



PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK

PNoWB contribution to the UK International Development Committee Inquiry into the World Bank

1 March 2011

The United Kingdom House of Commons International Development Committee has published a [report following the Inquiry into the effectiveness of the World Bank Group](#), launched on 9 September 2010. The Inquiry also looked at the 16th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA); the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings and possible reforms of the institutions and their new priorities; and the way the World Bank involves Parliamentarians and others in developing countries. These include:

- improvements in the Bank's procurement process;
- an open and meritocratic process for selecting the current President's successor;
- a more equitable allocation of voting shares for developing countries;
- the Independent Evaluation Group to be strengthened;
- the promotion of girls' education as an early priority for IDA16;
- affordable energy access for the poor.

In December 2010, the World Bank announced that [international donors have committed US\\$49.3 billion to IDA16](#), an increase of 17.3% on the US\$41.7 billion agreed for IDA15. The UK is one of the greatest contributors to IDA, and committed to an average of £888 million for each of the three years of IDA16 (a total of £2.7 billion). This represents 15.6% of the total donor pledges or 12% of the total target for donor contributions.

The purpose of the Inquiry is to highlight a certain number of priority areas, on which the World Bank should improve during IDA16. In [its response to the Inquiry, PNoWB highlighted](#) that the Bank's engagement with Parliamentarians and civil society actors in developing countries varies from country to country.

"...from nil, to one or two informal hosted luncheons and an annual briefing session, to more consistent, deeper involvement in CSP [Country Strategic Plan] planning. However, Parliamentarians and civil society are often completely absent during key stages of CSP and programme evaluation, results measurement, reporting and follow-up on World Bank-funded programmes in a country, and during global-level thematic evaluations. ..."

The report takes note of the important work PNoWB does with Parliamentarians, especially in developing countries, to encourage greater engagement between the Bank and national Parliaments. This was the reason why PNoWB received funding by DFID for the past two years. The International Development Committee hopes that DFID, *"alongside other donors will continue to provide funding to PNoWB"*.

Furthermore, to promote transparency and improve Parliamentary scrutiny, the report asks that *"Members [of Parliament] be given the opportunity to debate more fully the key decisions taken by the Bank, which will continue to receive substantial amounts of funding from the UK. As a start and in view of the large sums of money involved, we recommend that the draft order to approve the UK's contribution to the IDA16 replenishment be debated on the floor of the House"*.

PNoWB fully supports the conclusions of the report and encourages the World Bank to take its recommendations on board throughout IDA16 as well as future IDA replenishment cycles.

PNoWB International Secretariat

66, Avenue d'Iéna 75116 Paris, France
T +33 (0)1 40 69 30 55 / F +33 (0)1 40 69 31 64
E-mail : secretariat@pnowb.org
Check our website at <http://www.pnowb.org>