

October 28, 2011

Mr. Tidjane Thiam
Group Chief Executive of Prudential plc.
Chair, High Level Panel for Infrastructure
Group of Twenty (G-20)

Members
High Level Panel for Infrastructure
Group of Twenty (G-20)¹

RE: Concern Regarding Lack of Consultation and Transparency by the High Level Panel for Infrastructure

Mr. Thiam and Members of the High Level Panel for Infrastructure,

We are writing to request that the High Level Panel for Infrastructure (HLP), which is referenced in the February 2011 G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, disclose its draft report and hold consultations with civil society organizations prior to submission of the report to the G-20 Summit on 3-4 November 2011.

As civil society organizations, we are deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and consultation in the HLP's process of formulating the report, especially since the process has been ongoing for a year, since the November 2010 G-20 Summit.

We are profoundly aware of the importance of appropriate infrastructure in the developing world. Undertaken correctly, infrastructure projects can promote the well-being of current and future generations of people while protecting the environment. Undertaken incorrectly, large infrastructure projects can benefit primarily the elites in developing and developed countries, while creating unsustainable development paths that saddle countries with poverty and debt, violate human rights, and cause harmful environmental impacts, including global climate change.

In their recent Communiqué, the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors: "call on the MDBs, working with countries involved to pursue implementation of transformational regional infrastructure projects following the *criteria set by the HLP and to prioritize project preparation financing*" [emphasis added].² We believe that identifying such criteria and selecting projects that meet the criteria are processes that should be carried out in public, involving Parliamentarians and civil society organizations, particularly those in the host countries.

Transparency, accountability and public participation are particularly important for public works sector projects that the HLP may be considering. Transparency International has found that "the problem of corruption is particularly prevalent in public works and construction," and that it is "often responsible for the funneling of scarce public resources to uneconomic high-profile projects, such as dams, power plants, pipelines and refineries, at the expense of less spectacular

but fundamentally important infrastructure projects, such as schools, hospitals and roads, or the supply of power to rural areas."

We hope that the HLP observes standard public participation processes and ensures prioritization of a pipeline of projects that have appropriate public interest safeguards and have as their chief goal to reduce poverty in low income countries.

We are concerned that the HLP could interpret environmental, social and human rights safeguards as "bottlenecks" and fail to integrate these with poverty reduction objectives. According to a recent World Bank Independent Evaluation Group report, only 13% of sampled International Finance Corporation projects over the past decade had explicit poverty alleviation objectives.

Our organizations will continue to be involved in the infrastructure development processes undertaken by the G-20 and other international and national bodies. Civil society organizations have proactively engaged with the G-20 Development Working Group and therefore wonder why this work stream on infrastructure has so little transparency and no consultation, undercutting the legitimacy of this specific G-20 process. We therefore respectfully request public disclosure of the latest draft HLP report, and call for consultations with civil society organizations at the soonest possible opportunity and, in any case, prior to the November G-20 Summit in Cannes, France.

Sincerely,

(Groups listed alphabetically by country)

Jorge Carpio
Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la
Justicia y los Derechos Humanos
Argentina

Adele Webb
Jubilee Australia
Australia

Thomas Wenidoppler
ECA Watch Austria
Austria

Zakir Kibria
Solidarity Workshop
Bangladesh

Md Shamsuddoha
Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD)
Bangladesh

Simone Ferreira de Athayde
Instituto Socioambiental (ISA)
Brazil

Nora Lindstrom
Sahmakum Teang Tnaut
Cambodia

Martin Tsounkeu
Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)
Cameroon

Stanislas Bineli
Alternatives Durables pour le Développement (ADD)
Cameroon

Meera Karunanathan
Council of Canadians
Canada

Juan Pablo Orrego S.
Consejo de Defensa de la Patagonia - Coordinador Internacional
Chile

Yu Xiaogang
Green Watershed
China

Mark Fodor
CEE Bankwatch Network
Czech Republic

Isabelle Brachet
Peuples Solidaires/ActionAid
France

David Boys
Public Services International, global trade union federation, HQ in Ferney-Voltaire
France

Ronack Monabay
Les Amis de la Terre
France

Knud Vöcking
Urgewald
Germany

Richard Twum Barimah Koranteng
Volta Basin Development Foundation
Ghana

Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña, OFRANEH
Barrio Alvarado, La Ceiba,
Honduras

Ravindranath
River Basin Friends (NE)
India

Rural Volunteers Centre, Akajan
India

Himanshu Thakkar
South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers & People, Delhi
India

Antonio Tricarico
CRBM
Italy

Maurice Ouma Odhiambo
Jamaa Resource Initiatives
Kenya

Jinho Song
GCAP KOREA
Korea

Cynthia Ong
LEAP - Land Empowerment Animals People
Malaysia

Anabela Lemos
Ja! Justica Ambiental
FOE Mozambique
Mozambique

Ratan Bhandari
Water and Energy Users' Federation-Nepal (WAFED)
Nepal

Gopal Siwakoti 'Chintan'
Himalayan and Peninsular Hydro-Ecological Network, Kathmandu
Nepal

Hansha Sanjyal
Global South Initiative
Nepal

Johan Frijns
Coordinator, BankTrack
The Netherlands

Wiert Wiertsema
Both ENDS
The Netherlands

Maartje van Putten
Global Accountability
The Netherlands

Hope Ogbeide
Society for Water and Public Health Protection
Nigeria

Germaine Price
Daughters of Charity
North America (USA & Canada)

Jonas Holmqvist
FIVAS - Association for International Water Studies
Norway

Elías Díaz Peña
SOBREVIVENCIA
Friends of the Earth Paraguay
Paraguay

Paul L. Quintos
IBON International
Philippines

Alba Valle Basanta
Euronatura - Centro para o Direito Ambiental e Desenvolvimento Sustentado
Portugal

Dmitry Lisitsyn
Sakhalin Environment Watch
Russia

Liane Greeff
EcoDoc Africa
South Africa

Malcolm Damon
Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA, Cape Town
South Africa

Jochen Lukscheiter
Heinrich Boell Foundation Southern Africa, Cape Town
South Africa

Raj Patel
Center for African Studies, University of California at Berkeley/School of Development Studies,
University of KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

Ali Askouri
Merowe dam affected people (LOHAP)
Sudan/United Kingdom

Andreas Missbach
Berne Declaration
Switzerland

Melchior Lengsfeld
Executive Director HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
Switzerland

Joan Carling
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
Thailand

Ercan Ayboga
Initiative to Keep Hasankeyf Alive
Turkey

Sena ALOUKA
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE International)
Lomé, Togo

Kugonza Robert
African Rivers Network (ARN)
Uganda

Frank Muramuzi
National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)
Uganda

Nick Hildyard
The Corner House
UK

Anuradha Vittachi
OneClimate/OneWorld
UK

Doug Norlen
Pacific Environment
USA

Peter Bosshard
International Rivers
USA

Nancy Alexander
Heinrich Boell Foundation-North America
USA

Ka Hsaw Wa
EarthRights International
USA

Justin Guay
Sierra Club
USA

Michelle Chan
Friends of the Earth US
USA

Natalie Bridgeman Fields
Accountability Counsel
USA

Steve Kretzmann
Oil Change International
USA

Marie Dennis
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
USA

Stephanie Fried
Ulu Foundation
USA

Darcy O'Callaghan
Food and Water Watch
USA

Rosa G. Lizarde
Feminist Task Force of the Global Call to Action against Poverty
USA

Kate Watters
Crude Accountability
USA

Sarah Anderson and Manuel Perez Rocha
Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project
USA

Mark Rentschler
Bank Information Center
USA

Bea Edwards
Government Accountability Project (GAP)
USA

Lisa Vitale
Gender Action
USA

Deborah Moore
Former Commissioner, World Commission on Dams
USA

Hong Van Pham Thi
Tuoi Tre newspaper.
Vietnam

CC: France and G-20 President Nicolas Sarkozy

Notes:

[1] The HLP includes: Chair: Tidjane Thiam (Ivory Coast), Group Chief Executive of Prudential plc; Yahya A. Alyahya (Saudi Arabia), CEO of the Gulf International Bank; Yoon-Je Cho (Korea), Professor at Sogang University, Seoul, Korea; Luciano Coutinho (Brazil) President of the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES); Paul Douglas (Canada) CEO of PCL Constructors, Inc.; Jim Harmon (USA), Chairman of Harmon & Co., LLC, Chair, Caravel Fund; Mo Ibrahim (Sudan), Founder, Mo Ibrahim Foundation; Hayrettin Kaplan (Turkey), CEO of the Turkish Eximbank; Takatoshi Kato (Japan), President, Japan Center for International Finance; Norbert Kloppenburg (Germany) Member, Managing Board, KfW; Rajiv B. Lall (India), CEO, Infrastructure Development Finance Co.; Jin Liqun (China) Board of Supervisors, China Investment Corporation (CIC); S.R. Maharaj (So. Africa), Former Minister of Transport, Special Envoy, SA pdt; Nicholas Moore (Australia), CEO, Macquarie Bank; Paul Victor Obeng (Ghana), Chair, Guinness Ghana Breweries, Ltd.; Alessandro Ortis (Italy), Chair, National Regulatory Authority for Electric & Gas; Lionel Zinsou (France), CEO of PAI Partners.

[2] Item 6, Communiqué of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the G-20, Paris, France, 14-15 October, 2011, available at <http://www.g20.org/Documents2011/10/G20%20communiqué%2014-15%20October%202011-EN.pdf>