



**THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK**  
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

**GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE**  
**16-17 APRIL 2018 | WASHINGTON DC**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 16 and 17 April 2018, 124 Members of parliament from 58 countries attended the Global Parliamentary Conference (GPC) at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC. Co-organized with the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the GPC was dedicated to a range of issues from taxation and the global economic outlook to gender, fragility and good governance. This year's GPC included a special focus on youth employment with the Parliamentary Symposium on Youth Job Creation, co-organized with Peace Child International and the International Youth Foundation on April 17.

Parliamentarians had the occasion to discuss critical development topics during a special session with the President of the World Bank Group, Dr. Jim Yong Kim and the Managing Director of the IMF, Mme Christine Lagarde, both of whom insisted on the urgency of challenges which lie ahead of policymakers around the world. Mme Lagarde underlined that the optimistic growth forecast is an opportunity to advance structural reforms and increase growth potential: "When the sun is shining, you need to fix the roof". Dr. Kim concentrated on human development and the need to invest in health and education today to prepare the young for the rapidly changing world. Both engaged directly with the parliamentarians, touching upon the issues affecting growth and development such as refugee flows, innovative financing, subsidies, and human capital.

The questions of taxation and illicit financial flows were high on this year's Conference agenda. Fiscal redistribution and ability to raise enough revenue from domestic sources being one of the largest impediments to development in today's world, it is the only way to ensure healthy economic growth and enough resources for public investment in necessary areas: in this way, taxation is directly linked to development.

The critical role of parliaments in identifying key development priorities in their countries and overseeing their implementation was asserted during the Conference. Parliamentarians are the ones who have the power to shape the development trajectory of their countries, notably by promoting the right policies to enable more private sector investment and thus create more jobs – this was the reasoning behind the Parliamentary Symposium on Youth Job Creation.



*“Parliamentarians are invaluable partners of international financial institutions both in donor and recipient countries. They are the ones bringing the voices of citizens to the dialogue and ensuring accountability of those responsible for implementing policies” – Jill Wilkins, Director, Global Engagement & Partnerships, External and Corporate Relations, World Bank Group*

The Symposium on Youth Job Creation, opened by Kristalina Georgieva, CEO of the World Bank, gathered experts and practitioners in the field to share best practices and experiences during twelve interactive roundtables with members of parliament. Panelists at this event included notably Melanie Robinson, Executive Director of the World Bank for the United Kingdom; Louise Fox, Chief Economist, USAID; and Kevin Jacobs, Executive Vice-President and CFO, Hilton. Outdated educational systems, refugee flows, lack of financial literacy and inequality were listed as the primary obstacles to full employment. The Parliamentary Network together with Peace Child International presented the new Global Campaign for Youth Employment Booklet featuring contributions from ministers, NGOs, and private sector representatives. Final discussions demonstrated a keen interest to take the issue of youth job creation forward in the parliaments based on the strategies presented during the Symposium on Jobs and in the booklets.



*“The World Bank is an encyclopedia at your fingertips on questions related to fragility and conflict, and I encourage you to take advantage of it” – Betty McCollum, Congresswoman, USA*

*“When I became a parliamentarian, I realized what power we have to prevent corruption and increase efficiency” – Neila Tazi, Vice-President of the House of Councillors, Morocco*

Overall, this year’s Global Parliamentary Conference was dynamic and innovative, ensuring positive feedback from the parliamentarians. Several participants offered to take the initiatives further in their own parliaments, notably by adding new contributions and republishing the Booklet on Youth Employment in their respective countries and organizing thematic working groups both on the Network and parliamentary levels. The report of the Conference, due to be published in May 2018, will contain a full account of the ideas and initiatives introduced during these two days. The parliamentarians will be invited to share their results during the Parliamentary Workshop at the 2018 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the IMF in Bali, Indonesia.

