



**International
Finance Corporation**
World Bank Group

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February 10, 2006

Mr. Jorge Daniel Taillant
Executive Director
Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente
General Paz, 186 - 10A, Córdoba 5000
Argentina

Dear Mr. Taillant:

Thank you for your most recent letter of January 26, 2006, addressed to President Wolfowitz. We need to record the circumstances leading up to the planned meeting between IFC staff and members of the Asamblea Ambiental Ciudadana de Gualeguaychu as these are at odds with your interpretation. As we continue to seek dialogue with those who wish to engage, it is important that all parties are aware of the events as they happened.

The Asamblea unilaterally changed the plan for small group meetings with representatives of IFC to have taken place on January 25, 2006. These meetings, which had been previously agreed to by Asamblea leaders, CEDHA representatives and CBI facilitators (meeting of January 18), were intended to discuss the format of a future larger consultation meeting which would benefit from the input of a range of stakeholders in Gualeguaychu. Instead of these smaller planning meetings, the Asamblea unilaterally organized an open, public meeting for the same day without any prior discussion with us or CBI on terms or format. IFC representatives scheduled to attend were informed that they would be given no opportunity to speak, nor would there be any opportunity for dialogue.

It should be noted that IFC had agreed just days before to postpone a larger public meeting until early February at the explicit request of Asamblea members. This postponement followed IFC's agreement to additional requests from Asamblea leadership and a representative of CEDHA, to provide certain public reassurances as a pre-condition for any meetings with IFC. As you are fully aware, such reassurances were in fact provided via a press release from IFC (attached) and were reflected in the local media.

IFC has made a number of good faith efforts, through multiple channels to ensure that the views of the citizens of Gualeguaychu in general, and Asamblea in particular, are included in the CIS consultation process. We remain fully open to a constructive dialogue with Asamblea and the citizens of Gualeguaychu and that commitment has explicitly been made clear again as recently as February 7, 2006.

Sincerely,

Joseph O'Keefe
Senior Manager
Corporate Relations Department

cc: Meg Taylor (CAO), Octavio Bordón (Embajada Argentina), Alieto Guadagni (Director Ejecutivo para Argentina), Declan Duff (CFI), Atul Mehta (CFI), Santiago Cantón (Comisión Interamericana), Jorge Busti (Gobernador, Entre Ríos); Jorge Taiana (Canciller Argentino), Asamblea de Gualeguaychú, Keith Kozloff (Tesoro EE.UU.), Jaime Quijandria, Director, IFC Board of Directors, Dimitris Tsitsiragos, Director (CGM), Rachel Kyte (CES)