



WEBINAR SUMMARY

Challenges and opportunities in implementing FPIC in Brazil

The Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI) and the Conselho Empresarial Brasileiro para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável (CEBDS) recently co-organised a webinar for business practitioners on the “Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing FPIC in Brazil.”

The discussion was timely as developments in Brazil are placing increased expectations on companies to ensure they are engaging in Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with potentially impacted communities, particularly Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities.

In the webinar, held in November 2023, 70 participants discussed recent developments in Brazil pertaining to FPIC, company practice in engaging in FPIC protocols, and results from a recent study on best practices.

Key learnings from the webinar include:

- **Identifying the best forms of engagement can be challenging for companies, but engaging with FPIC protocols helps to build consensus and facilitate constructive dialogue.** Companies identified challenges in approaching FPIC, including timing, who to include, and the format of consultations. However, companies also recognised that engaging with community FPIC protocols can help lay the foundation for better discussions later. If communities do not have a protocol in place, companies may seek to support the community in developing a protocol.
- **Companies should seek to respect traditions and customs of Indigenous Peoples throughout the consultation process.** Participants recognised the importance of engaging in consultations before decisions are made. Consultations should also be in a language the community understands and held within Indigenous People or traditional community territories.
- **Engaging in FPIC is based on continuous learning, listening and dialogue.** Whilst challenges were identified in the course of the discussion, participants recognised the importance of continuous engagement in building constructive and collaborative approaches.