working Group
  - Communications Working Group
  - China Development Bank info-share
- If you volunteered to contribute to an initiative, we took note and will follow up with you, but please feel free to contact Gretchen to get the ball rolling or send a note out through the members list!
- Legal Resources Center is following up with DBSA regarding our conversation.
- You can find more photos at:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/accountabilityproject/sets/72157650754122005/>
- **Next general members call: Tuesday March 24.**

### AGENDA

- 1) Review of outcomes from 2015 Gathering
- 2) Quick update from World Bank Working Group
- 3) Update on BRICS New Development Bank ratification

