



World Bank (WB)

The World Bank's Integrity Vice Presidency (INT) is responsible for investigating allegations of fraud, corruption, collusion, coercion and obstruction (the 5 sanctionable practices).

Complaint intake

INT performs an initial assessment of every complaint that it receives. This assessment determines whether the complaint relates to a sanctionable practice in Bank Group-supported activities, whether the complaint has credibility, and whether the matter is of sufficient gravity to warrant an investigation. Complaints outside of INT's jurisdiction are redirected to other areas of the Bank Group as appropriate. Complaints that fall under INT's jurisdiction are prioritized and investigated if warranted. When a complaint does not reach this threshold, INT works with Operational staff to address the issues raised. In assigning priority, INT also considers the possible reputational risk to the World Bank Group, the amount of funds involved, and the quality of the information or evidence in INT's possession or readily available.

Investigation of cases

Through investigations, INT ascertains whether firms and/or individuals have engaged in one of the Bank Group's [five sanctionable practices](#). Since an INT investigation is administrative in nature, the standard of proof is akin to a "balance of probabilities" and therefore lower than the criminal standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt." The Bank Group, for that reason, has to prove that it is more likely than not that the alleged misconduct has occurred. If INT finds sufficient evidence to prove the allegation, the allegation is considered substantiated. The allegation is considered unsubstantiated if there was insufficient evidence to prove or disprove it, and unfounded if the allegation has no basis in fact.

Sanctions

When firms or individuals are found through an [INT investigation](#) to have engaged in fraudulent, corrupt, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices, the World Bank may impose a sanction such as debarment. Debarred entities are ineligible to be awarded a World Bank-financed contract, either permanently or for designated period of time. The Bank has a two-tier sanctions system. At the first tier, INT submits a Statement of Accusations and Evidence (SAE) to an Evaluation and Suspension Officer (an EO). If the EO determines that INT has met its evidentiary burden of proof, he or she will make a recommendation of sanction and issue a Notice of Sanctions Proceedings to the Respondent named in the SAE.

The EO can also temporarily suspend that named Respondent from participating in Bank-financed activities pending the outcome of the sanctions proceeding. If the Respondent does not contest the matter, the EO's recommended sanction goes into effect. If the Respondent contests the proceedings, the case moves to the second tier of the process, in which the Sanctions Board reviews and make final decisions regarding sanctions cases.