



## The World Bank Group

**JIM YONG KIM**

President

December 7, 2012

Mr. Carroll Muffett  
President  
Center for International Environmental Law  
Suite 1100  
1350 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Kenneth Roth  
Executive Director  
Human Rights Watch  
350 Fifth Avenue, 34<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10118-3299

Mr. Salil Shetty  
Secretary General  
Amnesty International  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 0DW  
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your letter of November 8, 2012, and for your kind words regarding my appointment as President of the World Bank Group. This is a great honor but the task ahead—ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity—will demand the best collective efforts of the World Bank Group and its member countries and stakeholders. I am glad I can count on your support and that of your respective institutions in working toward that vision.

The Bank has for a long time acknowledged the links between development and human rights. In supporting projects and programs proposed by member countries, the Bank takes into account all relevant social and environmental factors before financing development activities that often help borrowers address human rights. However, the Bank is bound to operate in accordance with the mandate vested in it by the shareholders as reflected in the *Articles of Agreement*.

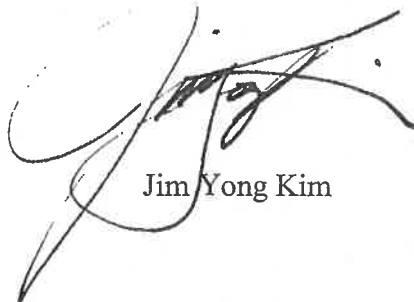
The Bank's recently launched safeguards policies update and review will be a great opportunity for a meaningful exchange on these issues, and I welcome your views in that regard.

With regard to the *Ethiopia - Promoting Basic Services Program Phase III* project, the allegations you cite are currently being reviewed by the independent Inspection Panel.

Management has responded to the Panel, which will inform the Panel's Eligibility Report to be submitted to the Bank's Board of Executive Directors. The Panel is currently considering the eligibility of the complaint and will report back to the Board on that matter.

In the meantime, thank you for your commitment to these issues and for your continued support to the World Bank Group's mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Yong Kim', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'K'.

Jim Yong Kim