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Kristalina Georgieva
Managing Director
International Monetary Fund
Washington DC
USA

16 June 2020

Dear Kristalina,

As has been highlighted in the first two meetings of the external advisory panel that you recently convened, in the wake of COVID19 it has become more urgent than ever to expand access to public health care and other gender-responsive public services. We are writing to request a meeting with your senior team to further discuss the role the IMF can play in enabling this.

While we welcome the positive steps that the IMF is taking to help countries cope with the pandemic, ActionAid and PSI are concerned that IMF policy advice on wage bills and wider macroeconomic policies continues to constrain vital investment in public services. Recent research by ActionAid, [Who Cares for the Future: Finance Gender-responsive Public Services](#), reaches the worrying conclusion that in spite of a 2007 Board commitment to move away from public sector wage bill caps, in practice the Fund has continued to recommend such measures in many countries, preventing recruitment of urgently needed additional public sector workers.

We believe this is the time for the IMF to make a definitive and permanent commitment to shift policies on the financing of public sector workers and to align wider advice on macro-economic policies, debt and tax to ensure countries can make transformative new investments in order to recover from coronavirus and achieve the SDGs.

ActionAid and Public Services International are working together on a range of coordinated public actions at national and international levels from UN Public Services Day on 23rd June through to the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in July. We would therefore greatly appreciate the opportunity for our senior staff to discuss these issues with your team this week.

Yours sincerely,



Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda
Chair of the Board, AAI



Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary, PSI