



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK  
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund



WORLD BANK GROUP

## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### **World Bank President to MPs: “We need to move quickly to meet rising global aspirations”**

*IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim addressed 162 parliamentarians from 66 countries at the Global Parliamentary Conference from 17-18 April 2017 in Washington DC.*

**Washington DC, April 18, 2017** – Over 160 parliamentarians from 66 countries joined in discussions with the World Bank and IMF leadership on pressing global development issues at the Global Parliamentary Conference hosted at World Bank and IMF headquarters.

**Jeremy Lefroy**, MP, UK, Chairman of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF welcomed legislators to the conference organized jointly by the Parliamentary Network, the World Bank Group and the IMF. The event offers parliamentarians a platform to engage with World Bank Group and IMF senior officials, and explore ways they can tackle economic and development issues in their respective Parliaments.

The conference comes at a critical juncture for the international community facing rising criticisms about the relevance of multilateralism and globalization.

“It is a time of challenge for global cooperation,” said **World Bank Group President Kim**. “So many voices are calling for countries to look inwards but that’s the wrong message. Our view is that it has never been as important to work together and support multilateral agreements,” added President Jim Yong Kim.

**IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde** highlighted as an opportunity the positive momentum which emerging and developing countries are contributing to global growth.

The conference also addressed the critical role of the private sector in meeting the aspirations of citizens around the world.

While private sector is set to play a critical role in building infrastructure, it is not a total substitute for the public sector, noted the Minister of Finance from Nigeria **H.E. Kemi Adeosun** in a special address to the MPs. “All successful economies have successful public service delivery.”

Further discussions looked at how parliamentary involvement can be harnessed and strengthened, as well as how to foster continuous parliamentary involvement in the SDGs implementation process. Yet it will be the responsibility of MPs to turn these recommendations into actionable policies on the ground, as underlined by **Yunus Carrim**, MP South Africa and Chair of the Finance Committee. “We need a shift in the way MPs do business, for the sake of their people.”

The conference was also the occasion for the Parliamentary Network to hold a General Assembly and elect a new board:

1. **Jeremy Lefroy**, MP, UK
2. **Olfa Soukri Cherif**, MP, Tunisia
3. **Alain Destexhe**, Senator, Belgium
5. **Pauline Bekono Ebah Ndoumou**, MP, Cameroon
4. **Oscar Mauricio Lizcano Arango**, President of the Senate, Colombia
6. **Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin**, MP, Malaysia
7. **Lahcen Haddad**, MP, Morocco
8. **Nathan Nandala Mafabi**, MP, Uganda
9. **Olga Bielkova**, MP, Ukraine
10. **Percy E. Downe**, Senator, Canada