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November 27, 2020

Ms. Sophie Makonnen
Resident Representative
Inter-American Development Bank
47 High Street
Kingston
GEORGETOWN

Dear Ms. Makonnen,

**Government of Guyana's Request for Technical Cooperation Resources in Support of
Populations affected by COVID 19**

The Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (GOG) has identified reducing poverty and protecting the vulnerable population against shocks as a priority with the overall aim of improving our human capital and preserving minimum levels of quality of life.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively affect the living standards of our population. To address these challenges, the GOG requests the preparation of three (3) Technical Cooperation (TC) operations, each operation in the amount of One Million United States Dollars (US\$1.0M) to be executed as outlined below:

- a. **Support for the design and execution of the loan operation "GY-L1077 - Support to Safety Nets for Vulnerable Populations Affected by Coronavirus in Guyana."** This TC will support the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's (MHSSS) implementation of *Component 1 – Protection using existing Cash Transfer Programs* of the loan that has been negotiated with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and is pending approval from its Board.

This TC will support the following activities:

- recruitment of key personnel for the execution of the loan program;
- consultancies for the design of fit-for-purpose architecture within the MHSSS;
- normative strengthening; and
- design and implementation of core processes and software to strengthen operational and monitoring and evaluation capabilities of the MHSSS.

It is within this context, that we request that this TC be executed by the Bank.

- b. **Support to Fiscal Policy and Management in Guyana.** This TC will support the Ministry of Finance' implementation of the loan "GY-L1075 - **Strengthen Public Policy and Fiscal Management in Response to the Health and Economic Crisis Caused by COVID-19 in Guyana,**" that has been negotiated with IDB and is pending approval from its Board.

This TC will support activities such as public procurement, public financial management, public investment and macro fiscal management in order to strengthen institutional capacity for fiscal management.

Given the need to expeditiously address the policy conditions of the loan, we request that this TC be executed by the Bank.

- c. **Support Indigenous Education during COVID-19.** This TC will support the Ministry of Education in the effort to improve educational opportunities for indigenous children in mainly hinterland and riverine communities by mitigating the negative effects that school closures can have on children's cognitive and socio-emotional development.

Activities of this TC will include:

- the development and piloting of English as a second language programs for young children in preschool;
- a school mapping exercise; and,
- a study on the situation of migrant children, if present, in the same community.

We request that this TC be co-executed by the Bank and the Ministry of Education, with the Ministry of Education executing activities related to the bilingual/English pilot and the mapping exercise, and the Bank executing the study on migrant children and evaluation work.

We look forward to your usual timely response and continued support.

Yours sincerely,



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Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh
Senior Minister
Office of the President
with Responsibility for Finance