

**Ayuba Wabba**

President  
Président  
Präsident  
Presidente

**Mr Philippe Le Houérou**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**International Finance Corporation**

**Sharan Burrow**

General Secretary  
Secrétaire générale  
Generalsekretärin  
Secretaria General

**WO**

**25 March 2020**

**Urgent measures to protect workers and the real economy**

Dear Mr Le Houérou,

The \$8 billion in IFC response funding is warmly welcomed as part the urgent global action needed to protect jobs and the real economy, especially in developing countries, throughout supply chains and in SMEs. The situation in these areas is growing more dire with every passing day.

I encourage you to ensure paid sick leave, job protection, personal protective equipment and occupational safety measures, respect for collective bargaining and fair management of retrenchment at all companies benefitting from IFC financing. The trade union movement has collaborated with IFC for years on the labour safeguard. Its retrenchment procedures ensure that jobs are not destroyed if alternatives exist. When it is necessary, adverse effects are minimized through dialogue and non-discrimination. Collective bargaining facilitates responsive and equitable adaptation. For essential workers that remain on the job during restrictions on activity, personal protective equipment is lifesaving. **I urge IFC to proactively promote and monitor implementation, including steps to guarantee that clients of financial intermediaries observe the safeguards and regularly report on compliance. Companies receiving support should protect jobs and avoid layoffs.**

The safeguards are less clear on paid sick leave and childcare. This is an unprecedented situation in which paid sick leave and childcare is a central column of supporting incomes and reducing the spread of COVID-19. **We call upon IFC to take immediate steps including loan covenants and side letters to guarantee adequate paid sick leave for all workers and childcare support for essential workers that remain on the job.**

The global social partners, represented in the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Chamber of Commerce, are closely working together in the face of this crisis.<sup>1</sup> We stand ready to assist IFC in identifying and addressing the effects of the crisis on workers and employers. I propose that we establish ongoing structured dialogue between the global social partners and IFC senior management. Thank you for your leadership, and I look forward to further exchanges.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/20200323\\_icc-ituc\\_open\\_letter\\_g20.pdf](https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/20200323_icc-ituc_open_letter_g20.pdf)