



Parliamentary breakfast meeting

June 28, 2018

Paris, France

On Thursday June 28, 2018, the representatives of the Parliamentary Network and the World Bank Group met with parliamentarians from Foreign affairs, European affairs, Law, and Culture committees of the French National Assembly to present the work of the two organizations and discuss the opportunities for collaboration and engagement with the French Parliament.

The members of parliament were keen to learn about the World Bank's objectives and activities in its client countries, and explore the possibilities for engagement with the international financial institutions offered by the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF. After presentations by Mario Sander, Special Representative and Director for Europe, World Bank Group; Hon. Jeremy Lefroy, MP, United Kingdom, and Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF; Nayé Bathily, Head of Parliamentary Engagement, World Bank Group; and Olivier Lavinal, Manager of the Global Concessional Financing Facility, parliamentarians expressed their interest in joining the Network and receiving thematic briefings on issues of international concern from the World Bank experts.

Hon. Jeremy Lefroy invited all present members of the French parliament to engage with the Network and join its Working group on youth employment to research and debate new ideas and strategies for youth job creation. Hon. Céline Calvez, MP, France presented the new World Bank Young MPs Initiative, which she leads, as a continuation of the Network's Working group which aims to mobilize young parliamentarians to engage collectively in creating new opportunities and increasing political participation of youth worldwide.

“Supporting development initiatives through the World Bank brings stability and respect of human rights, and reduces forced displacement around the world. Parliamentary work on this is crucial both for us and our partner countries. ”

- Hon. Jeremy Lefroy, MP, UK; Chair, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

Members of parliamentary friendship groups were particularly interested in the Network's ability to connect and bring together parliamentarians from all over the world through its conferences, field visits and study tours. The friendship group France - South Sudan, represented during the meeting by its President, Ms. Annie Chapelier, could benefit from the privileged relationship between the Parliamentary Network and the Parliament of South Sudan. Following a recent conference dedicated to the Sahel region that took place at the National Assembly, participants expressed their desire to connect with lawmakers in these countries through the Network to collaborate on issues concerning women's rights. They underlined their responsibility to explain to their constituents why it is important to support development initiatives through multilateral institutions such as the World Bank.

