



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund



WORLD BANK GROUP

Global Parliamentary Conference Draft Concept Note and Programme

16-17 April 2018

Washington DC

Context

The global development agenda in the coming 15 years will be carried out in many ways; local citizens, private sector actors, national parliaments and legislators, government bodies, and international organisations all have a substantial role to play in harnessing and facilitating results so that we can achieve poverty eradication and macroeconomic stability. Whether mitigating climate change, ensuring equal opportunities for all, or creating prospects for sustained livelihood, the SDGs' framework necessitates active engagement and a knowledge-building process for and from parliamentarians across nations.

Parliamentarians, as community leaders, are driven to make a difference and impact the lives of others. Being at the heart of domestic legislation and responsible for providing scrutiny to government policy, they ensure development outcomes are efficient, effective, and achievable.

Description

The Global Parliamentary Conference (GPC) represents a unique assembly of national legislators and development institutions, an event dedicated to crucial questions in international development finance, including economic stability, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and, more generally, pushing international development initiatives to new heights of awareness and potential.

The GPC, organized together with the World Bank Group (WBG) and the IMF, is the Parliamentary Network's flagship event. It brings together more than 150 parliamentarians from approximately 100 countries, leaders from civil society and partner organizations, and top officials from a number of international financial institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and other regional development banks. Keynote speakers include the Managing Director of the IMF and the President of the World Bank Group. The event is hosted by the World Bank Group and IMF in Washington DC, USA.

The focus is on a range of issues from fighting inequality through job-creation and growth, tackling corruption in government and the private sector, growth prospects and challenges for Sub-Saharan Africa, fighting climate change, eliminating energy subsidies, and building inclusive institutions and parliaments. Discussions will look at how parliamentary involvement can be harnessed, fostered and strengthened, as well as how to foster continuous and parliamentary involvement in the SDGs implementation process a long-term reality.

Programme as of 4 April 2018

Background

Founded in 2000, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF is an independent, non-governmental organization that provides a platform for Parliamentarians from WBG and IMF member countries to advocate for increased accountability and transparency in development cooperation. It provides a platform for MPs to share knowledge, to hold their own governments, as well as International Financial Institutions, to account for development outcomes.

Programme

| Venue | Address |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| World Bank Group Headquarters (WB HQ) | 1818 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20433 USA |

| Monday, 16 April 2018 | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 8:00 am – 8:45 am | <i>Registration and Continental breakfast</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 8:45 am – 9:30 am | Welcome address Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeremy Lefroy MP, UK, Chair, The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF• Sheila Redzepi, Vice President, External and Corporate Relations, World Bank Group• Gerry Rice, Director, Communications Department, IMF | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 9:30 am – 10:20 am | Platform for Collaboration on International Taxation: What Members of Parliament Need to Know <i>The Platform for Collaboration on Tax is a joint effort launched in April 2016 by the IMF, OECD, UN, and the World Bank Group. It is designed to intensify the cooperation between these organizations on tax issues and discuss the design and implementation of international tax standards, as well as the provision of capacity-building support to developing countries. The Platform is tasked with helping developing countries implement the measures developed under the G20/OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project (BEPS). In this session, representatives from the IMF and World Bank will provide an update on the work of the Platform, and what are the next steps for fair international taxation initiatives.</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 10:20 am – 10:50 am | Rising Debt in Low-Income Developing Countries <i>A new IMF report shows government debt in some of the world's poorest countries is rising to risky levels. The report looks at the</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| | <p><i>prospects for economic development in the world's low-income countries, which account for a fifth of the world's population but only 4 percent global output. The drivers of the debt build-ups vary across countries. They include shocks—the sharp drop in commodity prices of 2014, natural disasters, civil conflict—as well as high levels of public spending that were not linked to financing productive public investment. This session offers MPs some insight into the problem of rising debt, as well as practical advice on what actions might be taken.</i></p> | |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | <p>Special session with the leadership of the IMF and the World Bank Group</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mme Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF • Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremy Lefroy MP, UK, Chair, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 12:10 pm – 1:10 pm | <p>Good for women, good for development: policies to empower women and girls</p> <p><i>Women's economic empowerment is important in its own right but it also supports the macroeconomy. Nevertheless, worldwide gaps remain in the labor market, political representation, and economic opportunities. Financial inclusion and technology can be powerful means to promote women's entrepreneurship. Gender responsive budgeting and other macroeconomic policies can also work towards gender equality, and therefore foster economic development.</i></p> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 1:10 pm – 1:20 pm | Group photo | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 1:20 pm – 2:00 pm | <i>Lunch</i> | Venue: World Bank Atrium |
| 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm | <p>Global Economic Outlook</p> <p><i>Global economic activity continues to firm up. The pickup in growth over 2017 was broad based, with notable upside surprises in Europe and Asia. In January, the IMF revised upward its global growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019, reflecting increased global growth momentum and the expected impact of the U.S. tax policy changes. The session will provide an overview of the current state of the global economy and the prospects for continued improvement. Other factors affecting the global economy, including how gains from productivity growth can be shared across a globalized economy; how shifts in global manufacturing activity might affect global trade flows; and how labor force participation could change in the coming years, will also be discussed in this session.</i></p> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Maximizing Finance for Development Role of the Private sector <i>Maximizing resources for developing countries to lift people out of poverty, while minimizing the burden of public debt requires several approaches. Parliamentarians play a crucial role in the right policies to enable more private sector investment. Furthermore, they have can set up legislation to facilitate market creation for investors. Finally, they have to work with development partners, who can provide funding, expertise, and financial instruments to de-risk projects and sectors.</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 3:00 pm – 3:20 pm | <i>Coffee break</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 3:20 pm – 4:00 pm | Fragility, Conflict and Violence: how do we overcome the curse? <i>Violent conflict has spiked dramatically since 2010, and the fragility landscape is becoming more complex. Climate change, rising inequality, demographic change, new technologies, illicit financial flows and other global trends may also create fragility risks. Both low- and middle-income countries are affected by fragility risks, some far away from where the problems start. Stronger collaboration with humanitarian, development, peace and security partners is critical for delivery in challenging environments. This session will look at what parliamentarians can do to remedy conflict and violence in the first place, and be part of effective solutions in the reconstruction process (Placeholder description – to be modified).</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Good Governance and the Role of Legislators <i>In recent years, citizens have shown growing distrust in governments and public institutions. Corruption is a key factor that has influenced this phenomenon. To combat corruption, there is growing momentum for initiatives that encourage greater transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. Despite the engagement of many international, national, public, private and other actors, results have been mixed. This session will offer global perspectives on corruption, and discuss the role of parliamentarians in promoting transparency and governance.</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm | High level Plenary Session for Speakers of Parliaments | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm | Reception | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |

Tuesday, 17 April 2018 Parliamentary Symposium on Jobs

| | | |
|-----------|--|---------------------|
| 8:45 am – | Setting the Scene: Challenges of Youth Employment today – | Venue: World |
|-----------|--|---------------------|

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 9:00 am | discussion between MPs, Youth Entrepreneurs and Jobs Experts Moderator: Jeremy Lefroy MP, UK, Chair, The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF | Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 8:55 am – 9:00 am | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeremy Lefroy MP, UK, Chair, The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 9:00 am – 9:30 am | Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kristalina Georgieva, CEO, World Bank | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 9:30 am – 9:45 am | Setting the Context: The Future of Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shanta Devarajan, Acting Chief Economist on the upcoming World Development Report on The Future of Work, World Bank Group | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 9:45 am – 9:50 am | Guest Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gabriela Cuevas Barron, Senator, Mexico and President, Inter-Parliamentary Union | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 9:55 am – 10:30 pm | Round Table Session: How to achieve Full Employment by 2030? <i>By signing off the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Member governments committed, in Goal 8, Target 5, to achieve “full employment by 2030...” In launching a new campaign for urgent action on youth employment, this morning’s session will allow PNWB members to hear from leading youth job creation thinkers and practitioners, and raise questions, one-on-one, with them about the obstacles they face in achieving this SDG.</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 10:30 pm – 12:00 pm | <i>PN Members and Panellists can bring coffee to their Round Table between sessions</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 10:30 am – 10:55 am | 1st Round Table Discussion: <i>Panellists + other youth job creation experts discuss with PN members what action delivers decent job creation and how to achieve urgent action from stake-holders</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 10:55 am – 11:20 am | 2nd Round Table Discussion: <i>Panellists + experts move to another table and continue their discussions</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 11:20 am – 11:45 am | 3rd Round Table Discussion: <i>Panellists + experts move to a third table and continue their discussions</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |
| 11:45 am – 12:15 pm | Panellists summarise what they have learned from the PN members: <i>Panellists + experts will take notes of every idea and comment from PN members that impress them on each table they visit – and then return to the platform to feed back to the audience what they have learned from the morning’s discussions and offer ideas for Next Steps and what the campaign should focus upon.</i> | Venue: World Bank HQ Preston Auditorium |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm | <i>Lunch</i> | Venue: World Bank Atrium |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Tuesday, 17 April 2018 Global Parliamentary Conference Discussion Sessions | | |
|---|--|--|

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| | <i>Participants can choose one of the thematic sessions:</i> | | |
| 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm | <p>Illicit Financial Flows</p> <p>IFFs refer to illegal movements of money from one country to another. It can take various forms, including trade misinvoicing, mainly between companies in different countries belonging to the same group to avoid paying taxes in higher tax jurisdictions; the use of shell companies; and drug and human trafficking. Generally, developing countries lose out more. MPs in both developed and developing countries need to do far more to stem the tide of IFFs. We need to discuss how we do this. Among the issues we can consider acquiring a detailed technical and other understanding of IFFs; monitoring progress on implementing Country-by-Country Reports and the Automatic Exchange of Information; ensuring the Implementation of the Financial Action Task Force’s anti-money laundering recommendations; ensuring the highest level of scrutiny by customs agencies of trade transactions involving tax havens; Progress towards disclosing the beneficial owners of mining operations and other information towards meeting the standards of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative by 2020; and working closely with civil society organisations focussing on this.</p> | <p>Democratising Global Economic Governance</p> <p>The key question is whether today’s global economic governance is appropriate to a world where challenges have become truly global, interconnected and less and less concentrated, a change that has been made even more evident by the global financial crisis and the ensuing economic and political crises in Europe and elsewhere. Some think that despite important and significant steps in the right direction, global economic governance still falls quite short of being up to the magnitude of today’s challenges and problems. Others think that the Global Economic Governance System is still non democratic and too concentrated in the hands of a few traditional players despite huge shifts in the balances of powers on the World economic scene. National considerations still drive the work of institutions that are supposed to manage a globalized supra-national economic system.</p> | Venue: World Bank |

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| 3:30 pm – 3:40 pm | <i>Break</i> | | Venue: World Bank |
| 3:40 pm – 5:00 pm | <p>Reining in Protectionism to Boost Global Growth</p> <p>Protectionism refers to restrictions on the free trade between countries that has become such an important feature of globalisation and has contributed so much to global economic growth and reducing inequalities. These restrictions include tariffs on imported goods, restrictive quotas, and other regulations that seek to protect a country's domestic industries from foreign competition. Since 2008 there has been a creeping protectionism globally and this has become evident in recent years, especially with the new “America First” policy of President Donald Trump, Brexit, and the rise of parties supporting protectionist policies in elections in Europe and elsewhere. What should our response as MPs to this be? Among the issues we could discuss are firmly embedding trade as an integral part of our economies; opposing protectionist measures that distort trade; and sure governments adhere to global trade governance.</p> | <p>Moving ahead on the Paris Agreement</p> <p>On November the 4th 2016, the Paris Agreement entered into force. Setting their political and economic differences aside, the 193 parties agreed to reduce their gas emission to restraint global warming within the scope of 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. In order to fulfil their commitments, governments will have to work closely with civil society and to cooperate with both the public and the private sectors, civil society and communities. At the very heart of this joint effort, what role can parliaments play? Legislators can set the ratification of the Paris Agreement on top of the political agenda. Members of parliaments should collectively and individually endorse the core purpose of the Paris Agreement, being the action against climate change. On the national level, parliamentary committees should dedicate time and resources to evaluate and inquire about the energy and environmental policies implemented by the government.</p> | Venue: World Bank |