



Siobhán McInerney-Lankford
Senior Counsel

August 24, 2017

Mr. Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky
UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights
Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division
UNOG-OHCHR CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Bohoslavsky,

Allow me to thank you for your letter requesting contributions for the preparation of your upcoming thematic report for the 37th session of the Human Rights Council.

Your request touches upon several important themes which have been debated over many years and have been the subjects of an ongoing dialogue with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as several UN Special Procedures.

The World Bank Group has been working for more than half a century to end extreme poverty and help boost opportunities and living conditions for people in the developing world. Every day, we work in the most difficult parts of the world to support the realization of rights of the poor through better health care, education, clean water and sanitation, social protection, and better access to services.

The World Bank Group has expressed for decades that human rights and development are intertwined, and human rights principles essential for sustainable development are consistently applied in our work to end poverty and boost shared prosperity. For over 20 years, the World Bank policy on Indigenous Peoples has referred to their dignity and human rights. Human rights principles are embedded in the new World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (approved August 2016) through explicit requirements for nondiscrimination, meaningful consultation, effective public participation, property rights, accountability, transparency and good governance. Similarly, IFC's Performance Standards explicitly affirm the responsibility of our private sector clients to respect human rights and are broadly aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Our job is to protect and support the poor and to help governments in their efforts to improve peoples' lives. Through this commitment, we can help to enhance the lives of the disadvantaged and the vulnerable.

We wish you continued success with your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Siobhán McInerney-Lankford".

Siobhán McInerney-Lankford