



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund



WORLD BANK GROUP

**PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP AT THE ANNUAL MEETINGS
OF THE WORLD BANK & THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND**

10-11 OCTOBER 2017 | WASHINGTON DC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2017 Annual Meetings were held from October 9-15 in the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund headquarters in Washington, DC. On October 10-11, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF organized the *Parliamentary Workshop* – the event that was designed to bring together a small group of parliamentarians from both donor and recipient countries and was co-organized with the World Bank and the IMF. This year, 53 participants from 33 countries were present at the Workshop: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Latvia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Moldova, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe. Other participants included representatives from the International Assembly of the Francophonie, the Pan-African Parliament, and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

The main themes of this year's Workshop covered the most pressing development issues of the decade and the objects of traditionally intense focus both on the part of the Parliamentary Network, the World Bank, and the IMF: the correlation of economic growth and job creation; inequality; climate change; private sector investment; fighting corruption; energy reforms; and investing in younger generations. Many of these discussions built on the previous dedicated sessions during the Global Parliamentary Conference which took place in April 2017, and introduced new approaches to tackling these universal challenges.

"We as members of parliament need to ensure that economic growth does not translate into wealth for the few, but jobs for the many" - Jeremy Lefroy, United Kingdom, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

The new theme, introduced at this year's Parliamentary Workshop, concerned fragility and conflict as critical development challenges threatening to destroy the meager development successes achieved in the least stable countries. The closing session of the Workshop was dedicated to elaborating an action plan for parliamentarians – allowing the participants to reflect on the lessons learnt in these two days, share experiences, express criticisms, and provide suggestions.



Numerous experts from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (including the IFC) were invited as speakers, providing the parliamentarians with hands-on knowledge of mechanisms employed by their institutions to achieve the development objectives. Moderated by the members of the Board of Directors of the Parliamentary Network, the sessions were dynamic, and the exchanges of questions, answers, and opinions between speakers and participants often led to unexpected results. The full account of each Workshop session will be provided in a complete report due to be published shortly.

“Politicians need to take responsibility for structural problems. Countries need inclusive political structures; otherwise the ability to deal with fragility is undermined. Parliamentarians are sometimes complicit in this situation, because it benefits them” - Yunus Carrim, South Africa

“South America is dealing with deforestation, while the main polluters continue to pollute. We should not allow another ten years to elapse before some concrete measures materialize. We hope that those generating the difficulties will consider that we live on the same planet” - Ramón Romero Roa, Paraguay

During the last session of the event, the participants were invited to submit their proposals for the common action plan, which would integrate the suggested steps parliamentarians can take in their countries in order to contribute to better development outcomes. The final document based on all submitted proposals will be published along with the report.

“Many countries are in the loop of trying to get out both of the fossil and of the nuclear energy. The energy subsidies should be a dynamic formula, instead of a fixed one. We need a solution that would evolve along with the evolution of technology” - Claude Béglé, Switzerland

“We discuss the fight against corruption every day, introducing new measures and agencies for that purpose; but corruption today becomes more and more sophisticated. We need more transparency initiatives like the EITI to combat corruption” - Olga Bielkova, Ukraine

The 2017 Parliamentary Workshop reaffirmed the commitment of parliamentarians from all regions of the world to share knowledge and experience, and to engage with international institutions in order to increase their role in the field of development. As elected representatives of the people, members of parliament are well positioned to address and influence the issues covered at the workshop through their budgetary and legislative powers. The discussions during the Workshop looked, in particular, at the operational side of the work of the World Bank and the IMF, providing parliamentarians with knowledge of necessary instruments to support and develop their initiatives on the ground.

“We need to invest in people and opportunities to build human capital and mitigate the inequality of fortune” - Ambar Narayan, Lead Economist, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank Group

“Globalization and trade are good for jobs everywhere, but we need to work on income redistribution” - Mitali Das, Deputy Division Chief, External Sector Division, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, IMF

A recurring theme throughout the workshop was inequality: between rich and poor, resilient and fragile, donors and recipients, polluters and those who suffer from pollution. Parliamentarians from all groups of countries can and should assume responsibility and work together in order to meet the numerous development challenges and turn expert recommendations into policies adapted to every particular situation. The questions and criticisms expressed during the meetings reasserted the importance of dialogue between various countries, regions, and non-state actors by showcasing differences of opinions and experiences, but also similarities in terms of goals and challenges that need to be addressed.