



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND  
THE WORLD BANK GROUP  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20431



WORLD BANK GROUP

February 12, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
Department of State

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security

**RECEIVED**

**By ESEC at 8:21 am, Mar 05, 2024**

Dear Secretaries Blinken and Mayorkas:

We are writing to bring to your attention the profound adverse impact on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) from the recent change in the longstanding immigrant visa program and the administration of the Green Card application process for retirees from international organizations. The impact of the change on staff of international organizations is unique among all affected categories and amounts to the elimination of a Congressionally-authorized program through administrative action. Many long-serving IMF and World Bank staff have lost eligibility to retire in the United States. We would like to request your urgent assistance to reinstate the provisions of the INA, rendered inert by the recent change, and Green Card availability for IO employees, which has been in place for almost four decades.

Since 1986, employees of international organizations with residence in the U.S. on a G-4 visa for at least 15 years have been able to continue to reside in the U.S. upon retirement and obtain permanent residence status under the Special Immigrant (EB-4) provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), which was intended to enable long-serving IO employees to retire in the U.S. and seek a path to U.S. citizenship. This process has typically taken a few months. However, following a change in interpretation of legal provisions to the EB-4 program in March 2023, retirees of IOs must now leave the country within 30 days of retirement and—given the sharp increase in claims on EB-4 visas resulting from the change pushing waiting periods to well over 10 years—IO retirees are no longer able to meet the physical presence requirement in the U.S. (3.5 out of the last 7 years), which is a unique requirement for IO retirees. Consequently, the March 2023 change has administratively eliminated the program for IO retirees and long-serving staff of the IMF and World Bank have de facto lost their path to citizenship.

The sudden inability to remain in their homes and obtain a Green Card after retirement is a life-altering change, causing significant hardship and considerable anxiety for many IMF and World Bank staff. A substantial portion of our staff and their dependents on G-4 visas have resided in the U.S for decades, and have become an integral part of the communities they live in—attending local schools and as members of religious communities, owning property and making investments in the United States. With this abrupt administrative change, families now face the prospect of suddenly having to

abandon the lives they have built here over decades, and many parents face the risk of separation from their children.

As you can imagine, this change also adversely affects our ability to attract and retain a geographically diverse staff, which is critical for the operation and global legitimacy of the IMF and the World Bank. We are extremely concerned that if this problem persists, this will seriously weaken the effectiveness of our institutions, and erode our ability to carry out our missions to promote economic development and safeguard global economic and financial stability. At this critical time for the global economy, buffeted by multiple shocks and the pressure of fragmentation, we believe that more than ever we need strong multilateral institutions to serve our members, including the United States. We have been strong partners with the U.S. in promoting development and economic security in key parts of the world, including many fragile and conflict-affected regions.

As the largest shareholder of the IMF and the World Bank, and host country to our two institutions, we are seeking the U.S. Administration's support to take whatever steps are necessary and available to ensure that the INA is implemented as the Congress intended. We strongly urge the U.S. Administration, in collaboration with U.S. Congress, to find a permanent solution that would restore Green Card availability for long-serving IMF and World Bank G-4 retirees. This would have only a very small impact (a few hundred annually) on total U.S. Green Card allocations but is critical for the operations of our institutions.

In the interim, as an immediate step, we would ask the U.S. Administration to explore administrative solutions that would enable retirees to preserve their earned eligibility for a Green Card and to allow them to remain in the U.S. with legal certainty while their applications are processed.

We sincerely believe that this situation poses substantial risks to the ability of the IMF and the World Bank to deliver on our mandates of promoting global economic prosperity and financial stability, and consequently to the U.S. We would be grateful for an opportunity to meet with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss possible timely solutions.

Sincerely,



Kristalina Georgieva  
Managing Director  
International Monetary Fund



Ajay Banga  
President  
World Bank Group

cc: The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury  
  
Ms. Ur M. Jaddou  
Director, USCIS  
  
The Honorable Jay Shambaugh  
Under Secretary for International Affairs, Department of the Treasury

Ms. Elizabeth Shortino  
United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund

Mr. Felice Gorordo  
United States Alternate Executive Director of the World Bank



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

April 30, 2024

Kristalina Georgieva  
Managing Director  
International Monetary Fund  
700 19th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20431

Dear Managing Director Georgieva,

Thank you for your February 12, 2024 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I am responding on behalf of the Department.

I greatly appreciated meeting with World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) representatives, including IMF Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath, on March 4, 2024, to better understand the impact of visa retrogression in the EB-4 category on the important work of these organizations.

As I noted during our meeting, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is keenly aware that demand greatly exceeds the limited supply of available immigrant visas in the family-sponsored and employment-based preference categories and that such demand has steadily increased over the years. Within the EB-4 category, demand has exceeded visa supply for approximately seven years. In fiscal years 2021-2023, employment-based visas were available in greater numbers because more family-based visas had gone unused; by statute, those visas must be made available for employment-based visa processing. USCIS recognizes the multi-year wait for EB-4 visas complicates G-4 nonimmigrants' ability to apply for lawful permanent residence upon their retirement.

As discussed, USCIS fully supports legislative efforts to resolve this issue with EB-4 programs, as only Congress can address the imbalance between the limited supply of immigrant visas and the increasing demand. In the meantime, USCIS is considering a variety of policy and regulatory options that could potentially ease at least some of the challenges faced by noncitizens with lengthy wait times for EB-4 visas, including international organization (IO) retirees, and will continue to examine the tools at our disposal. We look forward to working with you and your other IO colleagues as USCIS explores potential administrative actions.

Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva  
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Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Please share this response with the cosigner of your letter. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director