**Dear Editor,**

We are pleased to submit our latest manuscript for consideration for publication in the *World Bank Economic Review*. Upon reviewing the latest Global Database on Intergenerational Mobility and the associated World Bank report that utilizes current mobility measures, we identified several limitations in these metrics. The report itself attempts to address some of these limitations by incorporating alternative approaches to better assess social progress.

Our paper examines two key challenges in the measurement of social mobility: the **directionality problem** and the **difficulty problem**. The directionality problem arises when social fluidity—defined as the independence of socioeconomic outcomes from parental background—does not necessarily reflect true progress, especially in cases of downward mobility. The difficulty problem refers to the failure to account for the varying effort required to achieve mobility across different social contexts. Relative mobility is often affected by the directionality problem, while absolute mobility is more sensitive to the difficulty problem.

Although local measures focusing on disadvantaged groups can provide useful insights, they often fail to reflect the full national picture. These measures are also less effective in developed countries, where the majority of the population already achieves high educational attainment, making international comparisons less informative.

To address these limitations, the paper introduces a new index called the **Progress Gap**. This index measures the gap—interpreted as the national challenge—between the observed transition matrix and a context-specific normative target. It provides a more rigorous and meaningful assessment of educational mobility, contributing to a clearer understanding of inclusive growth.

We believe that Roy van der Weide would be a highly suitable editor for this manuscript, given his expertise in social mobility research. We hope that the Progress Gap index will be a valuable contribution to future World Bank reports and related work on social progress.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Sincerely,

The authors