It’s a new year, and a refreshed newsletter! We’re relaunching **Accountability Matters** to include stories that we hope will matter to you on the critical issue of accountability.

I’m excited that this issue includes stories of substance and relevance. You’ll find an article on how the COVID-19 pandemic added complexity to the already difficult issue of reprisals. There’s an insightful and candid interview with my colleague Ramanie Kunanayagam, the Chairperson of the Inspection Panel. And we report on how one independent accountability mechanism took a mountain of data and made it available – and searchable – to all.

We have much to look forward to this year. The Inspection Panel will mark its 30th anniversary – 30 years of accountability for the World Bank. The Accountability Mechanism will soon take over the Secretariat for the Independent Accountability Mechanisms Network. And we hope this newsletter creates an inclusive platform to cover important issues. We welcome your ideas. Write to us at accountability@worldbank.org. Happy New Year!

– Orsolya Székely  
Accountability Mechanism Secretary
Realizing zero tolerance against reprisals

Amid rising reprisals, development finance banks and their independent accountability mechanisms need to safeguard the right of communities to be heard.

‘You tell people what they need to hear’

*Inspection Panel Chairperson Ramanie Kunanayagam reflects on the importance of staying neutral while upholding the truth.*

‘You tell people what they need to hear’

*Inspection Panel Chairperson Ramanie Kunanayagam reflects on the importance of staying neutral while upholding the truth.*

PLUS: Watch this video of Imrana Jalal reflecting on her five-year tenure as an Inspection Panel Member.

Data-driven accountability

*The Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism’s approach to sharing data holds great promise for accountability.*

News

- The Inspection Panel has a new [Member](#).
- The Asian Development Bank has a [new head](#) the Office of the Special Facilitator.
- New [Operating Procedures](#) are out for the World Bank Accountability Mechanism, and the Inspection Panel has revised its [Operating Procedures](#).
- Parties in a Uganda dispute resolution case have [more time](#) to reach an agreement.
- Parties in a Cameroon hydroelectric project have [opted for dispute resolution](#).
- The Inspection Panel decided not to investigate a complaint involving a hydroelectric project in [India](#).
Events

**DEVEX PRO LIVE** - Development finance trends to watch in 2023  
Location: Webinar  
Date: January 26, 2023

**The 2023 Spring Meetings** of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
Location: Washington, D.C.  
Date: April 10-16, 2023

**IAIA23 Conference** - Resilience through impact assessment and leadership  
Location: Sarawak, Malaysia  
Date: May 8-10, 2023

Job Openings

**Head, CAO Advisory**  
Location: Washington, D.C.  
Deadline: February 10, 2023

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**Accountability Matters** Editorial Team  
Oriana Karina Bolvaran, Rupes Kumar Dalai, John Donnelly, Yoshiko Ogushi, and Rabi Thapa

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The World Bank Accountability Mechanism houses the Inspection Panel and the Dispute Resolution Service.

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