

March 12, 2024

Case No. 23/03 DRS**NOTICE – AGREEMENT TO PURSUE DISPUTE RESOLUTION****Viet Nam: Coastal Cities Sustainable Environment Project (P156143)**

1. On February 5, 2024, the World Bank Board of Directors approved an Inspection Panel recommendation to investigate the Vietnam Coastal Cities Sustainable Environmental Project (P156143) (the “Project”).
2. On February 8, 2024, I wrote to the Parties in this case, offering the opportunity for dispute resolution, pursuant to paragraph 11(a) of Resolution No. IBRD 2020-0005/Resolution No. IDA 2020-0004 (the “AM Resolution”) and paragraph 30 of Resolution No. IBRD 2020-0004/Resolution No. IDA 2020-0003 (the “Panel Resolution”).
3. According to the AM Operating Procedures, the AM Secretary offers dispute resolution, and the DRS facilitates an informed decision-making process by the Parties. In this context, together with the DRS, I met with the Parties and relevant stakeholders in Vietnam from March 1 to March 5, 2024, in accordance with section 11 of the AM Operating Procedures.
4. During this mission, we met the Parties and primary stakeholders of the Project including 32 Requesters, the Ministry of Finance of Vietnam, Khanh Hoa Provincial People’s Committee, State Bank of Vietnam, to answer questions and provide detailed information on the dispute resolution option. We also met with the World Bank country office and project team.
5. On March 4, 2024, I received a letter from the Requesters in which they shared their choice to pursue dispute resolution. The Khanh Hoa Provincial People’s Committee, as implementing agency for the project, sent me a letter on March 8, 2024, stating that they wish to pursue dispute resolution.
6. Pursuant to paragraph 11(b) of the AM Resolution and paragraph 31 of the Panel Resolution, I hereby inform the Executive Directors, the Inspection Panel and World Bank Management that the Parties voluntarily agree to pursue dispute resolution.
7. Pursuant to paragraph 12(a) of the AM Resolution, I convene the dispute resolution process and the Inspection Panel shall hold its investigation in abeyance as set forth in paragraph 32 of the Panel Resolution. The process will be facilitated by the DRS under the AM Operating Procedures in order to reach a mutually agreed solution between the Parties. Pursuant to paragraph 12(e) of the AM Resolution, at any stage in the process the Parties will have an opportunity to agree whether Bank Management may be present as observers.

8. Pursuant to paragraph 12(g) of the AM Resolution, the maximum length of the dispute resolution process is one year from the date of this notification, March 12, 2025. If both Parties agree, the process may be extended for up to an additional six months.
9. This matter has been assigned Case Number 23/03 DRS.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Orsolya Szekely', written in a cursive style.

Orsolya Szekely
Accountability Mechanism Secretary
World Bank

The Executive Directors and Alternates
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
International Development Association

Mr. Ajay Banga, President
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
International Development Association

Mr. Mark Goldsmith
Chair, The World Bank Inspection Panel

Mr. Edward Mountfield
Vice President, OPSVP