



African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

The Integrity and Anti-Corruption Department (IACD) of the African Development Bank Group conducts investigations to examine and determine the veracity of allegations of [sanctionable practices](#) within the AfDB and in operations financed or administered by the bank. As agreed under the [Uniform Framework for Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption](#), AfDB also defines sanctionable practices as fraudulent, corrupt, collusive, coercive and obstructive practices. With the exception of obstructive practice, cross-debarment provisions will apply to the other four practices.

Investigations

IACD receives all allegations of sanctionable practices. Upon receipt, the information is registered and evaluated on the basis of four criteria:

- **within IACD's mandate** - On preview, case is not within IACD mandate but on subject covered by other institutional mechanisms;
- **Credibility** - the complaint appears to show reasonable possibility that an alleged wrong doing had occurred, it involves Bank personnel, third parties or Bank activities, violates Bank rules
- **Materiality**- there is potential financial, operational or reputational risk to the Bank which justifies investigation; and
- **Verifiability** - Sources for obtaining records, reaching witnesses and obtaining information to substantiate allegations are timely and available. Where the allegations meet the four criteria, IACD conducts a full investigation guided by its standard [operating procedures](#).

IACD investigations are administrative in nature and investigations are conducted based on IACD's standard operating procedures and in accordance with guidelines under the Uniform Framework.

Sanctions

Sanctions are decisions made by the AfDB to penalize individuals or firms that participate in any of the described sanctionable practices. Sanctions include reprimands, debarment and restitution among others.

AfDB maintains a two-tier sanctions system:

- Upon completion of investigations, IACD will forward its investigative reports and evidence to the Sanctions Commissioner (first tier), who makes an initial determination and where applicable, a sanction decision against the Respondent.
- The Respondent may appeal the decision of the Sanctions Commissioner to the Sanctions Appeals Board (second tier).

There is no further appeal from the decision of the Sanctions Appeals Board. The sanctions system at the AfDB is administrative in nature and conducted independently of the investigative process and office.

Debarment is a decision to declare an entity ineligible to bid or be awarded future contracts administered, financed or supported by the African Development Bank Group. AfDB may also recognize sanctions made by other Multilateral Development Banks under the [Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions](#). Flowing from its commitment to this agreement, the AfDB may debar an entity found to have participated in certain sanctionable practices by another multilateral bank. Additional information on this agreement is provided on the [AfDB's website](#).