GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE 2015
April 12 - 13, 2015 | Preston Auditorium

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. The Network – via its international secretariat, regional and country chapters – reaches thousands of parliamentarians in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. It strives to increase transparency and accountability in the development cooperation process by fostering the oversight role of parliaments and civil society. The Network has a specific focus on multilateral aid and a sub-focus on the work and modus operandi of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the world’s largest multilateral funders. It provides a platform for MPs to hold to account their own governments, as well as International Financial Institutions, for development outcomes.

The Parliamentary Network has unique access to the World Bank Group and the IMF and many activities are undertaken in partnership with these two institutions, including its Global Conference, which also doubles as its General Assembly.

DESCRIPTION

The Global Conference is the Parliamentary Network’s flagship event. This edition is hosted by the World Bank Group and the IMF at their headquarters in Washington DC brings together some 200 parliamentarians from about 100 countries, leaders from civil society and partner organizations, and top officials from the World Bank Group and the IMF. The Global Conference is an opportunity to identify the Network’s policy foci for the upcoming years. The agenda – which runs over two days – brings stimulating and informative sessions as well as many opportunities for discussion. Past Keynote speakers include the Presidents of Brazil, Indonesia and Senegal. Previous participants attending the Global Conference engaged with the President of the World Bank Group, the Managing Director of the IMF, Nobel Economics Laureates, CSOs, academia, and private sector representatives.
CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

With the approaching Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) deadline in 2015, attention is turning to how to create a long-term framework for improving people’s lives and ensuring sustainable development for the generations to come. This post-2015 development agenda is expected to tackle many issues, including ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, and combating climate change.

The post-2015 framework has to build on the achievements of the MDGs, concentrating on what still needs to be done. The next framework for poverty reduction and growth should be based on principles such as sustainability, equity, and accountability, and transparency in government and policy objectives.

Parliamentarians must focus on the remaining tasks and future challenges facing international development. As both instigators and scrutinizers of the national budgets affecting development outcomes, Parliamentarians have a particular role in shaping new frameworks for development. This meeting will allow them to regenerate commitment and build up political will for action. Therefore, it is vital that Parliamentarians lead a well-informed and knowledge-based development process.

This year’s Conference agenda focuses on: (i) Twin goals of boosting shared prosperity and eradicating poverty, and macroeconomic stability; (ii) Transparency and governance and (iii) gender equity. By focusing on these three areas, the Parliamentary Network aims to: (i) increase Parliamentarians’ knowledge of these individual subject matters, push for legislations and reforms in key areas; (ii) underline Parliamentarians’ roles in improving these areas in their respective countries; and (iii) look at how international development partners such as the World Bank Group and IMF can support them in this task.
## APRIL 12, 2015

### 07:30 - 08:30  BADGE PICK-UP

World Bank Group Headquarters (1818 H. Street, NW)

### 09:00 - 11:00  GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

- Welcome the Board of the Parliamentary Network
- Update on the Network by PN Board Members
- Board Elections

### 11:00 - 12:00  PARLIAMENTARY ORGANISATIONS

Potential collaboration with the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

**MC: Nathan Nandala-Mafabi, MP, Uganda, PN Board Member**

### 12:00 - 13:15  LUNCH

### 13:30 - 14:00  WELCOME ADDRESS

Speakers:

- **Cyril Muller**, Vice President for External Affairs and Corporate Relations, World Bank Group
- **Gerry Rice**, Director for Communications, IMF

**MC: Pana Pappas Merchant, Senator, Canada, PN Board Member**
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ATTAINING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Financing a post-2015 development has to attract aid from diverse sources, give emphasis to domestic resource mobilization, and maximise on the potential of the private sector. Furthermore, the success of global development cooperation requires good policies (and the capacity to implement them), and dependable institutions to take full advantage of scarce resources and mobilise additional resources from domestic and foreign, public and private sources. Parliamentarians have a responsibility to monitor not only their respective governments but also the work of the multilateral financing institutions to ensure effective development finance. Especially Parliaments in developing countries need to be empowered so as to enable them to cope better with increasing responsibilities.

Speakers:

- Bertrand Badré, Managing Director & Chief Financial Officer, World Bank Group
- Sean Nolan, Deputy Director, Strategy, Policy, & Review Dept., IMF
- Jin Yong-Cai, Executive Vice President, IFC, World Bank Group

Moderator:

- Davor Ivo Stier, MEP, Croatia, Rapporteur of the European Parliament on the “Global Development Framework after 2015”

MC: Yusuf Zy Irbec, MP, Turkey, PN Board Member

15:30 - 15:45 | COFFEE BREAK
A good health system delivers quality services to all people. How this is done will depend on individual country situations, but in all cases requires a robust financing mechanism, a well-trained workforce, and facilities to deliver quality medicines and technologies. Recent outbreaks of infectious diseases such as Ebola have threatened health and economic security. International organizations and governments have responded by strengthening their responses to these crises. In this context, Parliamentarians can channel international funds towards strengthening the health care sector, including infrastructure and training for health workers, and establishing of preventative measures of disease control. They can also push for legislation which aims at building stronger healthcare infrastructure, equitable access to healthcare, and insurance systems.

Speakers:

- **Tim Evans**, Senior Director, Health Nutrition & Population, World Bank Group
- **Sanjeev Gupta**, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs, IMF

Discussant:

- **Mette Kinoti**, Vice President for Africa, Helen Keller International

Moderator:

- **Ousmane Kaba**, MP, Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Finance, Planning and Cooperation, Guinea

**MC:** **Goran Pettersson**, MP, Sweden, PN Board Member
### GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN THE POST-2015 AGENDA

Increasing women’s participation in the economy can increase profitability and contribute to shared prosperity. However, women have less access to equal employment opportunities and capital to grow their businesses. Opportunities exist to help increase the political will and secure the resources needed to improve gender equality and provide broader economic benefits to societies. Parliament has a responsibility to ensure equal treatment of all citizens. Parliamentarians, through their oversight function have a mandate to require equal treatment of citizens irrespective of gender. Thus parliamentary oversight on gender issues is fundamental to achieving equality.

Speakers:

- Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP, Speaker of Parliament, Bangladesh
- Caren Grown, Senior Director for Gender, World Bank Group
- Kalpana Kochhar, Deputy Director, Asia & Pacific Dept, IMF

Discussant: Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir, MP, Former Minister of Interior, Iceland, Member of WIP

Moderator: Betty McCollum, Member of Congress, USA

MC: Egidijus Vareikis, MP, Lithuania, PN Board Member

### GALA RECEPTION

Location: IMF HQ2 Atrium, 1900 Pennsylvania Avenue

Speakers:

- Rhoda Weeks-Brown, Deputy Director, Communications Dept, IMF
- Serge Dupont, Executive Director, IMF
- Chileshe Kapwepwe, Executive Director, IMF
## CURRENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CHALLENGES, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND INEQUALITY

The uneven economic recovery has had a tremendous impact on the global employment situation. Almost 202 million people were unemployed in 2013 around the world. Most of the increase in global unemployment is in the East Asia and South Asia regions, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. Together with the uneven recovery, income inequality and capital distribution is rising, which can destabilize the political and economic outlook in many countries. This session will explore policy solutions and the role of Parliament to fight against inequalities. Members of Parliament have to be a driving force for democratic governance and institutions and to address the key obstacles to a more balanced global economic growth by guaranteeing equal opportunities, social protection and rights to women and girls in particular, and the young more generally.

**Speakers:**

- Makhtar Diop, Vice President for Africa, World Bank Group
- Prakash Loungani, Advisor, Research Department, IMF

**Disassent:** Yunus Carrim, MP, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, South Africa

**Moderator:** Anglu Farrugia, Speaker of Parliament, Malta

**MC:** Alain Destexhe, Senator, Belgium, PN Board Member
The post-2015 framework has to focus on natural resource management as well as local and global environmental challenges. Managing environmental risk and building resilience will be crucial for inclusive and sustainable development. Interactions between food, water and energy security have to be taken into account. At the climate summit in December 2015 in Paris, 196 countries will meet to work out a climate change agreement, which could potentially offer a new framework for addressing climate change that accommodates development and growth objectives. Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to help build the political will required, and to create the momentum needed to push for environmental sustainability. They can do so through enabling policies such as long-term fiscal incentives and transparent regulatory frameworks, pushing for the necessary resource allocations and engaging with constituents to build support for such initiatives.

Speakers:

- **Jane Ebinger**, Chief Technical Specialist, Climate Change, World Bank Group
- **Ian Parry**, Principal Environmental Expert, IMF
- **Amy Larkin**, Vice-Chair, Global Agenda Council on Climate Change, World Economic Forum

Discussant: **Patricia Beneke**, Regional Director for North America, UNEP

Moderator: **Cedric Frolick**, MP, President of GLOBE, Chairman for Committee on Oversight and ICT, South Africa

*MC: Tarun Vijay, MP, India, PN Board Member*
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12:00 - 13:00  SPECIAL SESSION WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP AND IMF

-  Mme Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, IMF
-  Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank Group

Moderator: Jeremy Lefroy, Chair, Parliamentary Network

13:00 - 13:15  GROUP PHOTO

13:30 - 15:00  LUNCH

Remarks by Carla Grasso, Deputy Managing Director, IMF

15:00 - 16:30  BUILDING MORE OPEN, EFFECTIVE, AND ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS

The post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals must include more effective, open and accountable institutions. Transparent and accountable organizations at both, the national and international level, can improve effectiveness in poverty eradication and enhance efforts that are responsive to the true needs of beneficiaries. This session will examine the role of information, citizen empowerment and effective institutions, as well as the role legislators can play in enhancing transparency. It will also look at strengthening MPs’ access to research and information, as well as parliamentary oversight activities, and building the capacity of parliamentary staff.

Speakers:
-  Caroline Heider, Director General and Senior Vice President, IEG, World Bank Group
-  Hugh Bredenkamp, Deputy Director, Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, IMF
-  Kenneth Wollack, President, NDI
-  Mario Marcel Cullell, Sr Director, Governance, World Bank Group
-  Katherine Baer, Chief, Revenue Administration Division, IMF

Discussant: Christiaan (Chrik) Poortman, Senior Adviser, Transparency International

Moderator: Tinatin Khidasheli, MP, Committee on Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Chair for the Georgia-EU Parliamentary Cooperation Commission, Georgia

MC: Newly elected PN Board Member
16:30 - 17:00 | CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Newly elected PN Board Member
- Jill Wilkins, Manager, Global Engagement, World Bank Group
- Sabina Bhatia, Chief, Public Affairs, IMF

CONTACTS

- Gergana Ivanova
  Programme Officer
  The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF
  Tel. +33 (0)1 40 69 30 55
  Mobile +33 (0)6 42 52 92 45
  givanova@parlnet.org
  www.parlnet.org

- Nayé A. Bathily
  Lead, Parliamentary Relations, Global Engagement, World Bank Group
  Mobile +1 202 247 7447 and +33 (0)6 23 30 66 96
  nbathily@worldbankgroup.org
  www.worldbank.org/parliamentarians

- Glenn Gottselig
  Senior Communications Officer, Public Affairs Division, IMF
  Tel. +1 202 623 717
  Mobile: +1 202 651 0972
  ggottselig@imf.org
The Parliamentary Network’s mission is to provide a platform for parliamentarians around the globe to advocate for increased accountability and transparency in International Financial Institutions and multilateral development financing.