

**Project Complaint Mechanism:
Rules of Procedure**

DEFINITIONS

Authorized Representative – The person given authority by a Complainant to represent and act on behalf of the Complainant in relation to a Complaint to the PCM.

Bank or “EBRD” – The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Board – The Board of Directors of the Bank.

Business Days – The days on which the Bank is open for business in London.

Chief Compliance Officer or “CCO” – The head of the Office of the Chief Compliance Officer.

Client – The entity or entities that is/are responsible, directly or indirectly, for carrying out and implementing all or part of a Project.

Complainant – The individuals or organisation(s), as the case may be, submitting a Complaint to the PCM.

Complaint – The written request submitted by a Complainant to the PCM pursuant to these Rules of Procedures.

Compliance Review – The process to determine whether the Bank has complied with the Relevant EBRD Policy or Policies in respect of a Project.

Eligibility Assessment – The process of determining whether a registered Complaint is eligible for a Compliance Review and/or a Problem-solving Initiative, or neither.

Eligibility Assessors – The PCM Expert and the PCM Officer who jointly conduct the Eligibility Assessment.

Impacted Area - Any geographical area which is, or is likely to be, affected by a Project.

NGO – Non- governmental Organisation

PCM Experts (each a PCM Expert) – The experts on the roster of experts and, where appointed, the expert appointed on an ad hoc basis to assist or carry out an Eligibility Assessment, a Problem-solving Initiative, or a Compliance Review.

PCM Officer – The person responsible for the day to day administration of the PCM, including receipt of Complaints, registration, eligibility and Problem-solving functions.

PCM Register – The public log on the PCM Website listing all Registered Complaints and their status.

President – The President of the EBRD.

Problem-solving Initiative – The process carried out to assist in the resolution of the issues underlying an eligible Complaint, including mediation, conciliation, dialogue facilitation, or independent fact-finding.

Project – A project designed to fulfil the Bank's purpose and functions financed, or expected to be financed, by the Bank, whether funded by the Bank's ordinary capital resources, Special Fund resources or technical cooperation funds. Projects not subject to these rules are technical assistance projects or other activities that are funded exclusively by cooperation funds administered by the Bank and are either not subject to approval by the Bank's Technical Cooperation Review Committee, or are exempted from the application of these Rules or their predecessor by a Board decision.

Project Complaint Mechanism or “PCM” – The EBRD’s accountability mechanism governed by these Rules of Procedure; formerly, the Independent Recourse Mechanism (“IRM”).

Registration – The process of noting on the PCM Register that a Complaint has been received and meets the Registration criteria per paragraph 10 of these Rules.

Relevant EBRD Policy – The 1996 Environmental Policy and Procedures, the 2003 EBRD Environmental Policy or the 2008 EBRD Environmental and Social Policy and Performance Requirements as may be applicable to the Project, and/or the project specific provisions of the EBRD Public Information Policy.

Relevant Parties – The parties with a direct interest in a Complaint, including, but not limited to, the Complainant, the relevant Bank department, team, or unit, the Client, and/or any other project financiers.

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The Project Complaint Mechanism (“PCM”) provides an opportunity for an independent review of complaints from two or more individuals or from organisations concerning a Project which allegedly has caused, or is likely to cause, harm. The goal is to enhance the EBRD’s accountability through the PCM’s two functions:

- the Problem-solving function, which has the objective of restoring a dialogue between the Complainant and the Client to resolve the issue(s) underlying a Complaint without attributing blame or fault; and
- the Compliance Review function, which seeks to determine whether or not the EBRD has complied with Relevant EBRD Policy in respect of an approved Project.

These Rules of Procedure (“RP”) set out who may file a Complaint, how a Complaint may be filed with the PCM, where a Complaint is to be addressed and, if found eligible, how it will be processed by the PCM through a Compliance Review, Problem-solving Initiative, or a combination of both. They also set out the requirements relating to timelines, reports, disclosure of and access to information, training, outreach and other issues relevant to the administration of the PCM.

WHO MAY SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

1. Two or more individuals from an Impacted Area who claim that a Project has caused, or is likely to cause, harm may submit a Complaint seeking a Problem-solving Initiative.
2. Two or more individuals and/or one or more organisation(s) (including national and international NGOs) may submit a Complaint seeking a Compliance Review. Organisations filing a Complaint must provide documentation to establish that they are registered as a NGO in a member country of the Bank.

HOW TO SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

3. A Complaint to the PCM may be submitted in any written format. Guidance on how to write and submit a Complaint may be found in the PCM’s Sample Complaint Form, available on the PCM Website and in hard copy in the PCM Brochure which can be obtained at EBRD offices. The PCM may also be contacted for guidance on how to write and submit a Complaint.
4. The Complaint must identify the individuals or organisation(s) filing the Complaint (the “Complainant”). A Complainant who is not an organisation may ask that the identity of some or all of the individuals be kept confidential. The request for confidentiality, and the reasons for the request, must be included in the Complaint. All reasonable efforts will be made to maintain the confidentiality requested. If, however, the PCM Officer reasonably believes that maintaining confidentiality as requested means that the review of the Complaint cannot proceed, then the PCM Officer will immediately notify the

Complainant and will either agree with the Complainant on how to proceed, or will terminate the process if agreement on how to proceed is not possible.

5. If the individuals filing the Complaint have used an Authorised Representative to assist them in filing the Complaint, the Authorised Representative must sign the Complaint and provide written proof of his or her or its authority to represent and act on behalf of the Complainant in relation to the Complaint. The Authorised Representative will be the point of contact for all communications between the PCM and the Complainant. However, nothing in this paragraph will prevent the PCM from communicating with the Complainant directly.

LANGUAGE OF COMPLAINTS

6. Complaints may be submitted in any of the working languages of the Bank, i.e. English, French, German or Russian, or in any of the official languages of the Bank's countries of operations. All of the PCM's correspondence with the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, if any, will be in both English and the language of the Complaint and, in the event of any discrepancy between the two versions, the English version will prevail.
7. Processing of Complaints not submitted in English will require additional response time due to the need for translation. The PCM Officer will notify the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, if any, in a timely manner, of any delays required for translation.

WHERE TO SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

8. A Complaint may be submitted to the PCM Officer, by post, fax, or hand delivery, at:

Project Complaint Mechanism
Attn: PCM Officer
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
One Exchange Square
London EC2A 2JN
United Kingdom
Fax: +44 20 7338 7633

9. Alternatively, a Complaint may be delivered, by post or by hand, at any one of the Bank's Resident Offices, indicating that it is for transmission to the PCM. The addresses for the Bank's Resident Offices can be found at [\[insert link\]](#).

REGISTRATION OF COMPLAINTS

10. Within five (5) Business Days following receipt of a Complaint by the PCM, the PCM Officer will make a decision regarding Registration of the Complaint. The PCM Officer will Register a Complaint if the Complaint:
 - a. identifies the Complainant;

- b. identifies the Authorised Representative, if any, and provides proof of the authorisation;
 - c. includes contact information for the Complainant and the Authorised Representative, if any, (including residential and/or mailing address and, to the extent possible, telephone number, email address and fax number);
 - d. includes the name or a summary of the Project at issue;
 - e. includes the signature of the Complainant or Authorised Representative, if any; if the Complainant is an organisation, it must affix its seal; and
 - f. in the case of a Complaint requesting a Compliance Review, the Complaint alleges a violation of a Relevant EBRD Policy.
11. Where the PCM Officer decides not to register a Complaint, the PCM Officer will inform the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, if any, of the decision not to register the Complaint and the reason for the decision. The PCM Officer may, where appropriate, also inform the relevant Bank department, team, or unit of the decision. The PCM Officer will then close the Complaint. If a Complainant submits a Complaint which fails to meet one or more of the Registration criteria above and this failure can be remedied, the PCM Officer will notify the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, suspend the Registration decision, and allow the Complainant a reasonable opportunity to correct the failure and resubmit the Complaint.

ACTIONS SUBSEQUENT TO REGISTRATION

12. Upon Registration, the Complaint will be noted in the PCM Register. Information in the Register will include the date the Complaint was received and registered, the name and location of the Project about which the Complaint was filed, and, if there is no confidentiality requirement, the identity of the Complainant.
13. In addition, the PCM Officer will notify the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, if any, the Client, as well as the relevant Bank department, team or unit, of the Registration and will identify the contact persons. In the course of the notification, the PCM Officer may verify with the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, if any, whether the Complaint requests a Problem-solving Initiative, Compliance Review, or both.
14. If following Registration, the PCM Officer determines that processing of the Complaint should not proceed for any of the reasons listed in paragraph 24 of these Rules, the PCM Officer will close the Complaint, notify the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, if any, of his/her decision, and enter on the PCM Register that the Complaint has been closed.
15. If the PCM decides to register a Complaint, Bank Management will be given fifteen (15) Business Days from the date of registration of the Complaint to provide its written response to the Complaint (“the Bank Response”).

COOPERATION WITH OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

16. Once the PCM registers a Complaint, if the Project at issue in the Complaint is subject to parallel co-financing by other institutions, the PCM Officer will notify the accountability mechanism(s) of the parallel co-financing institution(s) of the Registration of the Complaint and will communicate and cooperate with the accountability mechanisms of such institution(s) so as to avoid duplication of efforts and/or disruption or disturbance to common parties. Where appropriate, the parallel co-financing institutions will consider establishing a written cooperation agreement addressing such issues as confidentiality and sharing of information.

DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY OF COMPLAINTS

17. Within five (5) Business Days following Registration of a Complaint, the PCM Officer will appoint a PCM Expert to work jointly with the PCM Officer to conduct an Eligibility Assessment of the Complaint. The Eligibility Assessors will determine, by consensus, whether the Complaint is eligible for a Problem-solving Initiative, a Compliance Review, for both, or for neither.

18. To be held eligible for a Problem-solving Initiative, the Complaint must:

- a. relate to a Project where either:

- (i) the Bank has provided – and not withdrawn – a clear indication that it is interested in financing the Project (such indication would usually be provided if the project has been approved by the Bank’s Technical Cooperation Committee or has passed Final Review by the Bank’s Operations Committee); or

- (ii) the Bank maintains a financial interest in the Project in which case, the Complaint must be filed within twelve (12) months after the date of the physical completion of the Project or, where physical completion is not an appropriate measure, within twelve (12) months after the later of (x) the date of the Bank’s final disbursement of funds for the Project or (y) the date of cancellation of any amount not yet disbursed as this date is determined by the Bank; and

- b. describe the harm caused, or likely to be caused, by the Project; and

- c. describe the good faith efforts the Complainant has taken to address the issues in the Complaint, including with the Bank and/or the Client, and a description of the result of those efforts, or an explanation of why such efforts were not possible.

19. To be held eligible for a Compliance Review, the Complaint must:

- a. relate to a Project that has either been approved for financing by the Board or by the Bank committee which has been delegated authority to give final approval to the Bank financing such Project; and

- b. describe the harm caused, or likely to be caused, by the Project.
20. In both cases, the Complaint should also include, if possible:
- a. copies of all correspondence, notes, or other materials related to communications with the Bank or other Relevant Parties;
 - b. an indication of which PCM function the Complainant expects the PCM to use to address the issues raised in the Complaint (in particular, whether the Complainant is seeking a Compliance Review, Problem-solving Initiative, or both); and
 - c. if applicable, details of the Relevant EBRD Policy at issue in the Complaint.
21. Where the Complaint raises issues appropriate for a Problem-solving Initiative, the Eligibility Assessors will also consider the following factors to determine eligibility:
- a. whether the Complaint was submitted by or on behalf of a Complainant located in an Impacted Area;
 - b. whether a Problem-solving Initiative may assist in resolving the dispute, or is likely to have a positive result; and
 - c. whether the Problem-Solving Initiative may duplicate, or interfere with, or may be impeded by, any other process brought by the same Complainant or regarding the same Project and/or issues pending before a court, arbitration tribunal or review body (such as a parallel co-financing institution's complaint or accountability mechanism).
22. In determining whether the Complainant has made good faith efforts to address the issues in the Complaint per RP 18(c), the Eligibility Assessors will consider whether the Complainant has raised the issues in the Complaint with the Client's dispute resolution or grievance mechanism, or with the complaint or accountability mechanism of a parallel co-financing institution, or before a court, arbitration tribunal or other dispute resolution mechanism and, if so, the Eligibility Assessors will consider the status of those efforts. The Eligibility Assessors may waive the requirement that the Complainant make good faith efforts to resolve the issues in the Complaint with the Client if, in their view, such efforts would be dangerous to the Complainant or futile.
23. Where the Complaint raises issues appropriate for a Compliance Review, the Eligibility Assessors will, in their determination of eligibility, also consider whether the Complaint relates to:
- a. actions or inactions that are the responsibility of the Bank; and
 - b. more than a minor technical violation of a Relevant EBRD Policy.
24. A Complaint will not be eligible for either a Problem-solving Initiative or a Compliance Review if:

- a. it was filed fraudulently or for a frivolous or malicious purpose;
 - b. its primary purpose is to seek competitive advantage through the disclosure of information or through delaying the Project;
 - c. it raises allegations of fraud or relates to procurement matters (in which case the Complaint will be redirected to the appropriate office within the Bank);
 - d. it relates to Article 1 of the Agreement Establishing the Bank, the Portfolio Ratio Policy or any other specified policy as may be identified by the Board from time to time;
 - e. it relates to the adequacy or suitability of EBRD policies; or
 - f. it relates to matters in regards to which a complaint has already been processed by the Bank, or has been dealt with by the accountability mechanism of any parallel co-financing institution and the PCM is satisfied that the complaint was adequately considered by such accountability mechanism, unless there is new evidence or circumstances not known at the time of the previous complaint; However, this paragraph shall not apply in the event that a Complaint is seeking a Compliance Review.
25. In conducting the Eligibility Assessment, the Eligibility Assessors will consider the Bank Response to the Complaint and may also consult with any of the Relevant Parties, hold meetings with relevant EBRD staff, the Complainant, and/or the Client, examine all key documents, carry out a site visit, and employ such other methods as the Eligibility Assessors may deem appropriate.
26. Once eligibility has been determined, and no later than forty (40) Business Days after Registration of the Complaint, the Eligibility Assessors will issue an Eligibility Assessment Report. The Eligibility Assessment Report will attach an English (only) copy of the Complaint as well as the Bank Response, and will also include:
- a. a description of the steps taken in the Eligibility Assessment;
 - b. a summary of the facts and positions of the Relevant Parties; and
 - c. a determination of whether the Complaint is eligible for a Problem-solving Initiative, Compliance Review, both (with a decision regarding the order in which they should be conducted), or neither.
27. If the Eligibility Assessors find the Complaint ineligible, they will recommend that the Complaint be closed. In such event, the Eligibility Assessment Report will be submitted to the Board (for Projects already approved by the Board) or to the President (for Projects that do not require Board approval or which have not yet been Board approved) to approve the recommendation. If the recommendation is approved, the PCM will close the Complaint; if the recommendation is not approved, the Board or President, as the case may be, will send the Complaint back to the Eligibility Assessors for further

consideration. Once the recommendation is approved, the Eligibility Assessment Report and the decision will be sent for information to the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, if any, as well as to the relevant Bank department, team or unit and will be publicly released and posted on the PCM website.

28. If the Eligibility Assessors find the Complaint eligible, the Eligibility Assessment Report must also include the terms of reference for either a Compliance Review, Problem-solving Initiative, or both:
 - a. for a Problem-solving Initiative, the terms of reference will set out the methods to be used, the identity of the Problem-solving Expert (who may be the PCM Officer or a PCM Expert) and the time frame;
 - b. for a Compliance Review, the terms of reference will identify the PCM Expert to carry out the Compliance Review, as well as the scope and time frame of the review.
29. Where the Eligibility Assessors find the Complaint eligible, the Eligibility Assessment Report will be sent for information to the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, if any, the Client, and to the relevant Bank department, team or unit as well as to the President and the Board. The Eligibility Assessment Report will also be publicly released and posted on the PCM website, within five (5) Business Days of the President's decision under RP 31, if applicable, or within five (5) Business Days of circulating the Eligibility Assessment Report to all Relevant Parties, if RP 31 is not applicable.

EFFECT OF COMPLAINT ON BANK PROJECTS

30. The fact that a Complaint has been registered and/or found eligible for either a Compliance Review and/or a Problem-solving Initiative will not, of itself, have the effect of suspending the Bank's interest in the Project. However, if at any time during the processing of a Complaint, the PCM Officer believes that serious, irreparable harm will be caused by the Bank's continued processing or disbursements in respect of the Project, the PCM Officer may make an interim recommendation to suspend further Bank processing of, or, if possible, disbursements in regards to, the Project. The decision on the recommendation will be made by the Bank officer or body vested with the power to make such a decision and only if the Bank has the right to suspend or cancel its interest in the Project.

CONDUCT OF A PROBLEM-SOLVING INITIATIVE

31. Where a Complaint has been held eligible for a Problem-solving Initiative, the Eligibility Assessors will send the Eligibility Assessment Report to the President with a recommendation that the Bank undertake a Problem-solving Initiative and the reasons supporting their recommendation. The President will decide, within ten (10) Business Days of submission of the recommendation, whether or not to accept it. If the President approves the recommendation, the Problem-solving Expert will begin the Problem-solving Initiative as soon as practicable following the President's decision. The decision

of the President will be publicly released and posted on the PCM website alongside the Eligibility Assessment Report, and the PCM will notify the Relevant Parties that a Problem-solving Initiative is launched.

32. The Problem-solving Initiative will be considered completed when the Relevant Parties reach an agreement or when, in the opinion of the Problem-solving Expert, no further progress towards resolution of the dispute is possible. Upon completion, the Problem-solving Expert will issue a Problem-solving Completion Report describing the issues raised in the Complaint; the methods used in the Initiative; and the results of the Initiative including any issues that remain outstanding. The Report will also identify the need for any follow-up monitoring and reporting by the PCM Officer.
33. The PCM Officer will circulate the Problem-solving Completion Report for information to all Relevant Parties, as well as to the President for transmittal to the Board. Within five (5) Business Days of circulation, the Problem-solving Completion Report will be publicly released and posted on the PCM website.
34. Where required, the PCM Officer will monitor the implementation of any agreements reached during a Problem-solving Initiative. The PCM Officer will issue Problem-solving Initiative Monitoring Reports at least biannually or until the PCM Officer determines that all implementation issues are concluded. The Problem-solving Initiative Monitoring Reports will be sent for information to the Relevant Parties and to the President and to the Board. Within five (5) Business Days thereafter, the Problem-solving Initiative Monitoring Report will be publicly released and posted on the PCM website.

CONDUCT OF A COMPLIANCE REVIEW

35. Where a Complaint has been held eligible for a Compliance Review, the PCM Officer will appoint a PCM Expert, who was not the Eligibility Assessor, to act as the Compliance Review Expert and to conduct the Compliance Review.
36. The objective of the Compliance Review will be to establish if and, if so, to understand how and why, any EBRD action, or failure to act, in respect of an approved Project has resulted in non-compliance with a Relevant EBRD Policy, and if so, to recommend remedial changes in accordance with paragraph 40 of these Rules. The Compliance Review may not recommend the award of compensation to the Complainant beyond that which may be expressly provided for in the Relevant EBRD Policy.
37. The Compliance Review Expert will conduct the Compliance Review using methods such as interviews with the Complainant, Bank staff, and the Client, site visits, a review of relevant documents, and/or such other methods as the Compliance Review Expert thinks appropriate.
38. Upon completion of the Compliance Review, the Compliance Review Expert will prepare a Compliance Review Report setting out his/her findings. The Compliance Review Report will include a summary of the facts and allegations in the Complaint, and the steps taken to conduct the Compliance Review.

39. If the Compliance Review Expert concludes that the Bank was in compliance with the Relevant EBRD Policy, the PCM Officer will, as soon as practicable, submit the Compliance Review Report for information to the Relevant Parties and to the President (if the Project does not require Board approval), or to the Board. Thereafter, the PCM Officer will close the Complaint file, and the Compliance Review Report will be publicly released and posted on the PCM website.
40. If the Compliance Review Expert concludes that the Bank was not in compliance with the Relevant EBRD Policy, the Compliance Review Expert will issue a draft Compliance Review Report which will include recommendations to:
 - a. address the findings of non-compliance at the level of EBRD systems or procedures to avoid a recurrence of such or similar occurrences; and/or
 - b. address the findings of non-compliance in the scope or implementation of the Project taking account of prior commitments by the Bank or the Client in relation to the Project, and
 - c. monitor and report on the implementation of any recommended changes.
41. Upon a finding of non-compliance, the PCM will send the draft Compliance Review Report to Bank Management to allow it to respond. Management will respond to the draft Compliance Review Report in a Management Action Plan to be submitted to the PCM within thirty (30) Business Days following its receipt of the report. The Management Action Plan should address the findings of non-compliance as well as the recommendations of actions to be taken to address the findings of non-compliance (including a timetable and estimate of human and financial resources to implement the recommendations if adopted).
42. Within fifteen (15) Business Days following receipt of the Management Action Plan, the Compliance Review Expert may adjust his or her recommendations (but not findings) and will issue the final Compliance Review Report to the PCM Officer.
43. The PCM Officer will then submit the final Compliance Review Report and the Management Action Plan to the Board (if the relevant Project has been approved by the Board at the time the report is submitted) or to the President (if the Project does not require Board approval) for acceptance, of the findings and recommendation(s) in the final Compliance Review Report. Once accepted, the final Compliance Review Report, together with the Management Action Plan, will immediately be sent for information to the Complainant and to the Client, and will be publicly released and posted on the PCM website within five (5) Business Days thereafter.
44. The PCM Officer will monitor the implementation of any actions approved by the Board or President, as the case may be, to address the findings of non-compliance. The PCM Officer will issue Compliance Review Monitoring Reports at least biannually or until the PCM Officer determines the implementation issues are concluded. The Compliance Review Monitoring Report will be submitted to the President and to the Board for

information and, at the same time, it will be circulated to the Relevant Parties and, five (5) Business Days thereafter, publicly released and posted on the PCM website.

ROLE OF THE CCO, PCM EXPERTS AND PCM OFFICER

45. **Role of the EBRD Chief Compliance Officer (“CCO”).** The CCO, the head of the Office in which the PCM is located, is responsible for ensuring that the PCM Officer carries out the PCM functions and administrative responsibilities according to these Rules of Procedures.
46. **Role of the PCM Experts.** The PCM Experts will be responsible for serving as Eligibility Assessors, Compliance Review Experts, or Problem-solving Experts, and may be responsible for any follow-up monitoring and reporting as required.
47. **Nomination of PCM Experts.** Up to ten (10) PCM Experts will be nominated by a committee and appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the President. The nomination committee, to be established by the President and to include members both internal and external to the Bank, will solicit nominations for the position of PCM Expert through a public and transparent process per the Bank’s procurement rules applicable to consultants. The committee will narrow the list of nominees based on the candidate’s experience, particularly in economic, legal, social, environmental, and related fields; proven ability to interpret and apply rules and resolve disputes thoroughly and fairly; demonstrated integrity and independence; ability to interact effectively with Relevant Parties and civil society; and experience with operations of the Bank or similar institutions.
48. **Term of Appointment of PCM Experts.** Except for the first experts to be appointed pursuant to these Rules of Procedures who will be appointed for terms of three (3), four (4), and five (5) years, PCM Experts will be appointed to the Roster for renewable terms of three (3) years. The experts will not have worked for the Bank (either as a staff member, Bank official, Director, Alternate Director, Director’s Adviser or consultant) for at least two (2) years prior to being hired as a PCM Expert (with the exception of having served on the Roster of Experts to the Bank’s IRM). The PCM Expert, upon completion of his or her term of service, will not be entitled to work for the Bank (either as a staff member, Bank official, Director, Alternate Director, Director’s Adviser or consultant) at any point in the future. The remuneration and other terms of appointment of Experts will be determined by the President. Experts may be removed by the Board for cause. If a PCM Expert appointed to conduct an Eligibility Assessment, Problem-solving Initiative, or a Compliance Review resigns or is unable to complete such assignment, the PCM Officer will:
 - a. if such event occurs during an Eligibility Assessment, be solely responsible for the completion of such Eligibility Assessment; and
 - b. if such event occurs during a Problem-solving Initiative or a Compliance Review, decide on the course of action to be undertaken to ensure the prompt completion of the Problem-solving Initiative or the Compliance Review.

49. **Training for PCM Experts.** The PCM Experts will be required to attend training meetings organized by the PCM Officer for up to five (5) days in each calendar year to enhance their knowledge of the Bank's policies, procedures and operations and to discuss the functioning of the PCM. The PCM Officer will notify the PCM Experts of any such meetings and will set the agenda.
50. **Ad hoc Appointment of Experts.** If at any time no PCM Expert from the roster is available or has the particular specialisation required to undertake or complete an assignment, the PCM Officer may recommend the ad hoc appointment of an expert who is not on the roster but meets the same eligibility criteria. Such experts shall be appointed, on a no-objection basis, by the Board on recommendation by the President, to undertake or complete the particular assignment. Such ad hoc appointments may be made by way of a direct selection process regardless of the expected value of the contract for the appointment.
51. **Impartiality of PCM Experts.** When performing PCM functions, PCM Experts will serve in their individual, personal capacity and will be subject to the same privileges and immunities, relevant Code of Conduct provisions, conflict of interest rules and confidentiality provisions as experts performing missions for the Bank. PCM Experts will be required to act impartially and independently and will not participate in the assessment or review of any Complaint related to any matter in which they have or have had a personal interest or significant involvement in any capacity. PCM Experts will immediately disclose to the PCM Officer:
- a. any circumstances which might affect their impartiality or independence in the discharge of their PCM functions; and
 - b. any attempt to interfere with or improperly influence their performance of PCM functions.
52. **Communication by PCM Experts.** PCM Experts will not make any statement, whether private or public, to parties other than the Complainant or its Authorised Representative, if any, the Client, or the relevant Bank department, team or unit on matters under consideration by the PCM. Nothing in this paragraph will prevent a PCM Expert from undertaking any type of public consultation that he or she considers necessary as part of an Eligibility Assessment, Problem-solving Initiative, or Compliance Review.
53. **Role of the PCM Officer.** The PCM Officer is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the PCM, including: outreach and training, maintenance of the PCM website and Register, Registration of Complaints, selection of PCM Experts to determine eligibility, conduct Compliance Reviews and/or Problem-solving Initiatives, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of follow up activities, annual reporting to the President and or to the Board, and communications with the local communities, civil society organisations, and other accountability mechanisms.
54. **Appointment of the PCM Officer.** The PCM Officer will be nominated by a committee and appointed by the President. The nomination committee will include members both

internal and external to the Bank and will solicit nominations for the position of PCM Officer through a transparent process. The committee will narrow the list of nominees based on the candidate's experience, particularly in economic, legal, social, environmental, and related fields; proven ability to resolve disputes thoroughly and fairly; demonstrated integrity and independence; ability to interact effectively with Relevant Parties and civil society; and experience with operations of the Bank or similar institutions.

55. **Term of Office.** The PCM Officer will serve as full-time employee of the Bank on a five- (5) year, renewable contract. The PCM Officer will not have worked for the Bank (either as a staff member, Bank official, Director, Alternate Director, Director's Adviser or consultant) for at least two (2) years prior to being appointed as the Officer. The PCM Officer, upon completion of his or her term of service, will not be entitled to work for the Bank (either as a staff member, Bank official, Director, Alternate Director, Director's Adviser or consultant) for at least the three (3) years immediately following. The PCM Officer may be removed for cause with the approval of the President
56. **Additional Expertise.** The PCM Officer is entitled to obtain additional expertise if necessary for the successful performance of PCM duties and responsibilities. The selection and appointment of any consultants, researchers, interpreters, translators and/or other technical experts will be made subject to the EBRD procurement rules regarding the selection and appointment of consultants, and they will act under the supervision of the PCM Officer.
57. **Outreach and Training.** The PCM will conduct outreach about the PCM within the EBRD, throughout the EBRD's countries of operations, and among civil society generally. The PCM will provide training to EBRD staff (including those in London and the Resident Offices) about the PCM as required. The PCM will develop and implement an outreach program to effectively inform people in EBRD countries of operations, NGOs, and civil society groups about the PCM. Outreach efforts will also include cooperation with other institutions' accountability mechanisms as appropriate, presentations, and upon request, information sessions regarding how to file a Complaint to the PCM.
58. **Publication of PCM Materials.** The PCM will create and distribute printed materials about the PCM. Such materials will include an information pamphlet for EBRD staff and Clients about what is required of each once a Complaint is registered and a brochure for people in EBRD's countries of operations and Clients with information about how to file a Complaint. The brochure and pamphlet will be made available on the PCM website, as well as from the EBRD's London and Resident Offices, initially in English and Russian.
59. **Proceedings generally.** All PCM activities will be carried out as promptly as possible without compromising the integrity or comprehensiveness of the process. The PCM Officer will take into account the need to include the views of any Bank staff, Complainant, Client, and other interested parties who may have relevant information.

The PCM Officer will use best efforts to minimize the disruption to the daily operations of all parties concerned.

60. **Access to Staff, Information, and Confidentiality.** When conducting an Eligibility Assessment, Problem-solving Initiative, or Compliance Review, the PCM Officer and/or PCM Experts will have full access to relevant Bank staff and files, including electronic files, cabinets and other storage facilities. Bank staff will be required to fully cooperate with the PCM. However, the PCM Officer's and Expert's access to, use and disclosure of, information gathered during their respective activities will be subject to the Bank's Public Information Policy and any other applicable requirements to maintain sensitive information confidential. No PCM staff member, PCM Expert, consultant, researcher, interpreter, translator and other technical expert engaged by the PCM may release a document, or information based on that document without the express written consent of the party who has provided such document.
61. **Related Complaints.** Where two or more Complaints are received from the same or from different Complainants in relation to the same Project, and the substance of the Complaints is reasonably related, the PCM Officer may require either that the Complaints be reviewed together, or may suspend the further processing of any Complaint(s) received after the first one, pending the results of the review of the Complaint first received. The PCM Officer may adjust the time periods for responding to any Complaint in order to take into account the joint review of the Complaints or the suspension of processing the subsequent Complaints.
62. **Time Extensions.** Any time period referred to in these Rules may be extended by the PCM Officer for as long as is strictly necessary to ensure full and proper processing of Complaints. The PCM Officer will promptly notify the Complainant or its Authorized Representative, if any, the Client, and all other Relevant Parties of any extensions. In considering whether an extension is required, the PCM Officer will take into account factors such as the location of the Project site, the need for Bank staff to participate in the process, any time-sensitive issues relating to the Project, the availability of PCM Experts and consultants, and the need for translation.
63. **Annual Report.** The PCM Officer will prepare an annual report describing the activities of the PCM during the preceding year. The Report will be submitted to the President and to the Board for information, and will thereafter be publicly released and posted on the PCM website.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

64. **Legal matters.** The General Counsel will, upon request, provide all legal information and advice needed regarding the Bank's policies and procedures and the Bank's rights and obligations regarding the Project at issue in a Complaint.
65. **Budget.** The Bank will provide budgetary resources to the PCM sufficient to allow all of the activities permitted by these Rules to be carried out. The CCO will prepare an annual

budget indicating the level of resources required for the forecasted activities of the PCM for the coming year.

66. **Language of Reports.** All reports to be issued by either the PCM Officer or any of the PCM Experts and posted on the PCM website will be in the English language.
67. **Amendment and Effect of the Rules.** These Rules may be amended by the Board. These Rules will prevail in the event of any inconsistency between these Rules and any other EBRD document and in the absence of an express provision to the contrary.
68. **Governing Language.** These Rules will be, initially, translated into Russian. If there is any discrepancy between the English version of these Rules and any other version, the English version will govern.
69. **Review of the PCM.** The PCM will be reviewed every three (3) years or as needed.
70. **Entry into Force.** These Rules of Procedure will enter into force once the PCM Officer and at least three (3) PCM Experts have been appointed and shall supersede the Rules of Procedure for the Bank's Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM). Complaints registered under the IRM to prior the entry into force of these Rules will normally be dealt with in accordance with those rules.