

Statement in Support of Kristalina Georgieva

We have been completely dismayed by the so called investigation report that was done by a Washington DC law firm WilmerHale on Data Irregularities in Doing Business, by consequent public disclosure of the report that is based on innuendo, misrepresentations, and conspiracy theories and unethical release of the names of our former colleagues, and what followed - a character attack on Kristalina Georgieva. The sensationalist headlines made from this report now threaten to undermine the functioning of important Bretton Woods Institutions in such concerning times for the world.

It is clear, the authors of the report had not made an effort to diligently understand how the Doing Business report is prepared and its history, nor do they show any understanding of the roles of various staff and senior management at the World Bank.

We have worked with Ms. Georgieva personally, including on very sensitive issues involving staff, shareholder concerns, operational matters and upholding the Bank's standards in corporate governance but also in its lending. She is the person of the utmost integrity and commitment to development. The allegations of the report are just absurd and do not reflect who she is.

She made the organization better and more inclusive and responsive to the needs it serves, she made an extraordinary effort to engage everyone in the organization's life and changes she constantly pursued, from the very junior staff who just joined to the senior management team. She has always been open to debate, asked the right questions, tested the assumptions and made effective and transparent decisions, trying to keep everyone on board.

As the Bank's CEO, she made an impossible happen - agreed with the shareholders on the capital increase at the time when no one thought this was possible. She was one strong voice for multilateralism when it was under the attack.

We now stand by her when she herself is under attack.

Katherine Sierra, Former Vice President, Sustainable Development, World Bank

Tunc Uyanik, Former Director, East Asia FPD and Financial Systems Global Practice, World Bank

Samy Watson, PhD, Former Executive Director for Canada, World Bank Executive Board

Dr. Janamitra Devan, Former Joint Vice President, World Bank and the International Finance Corporation

Stefano Negri, Former Manager, Office of the CEO, and Competitiveness and Innovation Practice, World Bank

Rogério Studart, Former Executive Director for Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, Philippines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago (EDS15), World Bank Executive Board