



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK  
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund



WORLD BANK GROUP

## PARLIAMENTARY FIELD VISIT TO VIETNAM

### Draft AGENDA

Field Visit to Vietnam, 5 – 8 March 2018

#### Venues

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**Hotel:** Sofitel Hanoi

**World Bank Country Office:** Hanoi, +84.2439346600 8th Floor, 63 Ly Thai To, Hanoi, Vietnam  
[vietnam@worldbank.org](mailto:vietnam@worldbank.org)

**International Monetary Fund Resident Representative Office:**

#### Contacts

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#### About the Parliamentary Network

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The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & International Monetary Fund (the Parliamentary Network) provides a platform for parliamentarians from World Bank and IMF member countries to advocate for increased accountability and transparency in International Financial Institutions and multilateral development financing. Founded in 2000, the Parliamentary Network seeks to engage law makers from around the globe in the common mission of addressing good governance and poverty challenges in both their home countries and abroad. Directed by a Board elected by their peers, the Parliamentary Network is an independent non-governmental organization with a secretariat in Paris. The organization is open to all elected parliamentarians from World Bank and

IMF member states who hold a current mandate. Parliamentary Network members represent themselves and their constituents, and not their countries, parliaments or governments.  
<http://www.parlnet.org/>

## Draft Program

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<b>Sunday, 4 March 2018</b>		
Upon arrival 7:00-8:30 pm	Check-in at the hotel Welcome dinner at the hotel	<b>Venue:</b>
<b>Monday, 5 March 2018</b>		
8:00 am – 9:00 am	<i>Breakfast at the hotel</i>	<b>Venue:</b>
9:00 am	<i>The delegation will be meeting in the lobby at 9:00 Bus departing from the hotel</i>	
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Welcome and Briefing Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremy Lefroy, MP, UK, Chair, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank &amp; IMF</li> <li>• Ousmane Dione, Country Director, World Bank Vietnam</li> <li>• Odd Per Brekk, Deputy Director, Asia and Pacific Department, IMF</li> </ul>	<b>Venue:</b> World Bank/IMF Offices
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>	<b>Venue:</b> World Bank/IMF Offices
1:30 pm- 2:30 pm	<b>IMF technical assistance and capacity building in South East Asia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Cowen, Coordinator, Technical Assistance Office for the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (TAOLAM), IMF</li> </ul>	<b>Venue:</b> World Bank/IMF Offices
2:30 pm	<i>Bus departing from the World Bank/IMF offices</i>	
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<b>Meeting with the National Assembly of Vietnam</b> The Parliament of Vietnam will welcome the Parliamentary Network delegates, providing an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on its functioning, its contribution to Vietnam’s development	<b>Venue:</b> Parliament

	priorities and ways of cooperation with the World Bank and IMF on the country level. Participants will be invited to interact with host country MPs, share legislative experiences regarding development initiatives, and discuss the possibility of launching a PN National chapter in Vietnam.	
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	<b>Reception at the National Assembly</b>	<b>Venue:</b> Parliament

### Tuesday, 6 March 2018

7:45 am – 8:45 am	<i>Breakfast at the hotel</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Hotel
9:30 am	<i>The delegation will be meeting in the lobby at 9:15am Bus departing from the hotel</i>	
	<b>Project site Visit (all day) - Lao Cai Province</b>  <b>Projects include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poverty reduction</li> <li>• urban upgrading</li> <li>• waste water treatment</li> <li>• small hydropower plant</li> </ul>	<b>Venue:</b>
	<i>Free evening for participants</i>	

### Wednesday, 7 March 2018

8:30 am – 9:30 am	<i>Breakfast at the hotel</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Hotel
9:30 am	<i>Bus departing from the hotel</i>	
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture</b> Vietnam's agricultural sector has made enormous progress. The country has emerged as one of the world's leading exporters of agro-food commodities and is among the top five for aquatic products, rice, coffee, tea, cashews, black pepper, rubber, and cassava. While having a strong track record and ample opportunities for future growth, both at home and abroad, the sector faces major demographic, economic, and environmental challenges. To remain competitive in the international market, the report says Vietnam needs to improve supply, quality, and food safety with added value. It outlines an agenda of short- and longer-term strengthening of public and market institutions which will be needed to achieve the ambitious goals for Vietnam's agriculture and overall food	<b>Venue:</b>

	system.	
<b>OR</b>	<p><b>Meeting with the Ministry of Education</b></p> <p>Vietnam is internationally recognized for the quality of its basic education. In the education sector, Vietnam has obtained impressive results compared with those countries with similar economic development: over 90% of the working-age population is literate; more than 98% of children of primary school age attend schools; and the enrolment rates for boys and girls are similar. Several challenges remain such as high dropout rates in rural areas and access to higher education for low-income and marginalized groups. Rapid aging of the population means that there will be fewer young people, presenting an opportunity to ensure inclusive access to education. Higher education institutions will also need to adapt to the country's increasing modernization and integration into the global economy.</p>	
11:00 am	<i>Bus departing from the Ministry of Finance</i>	
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	<p><b>Meeting with the Ministry of Finance</b></p> <p>High economic growth over a prolonged period with an annual average growth rate of above 6 percent in the recent years has helped raise the state budget revenue. Vietnam also successfully managed to reduce its economy's reliance on external sources, such as oil and trade revenue. Today, it is crucial to continue strengthening domestic revenue mobilization following the successful implementation of the new tax management system. Although the share of state budget capital spending remains relatively high, it is trending towards higher decentralization, with more investment decisions being taken on sub-national level, which has provided strong incentives for development of infrastructure, education, and health services at the local level. In the future, it will be important to rationalize sectoral and regional budget allocations to better align them with Vietnam's current development strategy.</p>	<b>Venue:</b>
12:30 pm	<i>Bus departing from the Ministry of Finance</i>	
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Lunch with private sector representatives</b>	<b>Venue:</b>
3:00 pm	<i>Bus departing</i>	
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	<p><b>Meeting at the State Bank of Vietnam</b></p> <p>Vietnam officially graduated from the <a href="#">International Development Association (IDA)</a> on 1 July 2017. (IDA is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest</p>	<b>Venue</b>

	<p>countries. Overseen by 173 shareholder nations, IDA aims to reduce poverty by providing loans (called “credits”) and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people’s living conditions.)</p> <p>Vietnam has achieved robust growth with low inflation, and has implemented important reforms to promote private sector-led growth, strengthening the public finances and tackling legacy issues in the financial sector while making progress on poverty alleviation. Further work is needed on banking sector reform, credit growth, and fiscal and external buffers. Reforms should also address macroeconomic stability, raise growth potential and upgrade the growth model to enhance sustainability and productivity.</p>	
4:45 pm	<i>Bus departing from the Central Bank</i>	
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm	<p><b>Meeting with the Ministry of Energy</b></p> <p>Energy intensity in Vietnam is among the highest in the world, and electricity demand is expected to grow by about ten per cent annually until 2030. Rural electrification has significantly grown. Virtually all rural households use electricity. Results in terms of investing and constructing, renovating and upgrading the power grid have contributed to changing the face of rural and remote areas, creating favourable conditions for the development of agricultural production, processing industry and agricultural services.</p> <p>Recently, steps have been taken to develop cleaner energy sources, notably through the Renewable Energy Development Project (in partnership with the World Bank), which aims to strengthen private sector participation while stimulating low-carbon energy generation.</p>	<b>Venue</b>
6:30 pm	<i>Bus departing from the Ministry of Energy</i>	
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	<b>Dinner and Debriefing session</b>	<b>Venue:</b>

### Thursday, 8 March 2018

Morning	Any additional meetings with Ministries that are unavailable on the previous days.	
	<i>Cultural Programme (optional)</i>	

## ***Parliamentarians in the Field Programme***

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Since 2001, the Parliamentarians in the Field program has given MPs unique access to World Bank & IMF country offices, its development programs and key development partners (including the host country's parliament). During visits, delegates are briefed by World Bank & IMF country representatives on their in-country activities. Visiting MPs also meet with host-country parliamentarians to discuss the country's development priorities. Participants visit programs and projects while engaging with local staff. Delegates also have the opportunity to meet with other key development stakeholders including NGOs, civil society organizations and small business owners. At the conclusion of a visit, the delegation shares its observations and recommendations on the host country's development program in a comprehensive report. For donor-country parliamentarians, the program represents an opportunity to see development cooperation in practice. Borrowing-country MPs can use field visits as benchmarking exercises and opportunities to exchange views and experiences. Parliamentarians in the Field is jointly organized by the Parliamentary Network, the World Bank, and IMF.

### **Useful websites:**

[www.parlnet.org](http://www.parlnet.org)

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/about/parliamentarians>

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/legislators/>

## **The World Bank and IMF in Vietnam**

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The engagements of the World Bank Group and the IMF in Vietnam aim to support its strong economic growth and development in the recent decades. The IMF provides Vietnam with technical assistance in the areas of tax policy and administration, public expenditure management, fiscal transparency, and central banking, and lends its expertise in other areas through its Article IV consultations. The World Bank prioritizes the areas of inclusive growth and private sector participation, human capital, environmental sustainability, and good governance. The current World Bank Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for the period FY18 – FY22 also includes IFC engagement aiming to mobilize long-term financing for investments that have strong socioeconomic benefits, and MIGA providing its risk insurance guarantees and credit enhancement products to boost private investment.

## **Vietnam's development progress**

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Vietnam's development record over the past 30 years is remarkable. Economic and political reforms under Đổi Mới, launched in 1986, have spurred rapid economic growth and development and transformed Vietnam from one of the world's poorest nations to a lower middle-income country.

Vietnam has enjoyed strong economic growth. Since 1990, Vietnam's GDP per capita growth has been among the fastest in the world, averaging 6.4 percent a year in the 2000s. Despite uncertainties in the global environment, Vietnam's economy remains resilient. The country's medium-term outlook remains favorable, with GDP expanding by 6 percent in 2016, while the country's fundamental drivers of growth – resilient domestic demand and export oriented manufacturing – remain in force.

11 January 2018

Growth has been equitable—with a dramatic reduction in poverty—and social outcomes have improved significantly. In 1993, over half of the population lived on less than \$1.90-a-day. Today, the rate of such extreme poverty has fallen to 3 percent. The proportion of the population living below the national poverty line (GSO-WB Poverty line) reached 13.5 percent in 2014—down from close to 60 percent in 1993. More than 40 million people escaped poverty over the course of two decades.

Vietnam has made significant advances in the provision of basic services. The Vietnamese population today is more educated and healthier than twenty years ago—and these advances are enjoyed across society. Learning outcomes are high, including in primary school. Infant and under-five mortality rates have been significantly reduced in the last twenty years, down to 19 and 24 mortalities per thousand births in 2012, respectively. Stunting also significantly decreased, from 61 percent in 1993 to 23 percent in 2012. Life expectancy at birth is now 76 years, an improvement from 71 years in 1993.

Access to basic infrastructure has also improved substantially. Significant progress were charted from 1993 to 2012. For example, at least 99 percent of the population now use electricity as their main source of lighting compared to 14 percent more than twenty years ago. More than 67 percent of the rural population now enjoy access to sanitation facilities, and more than 61 percent have access to clean water, compared to only 36 percent and 17 percent, respectively, two decades earlier.

Yet development challenges and limitations remain for Vietnam. Poverty gains are fragile and a significant portion of the population, particularly in rural areas and among ethnic minorities, is vulnerable to falling back into poverty.

The contribution of productivity growth – the main driver of GDP expansion in the 1990s – has declined over the last ten years. As the growth of the labor force slows, the growth of labor productivity will not likely deliver the growth rates Vietnam aspires to achieve.

At the same time, while broad macroeconomic stability remains, some vulnerabilities, including fiscal imbalances and unresolved asset quality problems in the banking sector, require attention. A stronger domestic private sector can also serve as an engine for growth, as would accelerated reforms in the SOE sector.

Urbanization can fuel higher growth, but achieving urban agglomeration requires an update of the current urbanization model. Significant investments over recent decades have made headway, but more productive infrastructure, particularly in energy, transport, water, sanitation, and telecommunication, are needed. Continued modernization of the agriculture sector is also key, as agriculture will remain an important driver for growth and poverty reduction in Vietnam for years to come.

The Government of Vietnam continues to show commitment to reforms. Vietnam's 2011 – 2020 Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) – a 10 year strategy – highlights the need for structural reforms, environmental sustainability, social equity and emerging issues of macroeconomic stability. It defines three "breakthrough areas": (i) promoting skills development, particularly for modern industry and innovation; (ii) improving market institutions, and (iii) further infrastructure development. The Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for 2016-2020, approved in April 2016, acknowledges the slow progress on certain policy priorities and emphasizes the need to accelerate reforms

Source: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/vietnam/overview>

## **The National Assembly of Vietnam**

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The National Assembly of Vietnam is unicameral. 493 deputies, of whom at least 25% must be full-time, are elected for a term of 5 years.

### **Elections**

Each province, or city directly under central government rule, comprises one or more constituencies that elect up to 3 deputies each. The Standing Committee of the National Assembly, in consultation with the Vietnam Fatherland Front, assigns the number of deputies to be elected from political, socio-political and social organisations, the armed forces and national and local state agencies. It also proposes quotas for the number of women and ethnic minority deputies. Voters have as many votes as there are candidates in their constituency. The number of candidates must exceed the number of seats to be filled. Deputies are elected by simple majority, provided they receive more than half the number of votes cast. If the full number of deputies is not elected, a second round is held. A second round may also be held if only half or fewer of the voters voted. Voters must be citizens aged 18 years or over. Candidates must be citizens aged 21 years or over. Candidates are nominated by political, socio-political and social organisations, the armed forces and national and local state agencies, or may be independent.

### **Leadership**

The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the National Assembly are elected by and from among the deputies. The current Chairman is Hon. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan. The Standing Committee of the National Assembly comprises the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Assembly and other members. Its powers include:

- calling and presiding over elections to the National Assembly;
- convening and presiding over sessions of the National Assembly;
- interpreting the constitution and the laws;
- exercising supervision and control over the activities of the government, the Supreme People's Court and the People's Councils;
- directing the activities of National Assembly committees and ensuring good working conditions for the deputies;
- proclaiming a state of emergency in the country or a region.

All the deputies from a province or a city directly under central government rule form a delegation. Each delegation is staffed by full-time deputies and has its own budget and headquarters.

### **Legislative process**

Bills may be presented to the National Assembly by, among others, the government, the Standing Committee and other committees of the National Assembly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and individual deputies. Bills must be sent to the relevant Assembly committee for evaluation at least 30 days before the opening of the Assembly, and be sent to all deputies at least 20 days before. Public comment may be solicited, depending on the bill's nature. Bills may be considered in one or in two sessions. They may be discussed by the delegations and groups of deputies before consideration in plenary meetings and may be revised at any stage in the procedure. A bill is adopted by majority vote of the deputies.

### **Committees**

Nine committees and the Nationalities Council are established by statute. Committees evaluate bills, ordinances and other legal documents, and oversee their implementation once in force. They make recommendations related to policy issues and to the organisation and operation of the agencies within their field of activity, and verify the state budget estimates. Committees can conduct

investigations and call for witnesses and documents. They also have the responsibility to receive citizens' complaints and denunciations and oversee their settlement. The Nationalities Council has the same powers and responsibilities as the committees, and additionally the government must consult with it over policies relating to ethnic minorities.