CONSULTATION WITH ADOLESCENTS FROM CODINNA OF VENTANILLA

REGARDING WORLD BANK ACTIONS

-Report-

**I. Introduction**

The Bank Information Center sought local social organizations in Peru with the capacity to oversee a consultation with youth on the World Bank’s safeguard policies. The objective of the consultation was to ascertain the perspectives of some adolescents regarding the World Bank policies that are necessary to safeguard their interests in the loans it executes. It was thus that from its call-for-proposals it selected *Asociación Kusi Warma* because its profile matched the one established in its terms of reference. *Kusi Warma*,in its work on behalf of children’s participation, has promoted the legalization of a group of boys, girls, and adolescents named *Consejo Distrital de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes* [District Council of Boys, Girls, and Adolescents] (CODINNA) in the district of Ventanilla, and implements actions to strengthen its capacity in conjunction with the municipality of Ventanilla and other organizations. *Kusi Warma* proposed holding the consultation with CODINNA; said proposal was accepted by BIC and subsequently the consultation was held on August 17, 2013.

**II. Description of participating adolescents**

* 21 adolescents, members of CODINNA (13 girls and 8 boys)
* All are below 18 years of age
* All are members of CODINNA, a group of children and adolescents recognized by the municipality of Ventanilla that comes together to carry out actions favoring children’s participation in the district of Ventanilla
* The majority are representatives of school organizations that promote participation in the promotion and defense of the rights of children in academic contexts, such as school municipalities, school defenders, sports groups, art groups, [and] others.
* The majority are in school.
* One was physically handicapped.
* The majority is of a lower economic class and some live in extreme poverty.

**III. Brief description of consultation**

The meeting began at 9:30 AM with the presence of the representatives of *Kusi Warma*, BIC, the translator [*sic*], [the representative of the] municipality, and 21 adolescent members of CODINNA. The first activity involved introductions by each participant. Afterward, the meeting’s methodology was explained and the World Bank consultation manual presented. Then questions were posed to the adolescents regarding World Bank regarding concepts, importance, directors, and other aspects of that body. While initially only a few of the youth answered the questions, they quickly demonstrated their capacity to participate and it became a fluid and sustained dialogue between the BIC consultant and the participants. The consultation flowed with the responses and questions being well understood by the adolescents. They were attentive and responded quickly. While it was clear that they understood the issue of banks, they did not understand exactly what the World Bank’s mission is. Other topics addressed were the policy of access to information and the concept of the World Bank’s safeguards. Afterward, the consultation on human rights, particularly the rights of boys and girls, was held. The majority of the youth stated that they had heard of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. The consultant explained the relationship between rights and the World Bank’s mission [and] the benefit of children’s opinions in the help offered by the World Bank, and provided a more detailed explanation of that organization’s safeguards.

Following this was work undertaken in groups to analyze some cases where human rights were violated, which were presented based on some questions proposed in the guide. Some of the responses from the adolescents to these cases were as follows:

* Recognition of the rights with no exclusion whatsoever [is needed].
* There is a scarcity of teachers for handicapped children.
* There is a scarcity of benefits for handicapped children.
* Greater recognition [needed] of handicapped children’s needs.
* Greater investment [needed] for handicapped children.
* Projects should be based on the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.
* Disagreement [exists] between the World Bank, States, and communities regarding assistance.
* Some projects are not favorable to families in the sense that families are not consulted about their needs.
* [It is important to] better analyze the benefits and harms to the beneficiary population, listen to the adults, and recognize the importance of the opinions of children and adults.

Consecutively, through work carried out in groups and an artistic activity, the youth were consulted regarding the problems in their communities and the suggestions they would make to the World Bank regarding alternatives to resolve said problems. The adolescents divided up into groups for this activity and carried out their work and then presented it. The following were some of the problems identified:

* Violation of the rights of handicapped children and adolescents
* Families have few opportunities to pursue higher education
* Bad quality of the teaching in schools

Similarly, the participants offered some suggestions regarding the investment loans made by the World Bank, as follows:

* Create large-scale consultative councils of children and adolescents
* Provide an opportunity for children and adolescents to opine when the World Bank develops projects
* Promote the development of young leaders in favor of rural communities
* Attend to the needs of handicapped children and youth
* Employability
* Create productive activities in favor of children and youth
* Promote reading
* Do not place barriers blocking poor countries’ access to loans

The consultation ended with an activity to allow the adolescents to offered recommendations for the World Bank to consider as part of the review and update of its social and environmental safeguard policies. The recommendations included specific policy changes in categories such as participation, the rights of children and adolescents, institutional changes, education, disability, assessments, gender and labor:

**Participation**

The World Bank should create global advisory councils of children and adolescents.

The World Bank should take into account the voices of children and adolescents.

Representatives from the World Bank should meet with children and adolescent leaders.

Children and adolescents should have a voice and vote.

Retrieve the opinions of all children and adolescents.

We ask that the voices of all children and adolescents be clearly heard.

**Rights of Children and Adolescents**

To have another theme in the safeguards on the rights of children and adolescents.

We ask to be treated well.

We try to have support from the World Bank. We are aware of what is happening around us, we ask that you value our opinions, that you invest in rural areas for youth, youth with disabilities, which promote the growth of leaders among children and adolescents.

**Institutional Changes**

The President of the Bank should be of any nationality.

To be applied to all.

There should not be many barriers to poor countries when the Bank lends money.

There should be a representative for each country.

**Education**

The Bank should invest in productive activities for the benefit of children and adolescents.

The Bank should do global campaigns to promote reading.

Complaint Mechanisms

When the Bank does projects in rural areas, it makes public services centers for complaints and suggestions.

The Bank should accept complaints and opinions of children and adolescents.

**Disability**

The Bank should listen to the views of children with disabilities.

**Assessments**

The Bank should verify the situation in the area of the development project to ensure it does not negatively affect the population but rather generates benefits for both parties.

**Gender**

The Bank should include gender in all decision-making.

**Labor**

The Bank should provide more work for the unemployed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

**IV. Assessment and suggestions by *Kusi Warma***

The consultation went off very well: it could be seen that the consultant paid great attention to the responses of the adolescents; the manual facilitated the latter’s participation; and the meeting agenda that had been established was covered [while] respecting the dynamic of the participants and attending to the suggestions made by the representative of *Kusi Warma*. As regards the translation [interpretation], it was not detrimental to the consultation in any fashion. The schedule established was adequate and facilitated the attention of the adolescents

Generally, the members of CODINNA are consulted on matters of interest to them and about which they are knowledgeable; otherwise, they are provided prior training on the new matters to be addressed, thereby facilitating their quick responses in consultations and minimizing their sense of being evaluated on what they know. We suggest that they receive the material or information regarding the focus of the consultation beforehand.

**Attachments**

Link to the photographic file of the consultations:

<https://mega.co.nz/#!6UtyTDrL!B69R_QmpWKSCQQ40w0vYFk3t_wRUCn8ugrfo9ZiGzwI>

Link to the video taken of the consultation:

<https://mega.co.nz/#!fVVzXBLT!JUvIMgC2un59xsvuiNTwiGrgcNduDohsF0E-OPzkXMw>