



## Human Development & Capability Association

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From: Human Development Capability Association

Subject: Support for IOB and Concern Regarding Recent Funding Cuts

As the Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA), an international network of scholars and practitioners committed to advancing high-quality research and scholarship in the field of human development and the capability approach, we had the privilege of working closely with the Institute of Development Policy (IOB) and its scholars in 2022, when the Institute hosted the annual international HDCA Conference.

On that occasion, we were deeply impressed by IOB's strong adherence to the principles of academic excellence and inclusivity, its outstanding reputation, and the internationally recognized leadership it continues to demonstrate through its Master's and PhD programs, as well as its cutting-edge research projects.

As an Association working internationally, we wish to emphasize the crucial importance of sustaining development research and capacity building. These are indispensable foundations for fostering equitable global partnerships and for co-creating knowledge that contributes to sustainable human development.

It is therefore with sincere regret that we have learned of the recent cuts to IOB's academic funding decided by the Ministry of Education. Such measures risk causing serious harm to the Institute's teaching and research activities, and would represent a significant setback for the field of international development studies at a moment in history when these studies are particularly urgent and relevant.

We respectfully urge the Minister of Education to reconsider this decision and to restore the necessary financial support, thereby enabling IOB to continue developing its academic activities and to maintain its vital contribution to the global community of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers engaged in human development.

With respect and solidarity,

Prof. Enrica Chiappero-Martinetti  
President of the HDCA