



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LAPFF and Brazilian Partners Host Event to Remember Fifth Anniversary of Samarco Dam Collapse**

*Affected Community Members and Public Prosecutor Share Experiences*

London 14.00 (BST) LAPFF and Brazilian organisations, Conectas and Caritas Minas Gerais, joined forces to host a webinar featuring three Brazilian community members affected by the Samarco dam collapse five years ago today. The public prosecutor for Mariana, one of the areas affected by the collapse, also spoke on the webinar.

All of the speakers highlighted the slow pace of reparations in affected communities. The community members called on the companies involved, BHP and Vale, as well as the Renova Foundation, the body created to carry out reparations on behalf of the companies, to improve their responses to the disaster. In particular, the communities would like to see more decision-making power within the Renova Foundation, especially in relation to the assessment and undertaking of reparations.

The Forum has been engaging with Brazilian community members affected by both the Samarco and Brumadinho dam collapses for nearly two years now. This engagement is part of LAPFF's work to liaise with affected workers and community members, both as a means of progressing environmental, social, and governance objectives and as a means of gathering the most complete investment data possible for its members.

**Cllr Doug McMurdo, Chair of Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, said:**

“In speaking regularly with community members affected by tailings dam collapses, I am struck by both the human and environmental cost and the business cost of these disasters. I have come to understand that there is no either/or between human rights and environmental protection and company performance. As investors, we will not see long-term shareholder returns without good human rights and environmental standards and practices in place. These are financially material issues that can only be realised through good corporate governance.”

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**For further information:**

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**About the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum:** The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) is a voluntary association of 82 public sector pension funds and seven pools based in the UK with combined assets of over £300 billion. It exists to 'promote the long-term investment interests of local authority pension funds, and to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.' PIRC is the Research and Engagement partner to the Forum @lapfforum <https://lapfforum.org/>.