

Conakry, 6 February 2019

To the Director - General, Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée

Re: Notice of imminent filing to IFC Compliance Advisor Ombudsman on behalf of 13 communities located in the sub-prefecture of Sangaredi

Dear Mr. Traoré,

Following our unanswered letter dated November 20, 2018, in which our organizations brought to your attention the serious adverse impacts of CBG operations on local communities, we are writing to inform you of the imminent filing of a complaint to the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

We sent the abovementioned letter to you with the intention of commencing a constructive dialogue regarding the communities’ grievances. We are disappointed that you decided not to respond. Our organizations have now been mandated by 540 complainants from 13 communities, impacted by your company, located in the sub-prefecture of Sangaredi to submit to the CAO a request for mediation aimed at preventing further harms and obtaining full and fair redress for the damages and losses suffered by these communities due to CBG’s failures to comply with IFC performance standards, as well as Guinean and international law.

As we expressed in our previous letter, of imminent concern is the resettlement of Hamdallaye village. The compensation offered to the families as well as the resettlement site are clearly not in line with IFC performance standard 5, to which CBG is contractually bound to comply.

We were therefore particularly surprised to learn that your company recently asked the community to sign an agreement, requiring households to recognize that the compensation offered by the company is fair and equitable and that they individually and collectively waive their right to challenge it. The content and consequences of signing this document was not explained to community members, most of whom cannot read or write. Under these circumstances, we consider any such agreements signed to be null and void under Guinean law and in conformity with international conventions ratified by Guinea. CBG’s effort to obtain community signatures to an agreement that attempts to prevent them from filing a complaint to the CAO or other grievance mechanisms is also a blatant violation of IFC performance standards.

The community of Hamdallaye believes that the resettlement and compensation terms offered by your company is insufficient and inconsistent with IFC Performance Standard 5 and other international standards relating, among others, to the protection of the environment and access to an effective grievance mechanism. Under the circumstances, the community believes that a transparent and constructive mediation process under the auspices of the CAO is the best way to reach an equitable agreement for all parties.

We remain at your disposal to further discuss the expectations of communities for the mediation process, which we hope will allow CBG to live with its neighboring communities in a more responsible and sustainable manner and in line with its commitments to the protection of human rights and the environment.

Sincerely,



Ousmane Aminata Bangoura

National Coordinator

Association pour le développement rural et l’entraide mutuelle en Guinée



Kabinet Cissé

Executive Director

Centre de commerce international pour le développement



Natalie Bugalski

Legal Director

Inclusive Development International

CC:

International Finance Corporation

Halco

Rio Tinto

Alcoa

OPIC

German government Untied Loan Guarantees program (UFK)

Société Générale

BNP Paribas

Crédit Agricole

Natixis

ING-DiBa AG

Société Générale de Banques en Guinée (SGBG)

Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l’Industrie de la Guinée (BICIGUI)