

Brazil, 19 June 2020.

To:

Mr. Darío Montoya Mejía
Ambassador of Colombia to Brazil

Mr. Alejandro Arias Zarzuela
Ambassador of Dominican Republic to Brazil

Mr. Diego Antonio Rivadeneira Espinosa
Ambassador of Ecuador to Brazil

Mr. Mario Chouloute
Ambassador of Haiti to Brazil

Mr. Zurianny Rodríguez
Ambassador of Panama to Brazil

Mr. Marichu B. Mauro
Ambassador of Philippines to Brazil

Mr. Marlon Faisal Mohamed-Hoesein
Ambassador of Surinam to Brazil

Mr. Amery Browne
Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We write to you after receiving with perplexity the information that the Brazilian government wishes to appoint the country's former Minister of Education, Mr. Abraham Weintraub, as the Executive-Director for your constituency.

We send this letter to **strongly advise against the nomination of Mr. Weintraub for this important position, and to inform you about the potential irreparable harms that he would cause to your country's standing within the World Bank.**

First and foremost, **Mr. Weintraub's dismissal from his position is the culmination of a destructive and poisonous environment he inflated in Brazil's entire political system.** Since he took office, Mr. Weintraub has always responded with contempt, sarcasm, and aggressiveness to critiques or even recommendations coming from ordinary citizens, journalists, lawmakers, and even Supreme Court justices. In a tweet dated 16 November 2019, he called a follower's mother an "itchy

and toothless mare”.¹ In a tape of a cabinet meeting released by the Brazilian Supreme Court on 22 May 2020, in the context of accusations of undue interference, by the President, with the federal police, Mr. Weintraub called the Supreme Court justices ‘vagabonds’, who he would lock in prison if he could.²

Due to his odious behavior and lackluster performance as minister of Education, **there has been nearly unanimous calls for his resignation amongst all segments of Brazilian society**. On May 2020, the speaker of the Lower House said Mr. Weintraub is ‘disqualified’ for the job, adding that having him in the position is a “pity for Brazil”.³

Mr. Weintraub’s term in the Ministry of Education was no more than disastrous. This has been well-documented in a report issued by the Committee on Educational Policy of the House of Representative, of December 2019, which concluded that:

“The most salient aspect in the diagnosis was the finding that **the planning and management of the Ministry of Education are far behind the expected**. Evidence of this is that the Ministry has not yet presented a Strategic Plan for year 2019, and the National Plan for Education targets are delayed without even a plan of action to achieve them”.⁴

This excerpt of the report from the parliament encapsulates how **Mr. Weintraub is the antithesis of everything that the World Bank seeks to represent in development policy and in multilateralism**, including:

1. **Ideology over evidence-based policy:** On his last day in office, Mr. Weintraub created obstacles for political support to the application of affirmative action in post-graduate courses that benefited social minorities, including indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, as well as race-based quotas. His attitude ignores the enormous available evidence on the positive effects of affirmative action in addressing the historic racial, social and economic inequalities of Brazilian society and in making access to university more inclusive.⁵ Mr. Weintraub is also being investigated by the Supreme Court for spreading fake news.⁶

¹ <https://www.poder360.com.br/governo/egua-sarrenta-e-desdentada-diz-weintraub-sobre-mae-de-seguidor/>

2

<https://g1.globo.com/politica/noticia/2020/05/22/eu-por-mim-botava-esses-vagabundos-todos-na-cadeia-comecando-no-stf-diz-ministro-da-educacao-em-reuniao.ghtml>

3

<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/poder/2020/05/maia-diz-que-weintraub-e-desqualificado-e-nao-poderia-ter-assumido-ministerio-da-educacao.shtml>

⁴ The final evaluation report issued on December 2019 by a commission of the Lower House on educational policy can be found at:

https://www.camara.leg.br/proposicoesWeb/prop_mostrarintegra;jsessionid=881AF437A4D40E498DDEA3496D1790A3.proposicoesWeb1?codteor=1843764&filename=REL+2/2019+CEXMEC.

5

<https://www.br.undp.org/content/brazil/pt/home/library/idh/relatorios-de-desenvolvimento-humano/relatorio-do-desenvolvimento-humano-200013.html>. See p. 103.

6

<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/poder/2020/06/stf-forma-maioria-para-manter-weintraub-em-inquerito-das-fake-news.shtml>

2. **Poor management skills:** The same above-mentioned report by the congressional committee noted that the Ministry of Education was ‘paralyzed’ due to, *inter alia*, the fact that many key positions in the Ministry were vacant for almost a year, which revealed a ‘instability and lack of continuity in current management’. The report also noted that, compared to previous administrations, his administration has the lowest number of individuals with experience in public management and themes related to education, whether in the public or private sector.⁷ Additionally, another example of his ineptitude to positions of high level of responsibility was the major problems which occurred during the application of the national university entry exam. Thousands of students were scored incorrectly and had to be reevaluated. It is striking that this happened in an automated system where students choose an answer in multiple-choice questions.⁸
3. **Lack of understanding and capacity to address social and economic injustices through public policies:** Despite strong calls for the Ministry of Education to postpone the application of the 2020 exams for university admission, Mr. Weintraub advocated against such measure, arguing that the exam is to assess the merits of the candidates only, and not to address social inequalities.
4. **Disrespect for the values of multilateralism, such as tolerance and mutual respect:** Mr. Weintraub is responding to approximately 20 lawsuits at the Supreme Court.⁹ In one of the cases, he is being prosecuted for the grave crime of racism. On 4 April 2020, he addressed the role of China in global politics and the Brazil-China bilateral relations in a social media post charged with prejudice. In a note, the Chinese Embassy in Brazil vehemently condemned Mr. Weintraub’s post, accusing his words of being “completely absurd and despicable, with a strong racist character”.¹⁰
5. **Conduct incompatible with ethical and professional integrity standards:** In view of Mr. Weintraub record of racist, disrespectful and aggressive statements, as well as his clear ineptitude as a policy-maker and public agent, Mr. Weintraub fails to meet several requirements and principles of the World Bank’s Code of Conduct for Board Officials. He does not treat others with courtesy and respect, and without discrimination (5(b)); he fails to *exercise adequate control and supervision over matters for which they are individually responsible and protect and preserve the resources with which they are entrusted in accordance with the budgetary standards and restrictions regarding their offices (5(c)); and, as demonstrated, he*

⁷ See p. 8.

⁸ <https://educacao.uol.com.br/noticias/2020/01/20/o-que-se-sabe-sobre-o-erro-na-correcao-do-enem-2019.htm>

⁹

<https://www.metropoles.com/brasil/justica/na-corda-bamba-no-mec-weintraub-e-alvo-de-20-aco-es-no-stf-veja-quais-sao>

¹⁰

<https://www.poder360.com.br/coronavirus/embaixada-da-china-diz-que-weintraub-e-racista-e-repudia-postagem-do-ministro/>

systematically fails to maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethics in their personal and professional conduct (2(a)).¹¹

We are convinced that Mr. Abraham Weintraub does not possess the minimum ethical, professional, and moral qualifications to occupy the seat of the 15th Executive-Directorship of the World Bank.

We urge you to take all the appropriate measures to address the issues and concerns presented in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Organizations

Conectas Direitos Humanos

Instituto URBEM

US Network for Democracy in Brazil

Rede Brasileira pela Integração dos Povos (REBRIP)

342Artes

342Amazônia

Associação Brasileira de ONGs (Abong)

Centro de Estudos das Relações de Trabalho e Desigualdades (CEERT)

Ecoa

International Rivers

Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC)

Instituto Socioambiental (ISA)

Instituto PACS

Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas em Educação, Cultura e Ação Comunitária (CENPEC)

International Accountability Project

Individual signatures

Philip Yang – entrepreneur

Chico Buarque - musician

Laura Carvalho – economist

Rubens Ricupero - former Minister of Finance

Izabella Teixeira – former Minister for the Environment

Thiago Amparo – lawyer and professor, FGV

Ricardo Henriques – economist

Jorge Broide – psychoanalyst and professor, PUC/SP

José Roberto Rodrigues Afonso – economist, professor, IDP/Brasília and researcher, CAPP/Lisboa

Pascoal Soto – publisher, Estação Brasil - Editora Sextante

José Pio Borges – former president, BNDES

Olívia Byington - singer

Lília Moritz Schwarcz - historian, anthropologist and professor, USP

Elisa Lustosa Byington – historian

Márcia Tiburi - professor, Université Paris 8

Paloma Jorge Amado - writer and illustrator

Mirna Queiroz – publisher

Marcos Amaro – entrepreneur

Maria Cristina Nascimento - psychologist

Hélio Mattar - social entrepreneur

Evandro Affonso Ferreira – writer

Sofia Carvalhosa – entrepreneur

Octavio de Barros - economist

Maria Alice Setubal - sociologist and president, Fundação Tide Setubal

Patrícia Melo - writer

John Neschling – maestro

Regina Dalcastagnè – professor, UnB

Fifi Tong – photographer

Silvana Gontijo - writer and journalist

Arthur Nestrovski – artistic director, São Paulo Symphony Orchestra

Maria Guimarães – retired

Paulo Betti – actor

Enrique Dias - actor

Tuca Andrade - actress

Rachel Ripani - actress

Maria Gal – actress

Ana Lúcia Pastore Schritzmeyer - anthropologist and lawyer

Vera Lustosa

Maria Rita Lustosa Byington - physician and PhD in public health - Instituto Nacional de Câncer

Fernando Meirelles - movie director

Mari Stockler - cultural entrepreneur

Carlito Carvalhosa - plastic artist

Luiz Henrique Ligabue Ferreira da Silva – journalist

Mara Fainziliber

Joselia Aguiar - journalist and writer

Pedro Rossi – professor at Instituto de Economia - Unicamp

Deborah Barros Leal Farias - professor at University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Rosangela Rondon Rossi – educator

José Zimmerman

Almara Mendes – actress

Lisiane Mossmann – journalist

Enrique Diaz - actor and director

Mariana Lima - actress

Soraya Ravenle - actress and singer

Nelson Cesar de Assis Fonseca - artistic producer and journalist

Renata Melo - dentist

Cristiana Gonçalves Maia - cultural producer

Beatriz Bracher - writer

Ivo Herzog - board chairman at Instituto Vladimir Herzog

Zita Carvalhosa - audiovisual producer

Renata de Almeida - producer and curator

Mariana Mollica - psychologist and professor at UFRJ

Ricardo Ramos Filho - writer and president of UBE (União Brasileira de Escritores).

Luciana Boiteux - lawyer and professor at UFRJ

Marcelo Auler - journalist

Luiz Fernando Emediato - writer and publisher of Geração Editorial

Andrea Beltrão - actress and producer

Ricardo Abramovay - sociologist and professor at USP

Lis Almeida - educator

Justine Otondo- film producer

Moritz Kon - psychoanalyst and professor

Berenice Bento - sociologist and professor, UnB

Simone Meucci - sociologist and professor, UFPR

Isabel Joffily - film director

Pedro Meira Monteiro - professor, Princeton University

Eliane Veras Soares - sociologist and professor, UFPE

Gláucia Villas - professor, UFRJ

Diane Maia - film producer

Maria Luiza Lins e Silva Pires - producer

Louise Botkay - director of photography

Els Lagrou - anthropologist and professor, UFRJ

Samuel Mendonça - professor, PUC Campinas

Rodrigo Salles Pereira dos Santos - professor, UFRJ

Heloisa Buarque de Almeida - anthropologist and professor, USP

Lisandro Rodrigues de Almeida Braga - professor, UFPR

Silke Weber - retired professor

Glória Afflalo - designer and entrepreneur

André Botelho - sociologist

Monique Gardenberg - film producer

Elisabeth Maria Sawaya Kaphan - translator

Angela Figueiredo - actress and cultural producer

Fabio Caruso Cury - lawyer

Marcy Junqueira - communication specialist

Rodrigo Salomão - screenwriter

Silvia Helena Callas - physician, Hospital Sírio Libanês

Sandra Miyatake Sakamoto - professor

Cynthia Lins Hamlin - sociologist and professor, UFPE

José Reginaldo Santos Gonçalves - anthropologist, UFRJ / CNPq

Bila Sorj - sociologist

Ana Paula Hey - sociologist and professor, USP

Regina Scarpa - educator

Jorge Schwartz - professor, USP

Francisco Bosco - essayist and PhD, UFRJ

Saulo Neiva - professor, Université Clermont Auvergne

Congressman Túlio Gadêlha Sales de Melo

Any Trajber Waisbich - psychoanalyst

Guilherme Teixeira Wisnik - professor, FAU/USP

Estevão Horvath - lawyer

Bruna Rodrigues Andrade - undergraduate student, FGV and USP

Adriano Chan - professor and composer

Ana Lúcia de Sousa - professor, UFRR

Renato Donadon - professor

Beatriz de Castro Reinach - professor

Luciana Saddi - psychoanalyst and writer

Laura Trajber Waisbich - political scientist, University of Cambridge

Silvia Korytnicki - professor

Lili Rochlitz Quintao - psychoanalyst

Eder Quintao - physician and professor, USP

Bianca De Felippes - artistic producer

Carlos Henrique Corrêa da Silva - journalist and radio host

Luciana Coutinho Passos - lawyer

Camila Fernanda Groch - audiovisual producer

José Celso Cardoso Jr - economist

Ana Creliá Penha Dias - professor

Cristina Makarenko - physician

Fernando Rabossi - professor, UFRJ

Renata Villa de Santana - lawyer

Camila Manfredini de Abreu - lawyer

Andrea Balan - professor, USP

Eugênio Bucci - professor, ECA/USP

Silvana Buzato - biologist and professor, USP

Marúcia Cabral - systems analyst

Luiz Bolognesi - film producer

Afonso Borges - journalist

Maria Luisa Sandoval Schmidt - retired professor, USP

Lúcia Cortez Mendonça - psychoanalyst

Maria Paula Dallari Bucci - professor, USP

Carlos José Teixeira de Toledo - State Attorney and professor

Gustavo Steinberg - film producer and entrepreneur

Paulo Henrique Martins - professor, UFPE

Murilo Gasparido - professor, UNESP

Marina Giovedi Arnoldi - lawyer

Juliana Vieira dos Santos - lawyer, Harvard Law School LL.M

Belinda Mandelbaum - professor, USP

Carlos César Mascarenhas de Souza - professor, UFS

Marcia Regina Manfredini de Abreu - nutritionist

Daniela Thomas - film producer

Gustavo Palagi Gonzalez Vicente - lawyer

Vivian Massignan - architect

Monique Lisboa - lawyer

Alberto da Câmara Lima Falcão - fiscal auditor

Renato Leonardo Belfiore Neto - lawyer

Otavio Marques da Costa - publisher, Companhia das Letras

Clara Ramos - audiovisual producer

Laura Redondo de Campos - master student, PUC-SP

João Guilherme Ripper - composer and president, Academia Brasileira de Música

Regina Maurício da Rocha - architect

Regina Burt - entrepreneur

Marcia Contins - anthropologist, UERJ

Congressman Alessandro Molon

Paulo Esteves - IRI/PUC-Rio

Tony Bellotto - musician and writer

Vera Lucas - retired journalist

Gustavo Martineli Massola - professor, USP

Karina Cattini Maluf - advertising specialist

Mara M. de Andréa - biologist and retired researcher

Lucilene Danciguer - consultant

Carolina Gabas Stuchi - professor, UFABC

George Balster Martins - physicist

Marisa Alves Vilarino - retired and researcher

Paula da Fonseca Nogueira - designer

Geraldo Lippel - professor, UFRJ

Dawisson Belém Lopes - professor, UFMG

Luiz Schwarcz - publisher

Raquel Santos Garcia - anthropologist

Pedro Cirilo da Cruz Lima - entrepreneur

Maria Denise Guedes - professor, UNESP

Mateus Miranda Moreira - sales executive

Lygia Reinach - artist

Nelson Waisbich - engineer

Marcia Beatriz Bello Pacheco - writer and theater author

Flavia de Campos Mello - professor, PUC-SP

Juliana Leroy Davis - researcher, UFMG

Marcelo Bratke - musician and maestro

Marianita Luzzati - plastic artist

Alexandra Loras - former French consulate

Marcelo Xavier Freitas Crespo - lawyer

Mario Sergio Medeiros - playwright and director

Renata Cesar de Oliveira - PhD candidate, HCTE/UFRJ

Mariza Melo - restorative specialist

Fernando Alves Pinto - actor and musician

Celso Seabra Santiago - set designer

Margarete Taqueti - audiovisual producer

Rachel Ripani

Antoniela Canto - actress

Antonio Carlos Pasolini - journalist

Luiz Eduardo Soares - anthropologist, writer and professor, UFRJ

Izabele Menezes da costa - administrative assistant

Miriam Gomes Saraiva - professor, UERJ

Luciana Sérvulo da Cunha - documentary filmmaker and artistic director

André Fernandes - journalist

Wagner Cardoso Ferreira

Vânia Maria Lourenço Sanches - PhD candidate, UERJ

Ana Maria Costa - physician, professor and director, CEBES - Centro Brasileiro de Estudos de Saúde

Fabiane Dal-Ri - nutritionist

Tatiana Salem Levy - writer

Rita Maria Manso de Barros - professor

Ana Isa Lepsch

Stela Freitas - actress

Hugo Fernandes Junior - physician

Denise Spada - entrepreneur

Maria Luisa Rodriguez - psychoanalyst

Conrado Hubner - professor, USP

Danielle Rached - professor

Maria Helena de Barros Pimentel - lawyer

Sandra Albernaz de Medeiros - retired professor

Micheline Verunschik - writer

Lucia Maria de Freitas Perez - professor, UNIRIO

Vera Zimmermann - actress

Maria A Davoli - psychologist

Maria Ligaya Fujita - retired, UN

Lusmarina Campos Garcia - theologian, pastor and researcher, UFRJ

Charles Gomes - senior fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

Betty Emilia Prado de Tullio - entrepreneur

Maria Eduarda Pires - architect

Martha Furquim Sim - baker

Liana Albernaz de Melo Bastos - professor, UFRJ

Branca Szafir - psychologist

Izidoro Jeronimo da Rocha - architect

Soneide de Sales Lima

Fernanda Brack Bungner - teacher

Ceci Constant Lohmann - psychoanalyst

Celso Adolfo - composer

Aparecida Rosângela Silveira - professor, Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros/MG

Neila Ruiz Alfonzo - music teacher

Maria Inês Anachoreta - professor, UERJ

Ruth Slinger

Ana Maria Soares - psychologist

Wilson Ramos Filho - president, Instituto Defesa da Classe Trabalhadora

Anete dos Santos Simões - lawyer

Ernesto Piccolo

Ernesto Tzirulnik

Paulo Cesar Azevedo Ribeiro - professor

Rejane Bueno Guerra - journalist

João Gabriel Rabello Sodr  - PhD student, History Department/Georgetown University

Bernadete Lou - photojournalist

Ana Claudia Jord o - psychoanalyst

Anna Helena Altenfelder - educator

Giovani Saavedra - president, Associa o Brasileira de Auditoria, Riscos e Compliance

Senator Jean Paul Prates

Congressman Edmilson Rodrigues

Congresswoman  urea Carolina

Congressman Marcelo Freixo

Congresswoman Luiza Erundina

Xando Gra a - actor