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President
Susan Hopgood
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David Edwards

6 April 2020

TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Calling on governments to support an equitable and coordinated crisis response by the IMF and World Bank

Dear colleagues,

On 17-19 April, governments will meet virtually for the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. This comes at a crucial time to coordinate an urgent and just response to the public health and economic crises of Covid-19, which has been accelerated by years of austerity measures and deregulatory structural reforms promoted by the international finance institutions (IFIs).

A [statement](#) from the Global Unions, including Education International, lays out concrete steps that can be taken for an equitable response to the crisis that supports jobs and the real economy, reforms multilateralism for a new social contract, and lays the groundwork for a recovery towards sustainable development and full employment.

The statement recognises that, alongside the health and economic crises, Covid-19 has led to a crisis in education. It urges governments not to deprioritize education financing. Additionally, it calls on the IFIs to encourage governments to protect the rights of workers in the education sector, especially those that are on precarious contracts.

The statement also underlines the importance of debt relief in order for governments to respond to the crises. It recognises the need for a binding sovereign debt work out mechanism and the potential for SDG-related debt swaps where robust national development strategies exist. It underlines that debt relief should enhance not restrict public spending, including for education.

We ask you to send the statement to your ministries of finance/economy and development as well as the executive directors of the IMF and World Bank to make our voices heard ahead of the Spring Meetings. These are key decisionmakers regarding the positions that governments will

take at the Meetings. A [model letter](#) and a list of [executive directors](#) are attached.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Edwards', written in a cursive style.

David Edwards
General Secretary

