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Jeremy Lefroy, UK

## Chairman's Column

Some twenty members of the Parliamentary network attended the seminars organised in Washington DC to coincide with the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF. As well as understanding more of how the WB and IMF are seeking to improve their operations - for instance with greater transparency and by tackling fraud and corruption - we learned of the important changes to the WB's goals: to end extreme poverty by 2030 and to promote shared prosperity.

I would like to thank Gergana Ivanova and Lola Aliaga of the Parliamentary Network for their work in arranging the visit as well as WB and IMF staff for their invaluable assistance.

The goal of shared prosperity is very important and it is articulated through seeking to foster income growth among the bottom 40 per cent of the population.

One of the most important ways to do this is by concentrating on creating employment and tackling the causes of unemployment. The Parliamentary Network has made it a priority to support its members in the work they are doing in their own countries. When I met the World Bank President, Dr Jim Kim, he confirmed how important he considered this work to be.

I thought I would share with you a little of my experience as a parliamentarian. When I was elected for the constituency of Stafford, UK, in 2010, I joined with other local people to establish an organisation called Stafford Works with the aim of assisting people in my area in their search for work. Of course, there is much work being done by government on this and we seek to complement rather than duplicate it.

So we run Job Clubs for people seeking work. There they receive help with skills such as writing CVs and preparing for interviews. We also encourage them in their search as many people who are out of work have lost self-confidence. We can also make them aware of job opportunities which I come across through my work as an MP and which may not be widely advertised.

Every few months, we work with others to run jobs fairs where job seekers and companies searching for staff come together. The work extends to helping those who wish to become self-employed to find the best sources of advice and finance.

Does it work? Many of those who have attended jobs clubs are now in work. Even if the job club did not find them that work (and in some cases it did), they tell us that the confidence and skills they acquired helped them to secure it.

I would very much like to learn of the experiences of other members so that we can share them in future editions of the newsletter.

Field visits to see the work of the World Bank and IMF are an important part of the Network's activities. The next two will be in Peru and in West Africa. For more information about this I suggest that you contact Gergana Ivanova.

Finally, may I urge members to do what they can to ensure that the IDA 17<sup>th</sup> replenishment is a success. The IDA funds vital work in countries with the lowest incomes. The article on page 16 gives more details.

May I wish all members of the Network well in their vital work for those whom they represent as we come to the end of 2013.



*Erik Hagström  
Editor of the PN's Newsletter*

*Send your articles and ideas to  
[erik.hagstrom@riksdagen.se](mailto:erik.hagstrom@riksdagen.se)*

## Introduction

You are reading the second PN Newsletter. I want to thank sincerely everyone who has contributed articles to this newsletter. This is an opportunity to communicate important information, lessons learned and experiences to the members of the Parliamentary Network.

In early October, six Board members and thirteen members of the PN attended the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF. The seminars provided a good opportunity for the Network's members to learn more about the World Bank's and IMF's work. But perhaps more importantly, the meeting was a good opportunity for the MPs to give candid feedback on the work of the organisations. You can find more about this in an article starting on page 3.

Göran Petterson MP (Sweden), board member of the PN, was invited as an international expert to a budget reform conference in Vietnam that took place in late September. Vietnam is undergoing an ambitious overhaul of their budget law and the practice of asking for international input into the reform process can serve as a good procedural example, and MP Petterson's participation can also serve as an example of how members of the Network can share their experiences around the world. More about the conference can be found on page 10.

Sandra Moscoso, representative of the World Bank Open Finances, Controller's Vice Presidency, has contributed an article (page 14) about how the Network's parliamentarians can leverage the World Bank Group's financial data to inform their work and to support their constituents.

The next newsletter will be published on January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to write a piece for that issue you are more than welcome to contact me with your ideas.

# Parliamentary Workshop - World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings - October 2013

*By Lola Aliaga*

*Junior Programme Officer of the PN*

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (the Parliamentary Network) participated with a delegation of six Board members and thirteen additional members in the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF, held in Washington D.C. from 8 to 11 October 2013. During this time, delegates took part in a parliamentary workshop, and met senior representatives from the World Bank and IMF and from non-governmental organizations.

At the outcome of the meetings, the Parliamentary Network's Board issued a Press Release dated 10 October 2013. It expressed the Network's engagement to focus on employment and job creation, its support for the International Development Association (IDA)'s 17th replenishment, its request for more regular engagement of the World Bank and IMF with parliamentarians, and its commitment to ensure the right appropriation of development funds through tackling corruption and fraud.

A Parliamentary Workshop informed parliamentarians

about World Bank and IMF activities, and enabled them to exchange views with World Bank and IMF representatives.

The Parliamentary Network delegation also met with Colin Bruce, World Bank Director for Strategy, Operations and Regional Integration in Africa, in a bilateral meeting, as well as with representatives from the Bank Information Centre (BIC), Oxfam and the Association of African Women for Research and Development, in a civil society meeting.



## World Bank Presentations

### **New World Bank Strategy**

Barbara Lee, Manager of the World Bank Country and Operational Services outlined the new strategy introduced in the World Bank Group (WBG) by President Jim Yong Kim, to focus on two goals: ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The core belief of the

strategy is that there is a need to build synergies within the WBG. The reshaping aims to promote its expertise in knowledge and technical assistance, and present the institution as a knowledge bank. The WBG intends to engage with countries in a new way through learning and readjusting, adapting to specific contexts and taking smart risks.

MPs expressed doubts about whether this change could come about, and the capacity of the World Bank not to repeat the same mistakes it has made in the past. It was also emphasized that donors should focus on governance – rather than resource provision – in Africa.



### **IDA17 Replenishment**

Joachim Von Amsberg, Vice President of the World Bank Concessional Finance and Partnerships and Antonella Bassani, Director of the World Bank IDA Resource Mobilization, outlined the importance of the International Development Association (IDA) as “the World Bank’s fund for the poorest”, always responsive to countries’ specific needs. They urged parliamentarians from receiving countries to point out to their

donor countries colleagues the importance of funding the IDA. The IDA17 Replenishment will focus on inclusive growth, climate change, gender, and fragile states.

MPs called on the IDA to strive to show better results. WB representatives highlighted the IDA’s intention to enhance accountability and cost-effectiveness by including public disclosure of IDA costs and enabling more citizen feedback.

### **The WBG’s Anti-Corruption Work**

Stephen Zimmermann, Director for Operations of the World Bank Integrity Vice Presidency outlined the work of this unit charged with detecting, investigating and taking action against fraud and corruption in Bank-financed activities. The unit has created an International Corruption Hunters Alliance, with the intention of helping to coordinate this global fight against corruption. This entity is where complaints about corruption can be reported and dealt with accordingly.

The Parliamentary Network suggested that the World Bank President present a challenge to auditing firms, asking them to do more to report cases where fraud or corruption was suspected. MPs also brought up the issue of the system’s shortcoming in that the WBG cannot act against senior governmental officials guilty of corruption. They emphasized the potential strength of parliaments in tackling



government corruption, especially when opposition is strongly represented.

### **Open Financial Data and WBG Financial App**

Sandra Moscoso, representative of the World Bank Open Finances, Controller's Vice Presidency, outlined the World Bank's work since 2010 in opening up information about its knowledge, its activities, and the way these activities are carried out. The five broad themes for open financial data are:

- i) transparency;
- ii) supporting the bank's work;
- iii) big data;
- iv) making information accessible through working with civil society, the media and private sector;
- v) research.

Parliamentarians showed great interest in the WBG's open data work, and asked that people should be better informed about this open information, suggesting that World Bank country offices should assume this task. The Parliamentary Network's chair requested to have a session with parliamentarians in every country where the World Bank operates, to show them how the open data system functions. Some MPs pointed out the need of ensuring that ordinary people have access to this open data, suggesting that the World Bank should institute a programme to deepen their capacity to use this technological tool.

### **Operations and Regional Integration in Africa**

In a bilateral meeting with Colin Bruce, Director for Strategy of World Bank Operations and Regional Integration in Africa, parliamentarians discussed the World Bank's corporate goal to stop talking about poverty in Africa and start talking about wealth creation instead. Colin Bruce highlighted that the main instrument of the World Bank is its knowledge and analytical work. The priority areas in which the World Bank is applying its instruments and pursuing its goals in Africa are clean energy, infrastructure, and human development.

MPs urged the World Bank to work more closely with parliamentarians rather than using governments as their main counterparts in countries. Colin Bruce acknowledged that more has to be done to achieve the World Bank's intended multi-stakeholder approach. He emphasised, though, that the World Bank has an open door policy, for parliamentarians to engage directly with its representatives. Specific issues such as terrorism, brain drain, health, monitoring and evaluation, competition and the volatility of the economy were brought up by MPs. In his reply, Colin Bruce insisted that "the World Bank is not a world government" and that responsibility lies in national governments and societies in the first place.

## IMF Presentations

### **Global Economy, Overview and Challenges Ahead**

Emil Stavrev, RES IMF Deputy Division Chief presented growth projections for 2013-2014 as lower than expected. He identified a combination of old and new risks for the years to come.

Old risks concern the possibility that the Euro area's financial market stress reemerges as a result of incomplete delivery on policies, the potential downsides of the United States' near-term fiscal policy and increased market pressures and capital outflows.

New risks relate to the recent growth disappointments in emerging economies, which suffer from capital flow reversal, leading to high volatility. He argued that strengthened policy action is needed to revitalize growth.

The IMF's advice for advanced economies is to maintain monetary accommodation and address its potential side effects. In emerging economies, exchange rates should respond to underlying forces and the focus should be put on monetary and fiscal policy, and on financial stability.

MPs questioned the discrepancy between the IMF's position which has been oriented towards the short-term and the focus on the job creation it puts forward, which is a long-term issue. They highlighted the social

aspect of the economic downturn in Europe, pointing that the youth unemployment challenge goes beyond the sphere of the economy, as the region risks losing an entire generation.

### **Africa Outlook and Challenges**

Roger Nord, AFR IMF Deputy Director argued that it is not the prices of commodities that have been driving growth in Africa. What he identified as helpful factors for growth are: the diminution of high and volatile inflation, the decline in debt, higher levels of reserves in Central Banks and the diversification of the African economy. He also mentioned the role of increased aid, which provided countries with a new fiscal space. But most importantly, it was political reforms that had a positive impact on growth through the accountability and transparency they brought about. Therefore, strong growth in Africa in the last 20 years is not a commodity story. It is about relevant economic policies and building strong economic systems. Policies for the years to come must aim to counter the risk that natural resources inhibit diversification, respond to needs of inclusiveness, promote job creation, address infrastructure shortcomings and embrace cross-border collaboration.

The IMF's involvement in Sub Saharan Africa includes programs with concessional rates, through the Rapid Credit Facility. The IMF focuses on technical assistance in the

region through its regional technical assistance centers and training center. MPs discussed the question of resource management, building solid institutions and the issue of inclusiveness.

### **Women, work and the economy**

Kalpna Kochlar, SPR Deputy Director described women's role in the economy as a new topic for the IMF, initiated at the request of its managing director Christine Lagarde. Overall, women's participation rates have stagnated at low levels worldwide since 1990, although regionally Latin America's rate has risen while South Asia's has decreased.

There are several macroeconomic gains from rising women participation. Measures should be taken to replace family income with individual income taxation, and there should also be special tax credits and benefits put in place. She emphasized that the advice given in her study is not about disrespecting cultural norms but about leveling the field. "More women in the labor force at all costs are not our message", she insisted. MPs discussed women's capacity to reduce corruption.

Parliamentarians also expressed the need for a concrete implementation program aimed at increasing women participation, since abstract advice tends not to translate into actual policies.

## Civil Society Presentations

### **Civil Society and the Environment**

Kate Geary from Oxfam, Nezir Sinani from the Bank Information Centre (BIC) and Odile Ndoume from the Association of African Women for Research and Development respectively informed parliamentarians on World Bank safeguards, the climate change perspective, and gender and climate change issues. The safeguards, which are mandatory policies to ensure the social and environmental protection of World Bank projects, have come a long way since civil society started to push for them, as they are now seen as fundamental by the World Bank itself.

The impact that parliamentarians can have in their governments to defend acting upon climate change was strongly emphasised and the risks for climate change worsening gender inequalities were made explicit.



MPs discussed the question of the legitimate means for Africa to develop. Some MPs expressed the view that developing countries have the right to resort to polluting

development activities out of necessity, and that it is hypocritical for developed nations to require them to cancel such development projects. Others focused on how to find a balance between past responsibilities and future risks. The issue of worsened conditions for wood- and water-gathering due to climate change was discussed in a gender perspective, pointing to the cultural basis of certain societies hindering women emancipation.

### **Growth, Employment and Job Creation**

The Parliamentary Network delegation also attended a panel seminar on Policies for Growth and Jobs in Europe, which focused on the challenges for strengthening growth and rebuilding resilience in the region, including, in the short and medium term, the need to repair balance sheets in a growth-friendly way, and in the long term the reforms that are necessary to tackle the structural weaknesses its product and labor markets, financial markets, and institutional frameworks suffer from.

This seminar discussed the question of fairness versus efficiency in determining wage levels, and finding the right balance between the two.

In an internal session, the Parliamentary Network delegation discussed the Network's thematic focus on Employment and Job Creation through a case study from India presented by Board Member Tarun Vijay MP. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, sponsored by the Government of India, operates in 27 states aiming to enhance livelihood security in rural areas through providing wage employment to adults for unskilled manual work. This scheme is very successful, with more than 33% of its beneficiaries being women. As a result of this scheme, crime and alcohol consumption have significantly decreased, schooling rates have risen, and more households have had access to electricity.



## RESOURCES:

The **World Bank Open Data page** gathers data by country, by topic, on indicators, information on projects and operations, WBG publications, news, etc.

<http://data.worldbank.org/>

The **Mapping for Results** page visualizes the locations of World Bank-financed projects to better monitor development impact, improve aid effectiveness and coordination, and enhance transparency and social accountability.

<http://maps.worldbank.org/>

The **World Bank Group Finances Mobile Application 2.1** can be downloaded on Android, Iphone, Ipad and accessed via mobile web. It is free and enables users to access the WBG Finances portfolio of projects, finances and procurement data. Users can locate projects in their neighborhood, receive tender notices, follow businesses opportunities, get updates on pending projects, check the disbursement data, and engage with the World Bank.

[http://publications.worldbank.org/index.php?main\\_page=page&id=20](http://publications.worldbank.org/index.php?main_page=page&id=20)

The **World Bank Data blog** is aimed at discussing data and open data issues, informing about updates, and receiving comments.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/>

The **World Bank Integrity App** enables users to report concerns of fraud or corruption in Bank-financed projects, which are then handled by the World Bank Integrity Vice Presidency. Users can identify projects and submit a confidential report of their concerns. The World Bank Integrity App is initially available to download for IOS devices through the iTunes store.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/world-bank/id349081199?ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

(download)

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/category/tags/integrity-app> (information)

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDOI/Resources/Integrity\\_App\\_release.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDOI/Resources/Integrity_App_release.pdf)

(press release)

# The Orientation of State Budget Law Amendment in Vietnam – International Experience

By Erik Hagström  
Editor of the PN's Newsletter

Vietnam is currently reviewing its budget law in order to correct deficiencies in the law and budget process so that the budget can be better used as a tool for growth and a means for the country to tackle its challenges, such as poverty reduction. Reforming the budget law is no small thing, and Vietnam's political leadership has realized the importance of getting international input into the reform process.



*Prof. Dr. Nguyen Cong Nghiep,  
Permanent Deputy Minister of Finance*

With the assistance of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Vietnam, the Committee of Financial – Budgetary Affairs of the National Assembly and the Ministry of Finance, on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, arranged the workshop, “Orientation of State Budget Law Amendment – International

Experience”. During the conference, international experts shared their experiences regarding budget law reform. Thus, the conference provided an interesting example of how a country facing an upcoming substantial and technical reform can take the help of international experts and learn from their mistakes and successes.



*Emeralda Resort, Ninh Binh Province*

The existing State Budget Law of Vietnam was ratified by the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in its 11<sup>th</sup> Session, in 2002. After 9 years of implementation, it is observed that the State Budget Law has played an important role in increasing certainty, enhancing efficiency in State budgetary and financial management. Two practical impacts of the budget law are that it has helped poverty

reduction and underpinned the capacity to respond to urgent issues such as national disasters and epidemics.

However, with Vietnam's economy evolving towards market mechanisms and facing the requirements of reforms for development and further integration with the world economy, the need for an overhaul has become apparent. In the groundwork paving the way for a reformed budget law, the overriding question to be answered has been: what is the budget law trying to achieve?

It was clear that the Vietnamese political leadership had already come a long way in answering that question. However, they had recognised there is a lot to be learned from other countries' experiences and international experts' findings. The invited international delegates to the conference were foreign parliamentarians and experts from the United Nations, the World Bank and the IMF.

Together with the international experts, domestic politicians debated various options and directions: for example, the role of parliamentarians vs. government in the budget process and whether decentralisation, with more power to the provinces, or a continued centralised procedure is the best fit for Vietnam in terms of budgeting. It looks as if they will try to balance this by ensuring the leading role of the central

budget, while also promoting the autonomy of devolved budgets. There were also candid discussions by the domestic politicians on how to improve the budget law and its process to facilitate accountability and create more channels for the people to make their voice heard.

Dr. Sanjay Kalra from the IMF in his speech pointed to the fact that a well-run budget process may have positive spillover effects for the broader economy. These positive effects will only materialise if the budget process is efficient and transparent. One recommendation he had was to base the reformed budget law on four core principles (see fact box below).

### **I. Clarity of Roles and Responsibilities**

A clear distinction between government and commercial activities; clear legal and institutional framework governing fiscal administration; clear arrangements between government and rest of public sector; government relations with private sector should be open and based on clear rules and procedures.

### **II. Open budget process**

Budget cycle should adhere to a clear timetable; budget information should facilitate analysis and promote accountability; procedures for budget execution, monitoring, and reporting should be clear; audit should promote accountability.

### **III. Public Availability of Information**

Published information should be complete; published information should facilitate analysis; publication should be timely.

### **IV. Assurances of integrity**

Fiscal data should meet accepted data quality standards; fiscal activities should be governed by clear guidelines; fiscal activities should be subject to independent scrutiny.

Anwar Shah, Former Lead Economist, the World Bank, spoke about different budget methods, and what lessons could be drawn from international practices, namely the pros and cons of different budget methods. Regardless of what method a country adheres to, the budget method used should enable politicians to set priorities, to plan ahead, to have financial control over inputs, to facilitate management of operations, and allow for accountability.



Dr. Sanjay Kalra, Resident Representative IMF, Vietnam/Lao PDR

Göran Pettersson MP, from the PN's board, gave a detailed explanation on how the budget process in Sweden works. Sweden suffered a severe financial crisis in the early 1990s and subsequently reformed its budget law and introduced a fiscal framework in order to safeguard fiscal prudence and avoid over-spending and financial crises.



Mr. Göran Pettersson, Swedish Parliament.

The fiscal framework stipulates two budget policy targets; an expenditure ceiling and a surplus target (the public sector's financial savings must show a surplus of 1 % of GDP on average over an economic cycle). Mr. Pettersson pointed to the fact that this procedure has made the Swedish budget process more streamlined and transparent, and hence have had positive effects on the broader economy inter alia thanks to sound public finances that a budget law does not guarantee, but for which it at least lays the foundation.



Dr. Anwar Shah, Former Lead Economist, the World Bank



The discussions at the conference were forthright and forward looking. There were many issues to be sorted out, and the conference brought a unique opportunity in providing a combination of both advanced theoretical knowledge and practical experience in areas of budget and finance. All countries do of course have their different features and the Vietnamese hosts showed a praiseworthy openness to frankly discussing lessons learned from achievements and failures, the reasons behind them, and in

particular the measures that have been successfully and effectively adopted by other countries.



*Ms. Yoshimi Nishino, Chief of Social Policy and Governance Programme, UNICEF Vietnam.*



# Connecting World Bank Group Finances with the Parliamentary Network



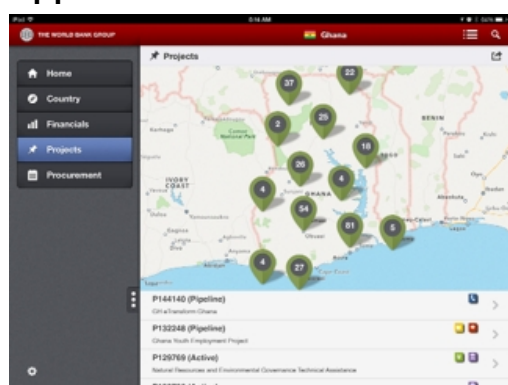
By Sandra Moscoso

Open Data Specialist, World Bank Group Open Finances

In October 2013, members from the World Bank Group Finances (WBGF) program were honoured with an invitation to share our work with The Parliamentary Network delegation to the World Bank Group (WBG) and International Monetary Fund's annual meetings.

Since then, the WBGF team has been doing thinking around how we can support The Parliamentary Network. Specifically, we hope to answer: How can parliamentarians leverage the WBG's financial data to inform their work and to support their constituents?

## “World Bank Finances” Mobile Application

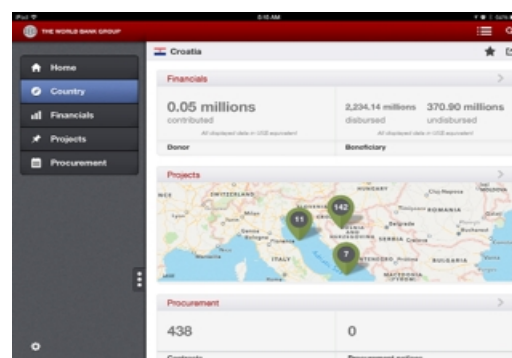


Ghana – nearby projects  
(<http://apps.worldbank.org>)

A simple place to start is with the “World Bank Finances” mobile application. The application, available in nine languages, uses global positioning system (GPS) technology to detect and visualize WBG-funded projects

near you (including those that are in the pipeline, active, or closed).

Pipeline projects may be of special interest, as they serve as a preview of planned projects for a country, providing an opportunity for The Parliamentary Network to engage with WBG- funded projects early on.



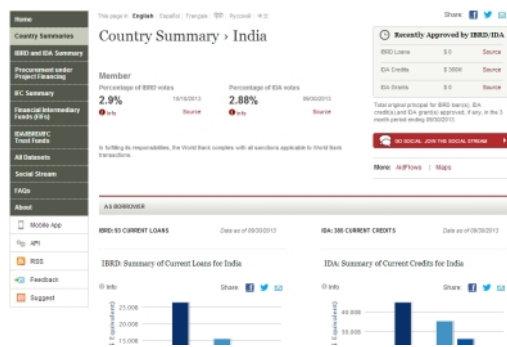
Croatia - country portfolio  
(<http://apps.worldbank.org>)

Parliamentarians (and anyone with a mobile device) can access rich financial data, including commitments and disbursements, major contracts awarded by the project, key approval dates and background. Additionally, the “World Bank Finances” application also provides a country portfolio view from the perspectives of Donor and Beneficiary. The application serves as a quick, easy resource and works offline, making it practical on Parliamentary Network field visits. Finally, as part of our work in support of the

private sector, the application provides access to tenders and business opportunities with WBG-funded projects in over 100 countries. (To download, visit <http://apps.worldbank.org/> or search “World Bank Finances” in iTunes or Google Play store).

### World Bank Group Finances Open Data Website

The WBG team also publishes 50+ datasets (many in 6 languages) on <https://finances.worldbank.org>.



#### India - country summary (<https://finances.worldbank.org>)

For a quick view, our country summary pages provide a current snapshot of a country's relationship with the Bank, including recently approved loans, credits and grants, voting shares, and current financial status. For data crunchers, we publish detailed financial data around the International Finance Corporation (IFC)'s operational portfolio, monthly snapshots and historical views of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA)-funded projects, operational procurement data, trust fund commitments and

disbursements, WBG corporate budget and financials, and more. Use our online tools to analyse and visualize the data, embed visualizations on your website, or download datasets for offline analysis.

### Data for Good, Data for Business, and Demand for Data

We recognize that even if published openly and freely, financial data can be complex and inaccessible. We strive to support the use of open financial data and hold events globally to stimulate the exploration of data. Our series of Big Data dives (with the United Nations Development Programme and Global Pulse) look at how big data can be leveraged to measure poverty and identify fraud and corruption in development. Our Sustainable Business Models with Open Data workshops bring open data entrepreneurs together with investors to support the development of the private sector. Our Demand for Open Data research and pilots explore how open data serves online and offline communities. We invite members of The Parliamentary Network to explore our products and reach out with questions. We are delighted to offer technical support around our data products and look forward to learning how they can be useful to The Parliamentary Network.

Please visit <https://finances.worldbank.org> or reach out to us via email [wbfinaances@worldbank.org](mailto:wbfinaances@worldbank.org) or Twitter [@WBOpenfinances](https://twitter.com/WBOpenfinances).

# IDA17 Replenishment

Currently, the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group is undergoing the final stages of negotiations for the 17th replenishment round (IDA17). IDA is the arm of the World Bank, which lends to the poorest countries in the world. It provides concessional, interest free loans (called "credits") and grants for programmes that contribute to economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's overall living conditions. There are no IDA projects as such; rather the IDA finances government programs, that is to say, those programs that parliamentarians approve for their own countries.

Every three years, the organisation negotiates the replenishment of its funds with the governments of its member countries. The last replenishment (IDA16) was finalised at the end of 2010 and resulted in a total of US\$49.3 billion for programme financing over the next three years.

The current process of replenishing IDA will be completed by the end of 2013. In this development round, IDA wants to focus more on leveraging private investment, public resources, and knowledge in a more results-oriented and cost-effective way. IDA17 will most likely carry forward the IDA16 special themes of fragile and conflict-affected states, climate change

and gender equality, where there is still an unfinished agenda. There will be greater focus on women's economic empowerment and results. On climate change, the focal point will be on measuring the impact of IDA's work on supporting climate resilient development, as well as on coordination between IDA and the UN, and other international organisations. Disaster risk management will also be a key aspect. On fragile and conflict-affected states, IDA will identify specific actions and indicators to assess and strengthen impact.

Additional proposed themes for IDA17 are inclusive growth and regional transformative initiatives. Inclusive growth will include principles like eradicating poverty and promoting shared prosperity, with an emphasis on fostering income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population in every country. Jobs, financial inclusion and maximising the shared benefits from natural resource wealth will also fall under this umbrella. Regional transformative initiatives will probably remain an operational issue under regional programs. IDA also provides levels of debt relief through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). IDA17 will also maintain SDR530 million in the Crisis Response Window (CRW) to respond to potential crises in the remainder of IDA16 and, if unused, carry it over into IDA17, and reallocate SDR315 million to increase support

for the regional projects. Finally, IDA17 will extend the access to grants under the IDA Regional Program to selected institutions not linked to an IDA funded regional project but which support strategic regional priorities.

### **A role for parliamentarians**

The IDA17 replenishment comes at a time of unprecedented opportunities and challenges. The IDA17 period will cover the target date for the achievement of the MDGs and the launch of the post-2015 development agenda. It is a time of unique opportunity for IDA countries to secure the gains achieved, seize emerging opportunities and confront new challenges towards results for the poorest.

At the 2013 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF, the Parliamentary Network delegation was presented with an overview of the functioning of IDA and the latest update on the replenishment process. Joachim Von Amsberg, Vice President, Concessional Finance and Partnerships at the World Bank stressed the importance of dialogue with parliamentarians, as it is a very relevant platform for sharing experiences among policy makers, and for building sustainable institutions. IDA donor countries are under considerable financial pressure, which hinders hopes of increasing IDA resources. Therefore, he urged

parliamentarians from receiving countries to appeal to their donor countries colleagues about the importance of funding IDA.

At the outcome of the meetings, the Parliamentary Network delegation issued a press release stating that "The International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank is an effective and respected partner in tackling poverty in the countries with the lowest incomes in the world. Many independent reviews have concluded that it generally represents very good value for taxpayers' money. We therefore urge existing donors to maintain or increase their contributions in the 17th replenishment and look forward to new donors joining in this vital work".

Following its IDA16 replenishment campaign, the Parliamentary Network reiterated the need to replenish IDA with a message to its members in July 2013. The Network asked members from contributing countries to find out what their Governments are doing in this replenishment, which is vital if IDA is to continue the work it does with the lowest income countries. IDA17 is an opportunity for parliamentarians to contribute to more effective development by urging their governments to fully replenish IDA funds while continuing to review the impact of IDA programmes in receiving countries.



## INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

During the annual meetings in Washington D.C. in October the board of the PN met with Gerry Rice, Director of Communications Department at the IMF. We discussed how the PN can assist the IMF in their work to promote the development in parliaments of processes and procedures to achieve good fiscal governance. In my view the conference in Vietnam (pages 10-13) can serve as a good example for activities where members from the PN can assist the IMF to enlighten parliamentarians about lessons learned and best practices. The IMF stressed that they would like the PN to recruit new members from the Parliaments' Budget and Finance Committees.

If you would like to belong to a pool of PN-members who can assist the IMF on workshops like the one in Vietnam, please send me an email stating your credentials.

I would also like to be in contact with PN-members who would like their parliaments to arrange workshops about fiscal governance with assistance from the PN's IMF-team.



*Göran Petterson  
Member of the board of PN  
and its contact person with the IMF  
goran.petterson@riksdagen.se*



## Coming events

Two field visits with the IMF are in the planning phase. We will shortly confirm them and send you more details. The dates we are proposing for confirmation are for the week of February 10<sup>th</sup> (Peru) and for the week of March 10<sup>th</sup> (Ghana).

For more information please contact: [givanova@pnowb.org](mailto:givanova@pnowb.org)

## Disclaimer

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