

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund







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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE 16-17 April 2018 | Washington DC

On 16 and 17 April 2018, 200 participants 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 help stimulate employment.



"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 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.

The Parliamentary Network together with Peace Child International presented the new Global Campaign for Youth Employment Booklet featuring contributions from ministers, non-governmental organizations, and private sector representatives.





"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.

FOREWORD

The Global Parliamentary Conference (GPC) represents a unique meeting of national legislators and development institutions, an event dedicated to crucial questions in international development finance, including economic stability, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and, more generally, pushing international development initiatives to new heights of awareness and potential. The conference also serves to build political will and financial capital for development.

The GPC, organized together with the World Bank Group (WBG) and the IMF, is the Parliamentary Network's flagship event. It brings together over 150 parliamentarians from up to 100 countries, leaders from civil society and partner organizations, and high-level officials from a number of international financial institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and regional development banks. Keynote speakers include the Managing Director of the IMF and the President of the World Bank Group. The event is hosted by the World Bank Group and IMF in Washington DC, USA.

The Conference focuses on a range of issues from fighting inequality through job-creation and growth, tackling corruption in government and the private sector, growth prospects and challenges for sub-Saharan Africa, fighting climate change, eliminating energy subsidies, and building inclusive institutions and parliaments. Discussions look at how parliamentary involvement can be harnessed and strengthened, as well as how to foster continuous parliamentary involvement in the SDGs implementation process.



WELCOME ADDRESS

Speakers

- Hon. Jeremy Lefroy, MP, United Kingdom; Chair, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF
- Gerry Rice, Director, Communications Department, IMF
- Jill Wilkins, Director, Global Engagement, External Affairs, World Bank Group

Hon. Jeremy Lefroy opened the first day of the Global Parliamentary Conference by welcoming the participants from all over the world and stating the primary goal of this event: to provide parliamentarians with the incentive to stimulate further debate on issues raised during the GPC in their own parliaments. He underlined that the Conference always aims to be practical, and encourages its participants to propose initiatives and form discussion groups both on national and international level. Mr. Lefroy called all gathered in the room to be optimistic and promote the common goals of inclusive growth and shared prosperity that lie in the heart of the World Bank Group and the IMF's respective work.

Gerry Rice took the floor to present the IMF as a changing institution it is today. He spoke about its focus on inequality, inclusive growth, social protection, fight against corruption, and gender. He praised the rich program of the Conference, emphasizing the three key issues on the agenda:

- (1) The global economic outlook due to be released on April 17: "while the positive momentum continues, darker clouds of rising protectionism are looming on the horizon";
- (2) *Trust.* The international system of cooperation is now in danger, and it is up to us to improve and strengthen it;
- (3) *Technology*. Digital economy bears great potential but today, 20% of public revenue is lost every year via non-compliance in tax.

On behalf of the World Bank Group, **Jill Wilkins** affirmed the institution's commitment to tackling poverty and inequality, climate change, fragility, and reinforcing human capital. She underlined the important role MPs play in identifying policy priorities and monitoring their implementation and outcomes on the ground, and encouraged everyone present to focus on the local dimension of the SDGs. She congratulated the Parliamentary Network on its successful events and deepening engagement on behalf of its members, citing its numerous successful initiatives and new inter-parliamentary projects.



PLATFORM FOR COLLABORATION ON INTERNATIONAL TAXATION: WHAT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT NEED TO KNOW

Speakers

- Vitor Gaspar, Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF
- Marin Verhoeven, Lead Economist, World Bank Group

Moderator

• Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif, MP, Tunisia; Vice-Chair, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif observed that fiscal redistribution is one of the most difficult issues on policymakers' agenda around the world. The legislators' responsibility to ensure transparency, accountability and justice is all the more critical in the area of tax, as they need to protect the interests of their constituents and raise awareness about how public resources are spent.

Vitor Gaspar explained that tax capacity of the state is an indicator of its general viability. Today, many low-income and emerging countries are struggling to collect adequate revenue on average, tax constitutes only 16 percent of GDP in the developing world. As he pointed out, the necessary increase in tax should be determined by required expenditure, and the tax capacity of 16 percent is "nowhere near enough" to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Raising domestic tax revenue is therefore vital to accelerating economic development in lowand low-middle income countries.

Mr. Gaspar presented the work of the <u>Platform for Collaboration on Tax</u> - a joint effort by the IMF, the OECD, the UN, and the World Bank, designed to intensify cooperation on tax issues and jointly deliver guidance and policy advice on tax. The Platform was launched in 2016, and focuses mainly on informing the international dialogue and providing joint analytical input to existing international tax organizations. He proposed three elements needed to build up a state's tax capacity:

- 1. Linking tax to the country's development policy.
- 2. A comprehensive reform including tax policy, legal and regulatory framework, and other elements.
- 3. Strong political backing on the part of the government and the parliament, and mobilization of society as a whole.



"Tax capacity lies in the heart of state capacity."

Vitor Gaspar, Director,
 Fiscal Affairs Department,
 IMF



According to Marin Verhoeven, who outlined the rationale behind the creation of the Platform for Collaboration on Tax, there is a strong link between the international tax agenda and development, and globalisation in particular made taxation a cross-border issue. Many countries are gradually losing their tax base, and the World Bank uses its resources to help governments build their capacity and combat tax evasion. All four institutions participating in the Platform on Tax work across sectors, as the UN brings in legitimacy and access to all countries in the world, while the OECD has taken a leading role on setting international standards on tax transparency through its BEPS project.

Mr. Verhoeven stressed that national development projects and strategies cannot rely on development assistance alone - they require continuous funding from domestic resources. Furthermore, taxation not only serves to raise revenue, but promotes better social outcomes (for example, raising tax rates on tobacco can have significant health effects). Finally, tax is extremely important for maintaining the balanced and reciprocal relationship between the citizens and the state.

Discussion

During the Q&A, the parliamentarians raised several issues, such as:

- tax evasion (particularly by multinational corporations); illicit financial outflows from low-income countries
- the link between taxation, SDGs, and gender
- international tax instruments
- ways to support low-income groups through taxation.

Responding to these concerns, Vitor Gaspar pointed out that the IMF works extensively on tax evasion, notably through its collaboration with the OECD on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).



RISING DEBT IN LOW-INCOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Speaker

• Sean Nolan, Deputy Director; Strategy, Policy and Review Department, IMF

Sean Nolan opened the session by presenting the annual IMF report on <u>Macroeconomic</u> <u>Developments and Prospects in Low-Income Developing Countries</u> and the key messages of its 2018 edition, notably rising debt levels in these countries and a changed lending landscape with a much more diverse creditor base which brings enhanced risks.

In his speech, Mr. Nolan focused on the main macroeconomic trends in low-income countries. Since 2014, growth has weakened among commodity exporters, and budget deficits have widened, pushing up debt levels. One quarter of low-income developing countries now have debt of over 60% of GDP, facing increased risk of debt distress.



Today, the composition of public debt in low-income developing countries is shifting from traditional multilateral and Paris Club bilateral creditors to non-Paris Club creditors, external commercial lenders, and domestic banks, whose share is continuously increasing. While commercial creditors offer the countries more attractive terms, the downside of creditor base diversification is the difficulty of servicing the debt and in case of need for debt restructuring.

Mr. Nolan concluded his presentation with the following recommendations to policymakers:

- Borrowers: to borrow less and strengthen their debt management;
- Creditors: to conduct due diligence according to G20 principles, plan for debt restructuring, and collaborate with other creditors;
- IMF and World Bank: to help countries build their debt management and analysis capacity.



SPECIAL SESSION WITH THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK GROUP LEADERSHIP

Speakers

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

Moderator

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

Mme Christine Lagarde expressed her delight in opening the Spring Meetings once again with the Global Parliamentary Conference. She opened her speech with a John F. Kennedy quote "The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining", referring to the global economy, and stressed that the window of opportunity presented by today's optimistic growth forecast needs to be used for much-needed policy actions and structural reforms to increase the future growth potential.

"What you can do as parliamentarians in order to increase growth potential of your respective countries is to pursue structural reforms. The Fund can help you make the case in front of your institutions."

- Mme Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, IMF





Mme Lagarde laid out the following recommendations for legislators:

- Follow through on structural reforms while the upswing is still sustained;
- Build buffers and create monetary and fiscal tools to face the inevitable downturn;
- Use digital tools to identify losses of revenue and tax evasion, and make sure that resources are spent in the most efficient way.

Dr. Jim Yong Kim, in his turn, focused on the technological transformation and its influence on people's livelihoods. Low-skilled jobs are being gradually eliminated, while new jobs that are being created require a specific set of skills. At the same time, more and more people have access to the Internet, and aspirations are rising among the youth. He warned that today global health and education have become supply-driven and dependent on development funds.

However, as Dr. Kim pointed out, it is important to invest in people right away to improve tomorrow's outcomes, instead of waiting to become rich before building human capital. This, along with mobilizing investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation, are the Bank's main priorities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

"We need to move from supply-driven to demand-driven model of investment in human capital"

- Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank Group





Discussion

During the Q&A session, the parliamentarians highlighted the following concerns:

- Managing the impact of public spending cuts on the population;
- Communicating the necessary structural reforms to the people;
- Making sure that economic growth leads to prosperity for both men, women and youth;
- Managing the refugee crisis;
- Making the natural resources benefit all citizens;
- Applying additional protection measures to reduce the impact of austerity and social tensions;
- Ensuring that investment leads to job creation;
- Avoiding the vicious circle of external debt servicing;
- o Dealing with rapid population growth.

Dr. Kim pointed out that large public spending primarily benefits the rich, which is why the World Bank does not support broad-based subsidies. He observed that the Bank's policies regarding social spending evolved in the recent decades, and today it is one of the largest investors in education in the world.

Further, Dr. Kim mentioned the concessional financing that the World Bank provides to countries affected by the refugee crisis. He also stressed the importance of creating a supportive environment for entrepreneurs, and promoting gender budgeting by inserting a gender dimension into each policy and eradicating discriminations in every sector. He stressed that the only way to deal with population growth is to increase prosperity and improve healthcare, which will naturally lead to a more balanced demographic structure.

Mme Lagarde praised Saudi Arabia's and Indonesia's approaches to eliminating subsidies and restructuring public spending as great examples of efficiency and prioritizing human capital. Regarding the question on debt, she pointed out that taking fiscal measures and keeping lean budget is the best among possible options in case of debt distress, and stressed the importance of recovering the revenue lost in illicit financial flows.

Mme Lagarde outlined the ways in which the IMF supports its member countries in determining spending priorities and introducing gender dimensions in policies. She stressed the importance of finding ways to mobilize innovative financing, ensuring the country's attractiveness for investors, and promoting trust in the system of international trade agreements governed by the WTO.



GOOD FOR WOMEN, GOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT: POLICIES TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

Speakers

- Kalpana Kochhar, Director, Human Resources Department, IMF
- Rita Ramalho, Senior Manager, World Bank Group
- Hon. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, MP, Chair of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, Indonesia

Moderator

• Hon. Achraf Bouali, MP, The Netherlands

Hon. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf made the business case for investing in gender equality. She emphasized the benefits of closing gender gaps in politics and the labor market, and argued that equality between men and women is a necessary pre-condition for achieving sustainable development. She reported significant progress on financial inclusion in Indonesia, where women's access to bank accounts rose from 47% in 2011 to 58% in 2014. Around 60 % of SMEs in Indonesia are owned or managed by women, which accounts for more than half of the country's GDP and 95% of new job opportunities. However, women in Indonesia and around the world are still fighting their underrepresentation in politics.



Kalpana Kochhar explained the IMF's work on gender issues. She cited the Fund's research showing that leveling the field between men and women in the workforce leads to gains in GDP and increased returns from investments.

According to the IMF data, countries that follow gender budgeting have made more progress on gender equality since 2003. Ms. Kochhar listed four common features of effective gender budgeting:

- 1. Legal mandate;
- 2. Finance ministry leadership;
- 3. Transparency and accountability initiatives;
- 4. Monitoring and evaluation.



Rita Ramalho referred the parliamentarians to the latest report of the project "Women, Business and the Law", published in March 2018. The report measured differences in legal treatment of men and women around the world, notably in terms of accessing institutions, getting a job, incentives to work, protection from violence, owning property, going to court, and building credit. The report found that one in every three economies restricts women's freedom of movement or agency, with 75 economies in the world constraining women's property rights and 104 economies - barring women's access to certain jobs. Women often end up in lower-paid jobs.

Ms. Ramalho stressed the importance of increasing women's political and business representation, notably through quotas in national parliaments and corporate boards. In the last decade, more than 60 economies carried out reforms towards achieving gender equality. However, there is still much work to be done, and parliamentarians are in a unique position to carry forward this worldwide trend.



"The state should not only sponsor senior- and childcare, but also ensure that women and men share these responsibilities equally"

- Hon. Monica Green, MP, Sweden

Discussion

The parliamentarians expressed their hope that the World Bank and the IMF will continue to make gender a priority in their country policies and include it in negotiations with governments. They confirmed that their countries see important economic benefits from increased equality, but stressed that even the most advanced economies are not protected from having gender barriers.

The participants made comments related to:

- Introducing gender quotas often encounters strong resistance and is seen as a violation of human rights;
- The importance of gender budgeting and education, especially for vulnerable categories such as refugees;
- Replacing family-based taxation with individual taxation to eliminate barriers for secondary earners.



GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Speaker

 Petia Topalova, Deputy Division Chief, World Economic Studies Division, Research Department, IMF

Moderator

• Hon. Céline Calvez, MP, France

Hon. Céline Calvez opened the session referring back to Christine Lagarde's quote "The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining". She reiterated that today is the time when the growth rates allow us to implement necessary changes, while risks of higher debt and protectionism continue to increase.

During the session, **Petia Topalova** outlined the most recent trends in world economy, published in the April 2018 IMF <u>World Economic Outlook</u>. Global growth has picked up further since 2017, and the positive momentum is projected to carry forward in 2018 and 2019, driven by stronger growth in both advanced and emerging economies. While risks are broadly balanced in the near-term, medium-term risks are tilted to the downside. Overall, growth is expected to slow down after 2019.

International trade has been growing very slowly for a prolonged period of time, but it has started to recover, and the recovery is broad-based in advanced and emerging economies, as well as in commodity exporters.

Ms. Topalova listed the following factors shaping the economic forecast for the coming years in the short and medium term:

- Advanced economies: (1) Supportive monetary policies and financial conditions; (2) Recent changes in US fiscal policy; (3) gradual dissipation of crisis legacies; (4) the effect of changing demographic structure (aging population) in the medium term.
- Emerging and developing economies: (1) Divergence in the short term; (2) The influence of China's robust growth; (3) Commodity exporters still adjusting to lower revenues after the fall in oil prices in 2014. In the medium term, growth will remain slower in per capita terms that in advanced economies, leaving convergence prospects limited for poorer countries.



MAXIMIZING FINANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT: ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Speakers

- Hartwig Schafer, Vice President, Global Themes, World Bank Group
- Lord Jack McConnell, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom

Moderator

• **Hon. Yunus Carrim**, MP, Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance, South Africa; Board member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

Hartwig Schafer started the session by outlining the five main themes in the heart of the World Bank Group's objectives: Gender; Climate change; Fragility, conflict, and violence; Infrastructure, PPPs and guarantees; and Knowledge management. He emphasized the interconnectedness of all five Global themes and their fundamental importance to the twin goals of the World Bank Group of ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

In his speech, Mr. Schafer concentrated on <u>Maximizing finance for development</u> - a concept that focuses on crowding-in of private sector resources in infrastructure, and focuses primarily on de-risking private investment and supporting governments in creating bankable projects. He stressed that the funds necessary for achieving the SDGs are measured in trillions, and can only be raised if the countries themselves raise local and domestic revenues and bring in the private sector.



"If we want to move from billions to trillions, we need to bring in the private sector, make sure that this solution is sustainable, provides value for money, and is affordable."

- Hartwig Schafer, Vice President, Global Themes, World Bank Group



The concept was endorsed by the G20 and the World Bank Group with all three institutions (World Bank; IFC; and MIGA) working together on bringing private solutions to development. He warned, however, that not in every case a private solution is superior to a public one, and the World Bank' role is also to assess long-term affordability, value for money, sustainability, and other factors to determine whether a public or a private solution will be the most efficient.

Jack McConnell expressed his satisfaction with the World Bank's commitment to Agenda 2030. He affirmed that the five Global themes are fundamental to achieving prosperity, and added that the SDG 17 - Global Partnership for Sustainable Development - is also crucial to this task, notably because it contains issues related to international trade. He expressed concern that the SDGs are not being delivered fast enough today, and stressed that capacity building and increasing revenue is crucial to deliver on the SDGs by 2030.

Yunus Carrim noted that, in the post-crisis world, the public and private sector need each other more than ever before. He highlighted the importance of increasing ownership of development achievements and transfer of skills to local and indigenous communities. Finally, he underlined the responsibility of policymakers to avoid job loss and create new jobs in developing countries.

Discussion

In the ensuing discussion, participants explored the following points:

- To maximize finance for development, the whole size of the economy needs to be increased
- The funds in the asset management industry are increasingly concentrated, and today it is not clear as to how they can contribute to managing systemic risks like climate change
- Countries like Tanzania cannot raise enough domestic revenue to develop infrastructure, but also cannot borrow as much as they need to expand their private sector because of external constraints
- Some countries with a potential for development cannot attract enough private investors without first investing public money in infrastructure and human capital.

Hartwig Schafer pointed out that extremely constrained public sector resources can never keep up with the demand. The reasoning behind the World Bank program on bringing private solutions to development is that private investors can provide services in a more efficient way while making good returns and increasing the overall size of the economy. The World Bank's role in this mechanism is to de-risk entire countries to close the gap in financing for development, boosting economic growth and creating new jobs.



FRAGILITY, CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE: HOW DO WE OVERCOME THE CURSE?

Speaker

 Alexandre Marc, Chief Specialist, Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, World Bank Group

Moderator

• Hon. Betty McCollum, Congresswoman, United States of America

Hon. Betty McCollum spoke about different ways in which conflict and violence affect all countries: changing demographics, illegal trafficking, income inequality, and climate change. She underlined the value of the World Bank as a vast trove of knowledge on all issues related to development, and invited everyone to take advantage of its collected data and analysis.

Alexandre Marc presented a joint World Bank Group - United Nations study titled <u>Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict</u>, which argues for a scaled-up system of conflict prevention. Today, we are facing an upsurge in violent conflict around the world since 2010: it is estimated that by 2030, 60% of the poor will be in conflict- or fragility-affected countries. This calls for a more inclusive approach to poverty reduction designed to address all factors contributing to today's situation taking a turn for the worse.

Mr. Marc highlighted an increasingly cross-border nature of these conflicts, and the current rise in spending on peacekeeping personnel and humanitarian aid. He laid out three main guiding principles for prevention efforts:

- 1. Concentrate on development efforts and support targeted interventions that address directly the underlying risks of violent conflict;
- 2. Adopt inclusive approaches to build broad partnerships for peace and respond to grievances of various social groups (focusing on marginalized areas and groups and reinforcing accountability of the state);
- 3. Ensure sustainable support to address risk early, when crisis looms, during conflict and long after violence ends.





"Economic growth and poverty alleviation alone are not sufficient to prevent conflict. It requires targeted development interventions to address concrete grievances."

- Alexandre Marc, Chief Specialist, Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, World Bank

Discussion

Participants raised the question why, despite significant poverty reduction in absolute terms and increasing access to technology around the world, violence is still escalating.

Parliamentarians from Kosovo, who witnessed devastating conflict firsthand, spoke about the massive contribution of international organizations to rebuilding their country. However, they pointed out that those efforts often focused on short-term effects rather than good governance which would allow to ensure long-term peace and stability.

Alexandre Marc pointed out that identity is not the cause of growing frustration and violence on its own: it is the perception that groups are treated differently based on their identity that causes discontent. Due to technological development, it has become easier to connect with people who have the same grievances both in the country and across the border. The sense of justice and non-discrimination is therefore paramount to preventing conflicts and violence.

According to Mr. Marc, today the concept of stability is increasingly centered on crisis management. However, it is not always achieved in a healthy and sustainable way: deep grievances of the society also need to be addressed after violence has ended. Frustration will grow if democracy is not connected to development dividend.

In conclusion of the session, Hon. Betty McCollum called all participants to lead the work on maintaining peace in their countries, underlining the parliamentarians' responsibility to act on these issues as representatives of their people.



GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE ROLE OF LEGISLATORS

Speakers

- Ambassador (ret.) Norman L. Eisen, Senior Fellow, Brookings
- Hon. Neila Tazi, Vice-President, Senate, Morocco

Moderator

• Sean Hagan, General Counsel and Director of the Legal Department, IMF

Sean Hagan stressed the timeliness of raising the issue of good governance from the IMF perspective. He pointed out that tackling the issue of corruption in a robust way means engaging with all stakeholders: legislators play a major role in exercising oversight of the executive branch, the judiciary, and the private sector, but also by setting an example of their own transparent behavior.

Norman Eisen spoke about the link between open governance, preventing corruption, and sustainable development. He described the three main components of open governance - transparency, accountability and participation - as a "three-legged stool", which falls down if missing one of its three supporting elements.

He singled out three main factors influencing good governance and the fight against corruption:

- 1. Integrity of public representatives is of utmost importance to ensure trust in democratic institutions
- 2. The model of integrity applied to parliaments through four main categories of work: regulating conflicts of interest; regulating gifts; outside employment; checks on use of official resources
- 3. Working together to ensure that the parliament fulfills its oversight functions both in the institutions and the country in general.

"The virtuous circle": the areas in which parliaments can legislate to fight corruption:

- Transparent campaign finance
- Lobbying disclosure laws backed by tough penalties
- Reform public procurement to create independent, professional, merit-based tenders
- Comprehensive financial disclosures to reveal quid pro quos
- Protect whistleblowers
- Educated media coverage
- Law enforcement effectiveness and integrity by police, prosecutors and judges: training, standards, consequences.





"The single most important thing a parliamentarian can do is to be a model of integrity"

- Ambassador (ret.) Norman L. Eisen, Senior Fellow, Brookings

Hon. Neila Tazi spoke about the innovations introduced in Morocco with the new 2011 constitution, which brought representatives of the private sector to the parliament's upper house, and the launch of the new national anti-corruption strategy after extensive consultations with civil society and the private sector. She stressed the importance of establishing strict anti-corruption regulations, norms and standards, and the existence of independent media.

In the Moroccan House of Councillors, Ms. Tazi represents the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM), which she chairs.

Discussion

During the discussion that followed, participants made comments related to:

- The causal relationship between anti-corruption measures and sustainable development
- o The importance of participatory democracy and promoting collective integrity
- o The government's dominance in resource distribution
- The importance of creating special parliamentary committees on public finance oversight.

Amb. Eisen stressed that properly designed anti-corruption programs and more equal distribution of power among branches of government greatly improve overall sustainability and increase political will.



HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY SESSION FOR SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT

Speakers

- Hon. Tsveta Karayancheva, Speaker, National Assembly of Bulgaria
- Hon. Anthony Lino Makana, Speaker, Parliament of South Sudan
- Hon. Mohammed Aljefri, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Saudi Arabia
- Hon. António Pedro Roque da Visitação Oliveira, President, Parliamentary Assembly
 of the Mediterranean

Attending Speakers and Vice-Speakers of Parliament addressed their colleagues, expressing their satisfaction with the topics raised at the conference, and sharing their countries' successes and challenges in dealing with the development issues discussed during the first day of the event.

Hon. **Tsveta Karayancheva** presented Bulgaria's anti-corruption efforts. She described the country's current development strategy adopted in 2015, which focuses on asserting the rule of law, transparency and fight against corruption as its main priorities. She underlined the importance of cooperation between the parliament, the media, civil society, and academia.

The Speaker of Parliament of South Sudan, Hon. **Anthony Lino Makana**, laid out the immediate challenges facing his country, such as lack of industry or infrastructure to profit from its vast natural resources, a high percentage of young population, and the presence of rebel groups still controlling some parts of its territory.

Dr. Mohammed Aljefri provided an update on Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 strategy, designed to reduce the country's dependence on oil exports, diversify its economy and improve public services. He admitted that some restructuring decisions that had to be made were painful; however, an extensive citizen communication strategy allowed the government to move forward with the reforms.

On behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Hon. **António Pedro Roque da Visitação Oliveira** spoke about PAM's collaboration with the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF, which started in 2014. He asserted PAM's commitment to promote its member countries' sustainable development efforts, particularly in relation to the Paris agreement climate goals.









PARLIAMENTARY SYMPOSIUM ON YOUTH JOB CREATION: OPENING REMARKS

Speaker

• Kristalina Georgieva, Chief Executive Officer, World Bank Group

Kristalina Georgieva opened the Parliamentary Symposium on Youth Job Creation on the second day of the Global Parliamentary Conference. The increasing speed of change in the modern world means that young people need to adapt to new realities much faster and more often than previous generations, and the mismatch between the existing skills and the everchanging demands of the current job market is widening. Speaking about emerging and developing economies, Ms. Georgieva pointed out that educated people who found themselves without jobs or homes are most affected by extremism. Only one third of job creation programs in the MENA region actually deliver results - those which concentrate on job market trends, rather than skills or wages alone.

"Two thirds of our wealth is in people. It we don't invest in people, we are bound to get poorer."

- Kristalina Georgieva, Chief Executive Officer, World Bank Group



Ms. Georgieva concluded her speech with three recommendations for parliamentarians to focus on: (1) provide incentives for the business community and educators to work together and focus on youth; (2) eliminate barriers for businesses and investments by adopting structural reforms; (3) eradicate discriminatory labor practices, especially against women.



SETTING THE CONTEXT: THE FUTURE OF WORK

Speaker

- Shanta Devarajan, Senior Director for Development Economics and Acting Chief Economist on the upcoming World Development Report on the Future of Work, World Bank Group
- **Gabriela Cuevas Barron**, Senator, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Mexico; President, Inter-Parliamentary Union

In his speech, **Shanta Devarajan** analyzed the causes of inequality from various angles. Karl Marx was the first to warn about the negative impact of automation on workers' rights. However, as he pointed out, automation also creates jobs operating these machines, increasing efficiency and productivity in the process.

Technology affects the rich and the poor in different ways, creating more opportunities for ones and destroying livelihoods for the others. However, Mr. Devarajan argued that it only exacerbates an already existing problem, and the roots of inequality lie much deeper.

"People whose jobs are destroyed and for whom jobs are created are not the same people."

- Shanta Devarajan, Senior Director for Development Economics, Acting Chief Economist, World Bank Group

The distinction between years of schooling and real learning outcomes plays an important role in this issue. The problem was highlighted in the previous World Development Report "Learning to Realize Education's Promise", which explored the learning crisis facing many low- and middle-income countries.

Gabriela Cuevas Barron spoke about automation as a new global reality. She made the case for a new social approach including boosting social safety nets, introducing universal basic income, implementing additional support for first-time workers and migrants, and developing a special youth guarantee program as a way to accommodate the decreasing number and growing flexibility of today's jobs. Finally, Ms. Cuevas Barron stressed the importance of representation of young people in parliaments around the world as half of the global population is under 30 years old; and introduced the campaign "Not Too Young to Run" supporting young people running for elected office (partners of IPU).



ROUND TABLE SESSION: HOW TO ACHIEVE FULL EMPLOYMENT BY 2030?



Platform Speakers

- Melanie Robinson, Executive Director for the United Kingdom, World Bank Group
- Lina Maria Useche, Founder and CEO, Aliança Empreendedora, Curitiba, Brazil
- Louise Fox, Chief Economist, USAID; Co-author: "Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa" and "The Evidence is in: how should youth employment programmes in Low Income countries be designed?"
- **John Bluedorn,** Lead author, "Youth Labour Market Prospects in Emerging Market and Developing Economies", IMF
- Ann Miles, Director, Youth Livelihoods and Financial Inclusion, Mastercard Foundation
- Antoine Eloi, Founder, Leadership Initiatives, Nigeria
- **Kevin Jacobs,** Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Hilton; Sponsor, Passport to Success and the Global Youth Well-being Index.

Moderator

 Jeremy Lefroy, MP, United Kingdom; Chair, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF



Melanie Robinson, Executive Director of the World Bank Group for the UK, welcomed the booklet "The Case for Urgent Action on Youth Employment" published by the Parliamentary Network in collaboration with Peace Child International.

Lina Maria Useche presented an example of a grassroots initiative designed to help young entrepreneurs on the local level - the Entrepreneurial Alliance (Aliança Empreendedora), Brazil. She underlined the importance of creating more small funding initiatives, especially in countries where such funding is not available. Most first businesses fail, providing a valuable learning opportunity and a foundation for success in the future, and it is important that the young are not discouraged to pursue their ideas after initial failure.

Louise Fox stressed the importance of having broad rather than narrow skills to navigate the changing world of work. More workers need to be prepared for expanding industries such as ICT and hospitality, and governments need to encourage firms to train their own employees, while supporting disadvantaged youth.

John Bluedorn explained the IMF's view on the issue of youth employment. Today, 20 % of youth in the average emerging or developing market is in need of a job. At the macro level, unemployment responds to what is happening with the business cycle: new structural policies are needed to improve business conditions and expand social safety nets for workers. It is important to close age and gender gaps in the workplace by increasing legal protection for underrepresented groups.

Ann Miles presented the ambitious new strategy of the Mastercard Foundation aiming to help 30 million young Africans achieve fulfilling jobs. She emphasized that population growth represents a unique opportunity for the continent to create a new generation of skilled workers. Digitalization will play a particularly important role in bringing new opportunities to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Antoine Eloi shared his success story of Leadership Initiatives, an NGO working with small farmers in Nigeria to help them implement sustainable farming practices.

Kevin Jacobs spoke about opportunities that Hilton provides to young workers around the world. The hospitality industry is an engine for job creation in the increasingly automated world. The Global Youth Wellbeing Index, created by Hilton in collaboration with the International Youth Foundation, assesses the opportunities and civic and economic participation of young people around the world. "Passport to Success" is another program designed to provide young people with life skills training to improve their career prospects and reduce skills mismatch.



After an extensive discussion with the speakers during the interactive roundtables that followed, participants came up with a concise action plan summing up the entirety of issues to be taken back to their home parliaments.

ACTION PLAN

on youth job creation

- Deliver development programmes that provide appropriate skills trainings for refugee youth to increase their employability, and ensure that job training is accompanied by a systems approach to job creation for both male and female refugees as well as youth.
- Provide appropriate skills trainings for young people with disability to increase their employability;
- Ensure gender-sensitivity in the budgeting, planning, implementation, and monitoring of job creation plans;
- Improve the matching between educational curricula and labour market requirements through a reform of the education sector.
- Build a legislative environment that creates incentives, enhances the investment climate, and encourages investments into the private sector.
- Provide a framework for collaboration between governments, civil society, and the private sector.
- Create a communications strategy on employment policy efforts to build trust between governments and young people.
- Create tax and other financial incentives to all seeking to set up a business.
- Create a protection mechanism for young entrepreneurs in case of first business failure;
- Ensure access to microfinance for entrepreneurs.
- Improve overall quality of learning in all schools.
- Provide programmes for improving financial literacy in all national education provision.
- Introduce entrepreneurship as a subject of the educational curricula;
- Create incentives for moving employment from the informal to the formal sector.
- Promote back-to-school policies and life-long learning.



ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

Speakers

- Yunus Carrim, MP, Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance, South Africa; Board member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF
- Emile van der Does de Willebois, Global Lead for Financial Market Integrity, World Bank Group

Moderator

• Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Bangladesh

Emile van der Does de Willebois pointed out that the elimination of illicit financial flows is a broad goal which includes criminal (corruption, money laundering, organized crime and financing of terrorism) and other aspects (tax avoidance, tax fraud, etc.). He explained the work of the World Bank's Financial Market Integrity Unit, which specializes in assisting the countries to put in place anti-money laundering regulations and conduct data gathering and risk assessments, as well as capacity building to conduct financial investigations.

Yunus Carrim presented a set of figures reflecting the gravity of losses suffered by the developing world as a result of illicit financial flows. According to the data, 1.1 trillion USD left the developing countries in illicit financial outflows to the developed world in 2013 alone - the amount which far exceeds the funds received in the form of foreign aid. Mr. Carrim emphasized the harmful effects of corporate tax avoidance by big multinational firms and offshore tax havens using various legal loopholes.

Mr. Carrim welcomed the introduction of automatic exchange of information between tax authorities around the world, and concluded that a better definition and a decisive action on illegal tax practices, spearheaded by parliaments in collaboration with watchdog NGOs and the private sector, are essential to curb loss of revenue in developing countries.

Discussion

Parliamentarians touched upon the following topics during the ensuing discussion:

- the need for more rigorous source of wealth/funds checks in major banks to combat illicit financial flows from developing countries;



- legal means of tax evasion embedded in many countries' legislation;
- the need to establish a system of international tax governance and common rules to combat tax evasion and informal economy;
- finding a balance between discouraging legal tax avoidance and attracting business.

The discussants mentioned that, in addition to insufficient collaboration between the countries' tax administrations, there is often little or no cooperation between tax and criminal authorities within one country, which is hindering investigations. Emile van der Does de Willebois stressed that, while this problem falls into the jurisdiction of sovereign states, there has been some progress with the adoption of the G20 Principles on beneficial ownership transparency which stipulates the commitments of its members states in this area, and encouraged the parliamentarians to further pursue transparency of legal arrangements and reduce possibilities for their misuse.

DEMOCRATISING GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Speakers

- Stefano Prato, Executive Director, Society for International Development, Italy
- Hilton Root, Professor, Schar School of Policy and Governance, George Mason University
- Manouchehr Mokhtari, Professor, University of Maryland
- Kanishka Senat Balasuriya, Local Governance and Citizen Engagement Consultant,
 World Bank Group

Moderator

• Lahcen Haddad, MP, Morocco; Board member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

Lahcen Haddad established that it is necessary to update the system of global economic governance to match the new global reality. While national considerations are still in the core of political decision-making today, supranational bodies are more and more needed to guarantee global stability.

Stefano Prato spoke about the upturn in the global economy, which nevertheless corresponds with increased vulnerability and marginalization. He pointed out that inequality imposes



structural limitation on the continuation of growth, and the current upswing will not be sustained for long without structural changes, as indicates the latest IMF World Economic Outlook. Sustainable development is a global policy challenge that calls for transformation of governance mechanisms in three main areas:

- Transformation of the production model towards sustainability
- Shifting the centre of gravity towards local domestic economies to re-balance their role vis-a-vis the global economy
- Re-thinking the global economic governance to create fiscal space and maintain sustainability on the country level.

Hilton Root argued that the widespread expectation that a unified global middle class would serve world stability is based on false premises, as societies do not follow a global standard of development. The process of decentralization and increased interconnectivity concern different facets of life and the economy, and they cannot be controlled by governments. More and more new groups emerge across borders, and this polycentricity is the best chance humanity has to attain a stable world order.

Manouchehr Mokhtari described his view of globalization as an evolving public good. While its benefits are distributed asymmetrically, favoring small nations, poor communities also face the largest economic and environmental risks.

Kanishka Balasuriya underlined that effectiveness of international institutions does not come from their democratic- or undemocratic character. He suggested that asymmetry of global institutions, with few powerful states leading the many, is a more efficient way to deal with today's urgent challenges.

Discussion

During the debate, the participants emphasized the role of ministries of finance and civil society in institutional oversight on both national and international level. They noted that most international institutions were created as a response to crisis, and are therefore not forward-looking.

Stefano Prato pointed out that institutions often lack democratic oversight and face multiple bureaucratic and knowledge deficits resulting from insufficient adaptation to the speed of change in today's world. In many areas, the leading institutions only represent one part of the world, depriving the rest of the ability to influence the elaboration of international rules and practices that will be spread globally. Kanishka Balasuriya added that such democratization on the international level is significantly more challenging, as countries do not have the same economic and political weight. In this context, civil society may represent a useful instrument for increasing awareness of the necessity to engage on the international level, even when payoffs for individual states are not immediately obvious.



REINING IN PROTECTIONISM TO BOOST GLOBAL GROWTH

Speakers

Brad McDonald, Deputy Chief, External Sector Policy Division, IMF

Moderator

• Victor Oh, Senator, Canada

Brad McDonald presented a new IMF - World Bank - World Trade Organization joint report "Making Trade an Engine of Growth for All: the Case for Trade and for Policies to Facilitate Adjustment", published in April 2018.

Since early 2000s, a slowdown in trade reforms and an uptick in protectionism endangered trade, productivity, and income growth, leaving more workers and communities behind. Strong labor market, education and housing policies are needed to address trade adjustment and ensure the workers' competitiveness and mobility. However, Mr. McDonald underlined the importance of not falling back to protectionism, as further trade integration is the only way to reinvigorate global growth in all sectors.



"Protectionism seems to be beneficial for citizens, but is destructive in the long term, as it weakens the industry and deprives countries of the benefits of free trade"

- Senator Victor Oh, Canada

Discussion

During the discussion that followed, participants raised the following points:

- the danger of protectionism to international peace and security;
- the difficulty of pursuing trade liberalization and fiscal consolidation at the same time;
- loss of some industries due to comparative advantage under free trade, meaning that people will lose jobs in the short term;
- African commodity producers suffering from the Western countries' rising wave of protectionism;



- African countries are not part of any major free trade agreements with developed countries, which does not allow them to benefit fully from their resources.

Brad McDonald agreed that simultaneous trade reform and fiscal adjustment cause additional fiscal pressure; however, he argued that it brings substantial benefits to the country's fiscal position in the long term. The example of Sweden shows that the existence of independent institutions free from political pressure can help bring out benefits of trade.

Acknowledging the concerns regarding the uneven distribution of benefits in the world trade system, he pointed out that improvement of infrastructure and closer cooperation within the region can help strengthen Africa's position on the global stage and help them increase their trade opportunities.

MOVING AHEAD ON THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Speakers

• Kanta Kumari Rigaud, Lead Environmental Specialist, World Bank Group

Moderator

• Nathan Nandala-Mafabi, MP, Uganda; Board member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

Kanta Kumari Rigaud started the session by presenting the World Bank's flagship report on climate "<u>Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration</u>", launched on 19 March 2018.

Migration has many dimensions. The main drivers of migration can be (1) economic, (2) social, (3) political, and (4) environmental. Today, more and more people are moving to more environmentally viable zones to earn their livelihoods. The World Bank report looked primarily at the *slow-onset* climate-induced internal migration, as opposed to migration caused by natural disasters, using the scenario-based approach. The researchers determined that, if the Paris goals are not met, the global temperature could rise 4 degrees by the end of the century.



Ms. Rigaud presented several key findings of the report:

- The scale of internal climate migration will accelerate unless concerted climate and development action is taken. In the worst-case scenario, internal climate-induced migration could reach 143 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America by 2050. This number can be reduced by 80% if the world pursues the most climate-friendly scenario.
- After 2050, the scale of migration will increase further. Today, we have a window of opportunity to take early action, which can make significant difference in a few decades.
- Climate-induced migration will not be distributed equally in affected countries: migration "hotspots" will occur at places where several socioeconomic, demographic and climate factors interact, which presents significant implications for spatial development planning across time scales.

She provided three recommendations to parliamentarians:

- (1) Cut greenhouse gases now to reduce climate pressure on people's livelihoods and the associated scale of climate migration
- (2) Embed climate migration into resilient development planning for all phases of migration and across time scales
- (3) Invest now to improve understanding of internal climate migration.

Discussion

Numerous participants expressed their concerns that advanced economies, responsible for a large part of all greenhouse gases emitted in the world, have better mechanisms to protect themselves against the effects of their activity, while developing countries bear the brunt of climate change impact. They called for the establishment of a common binding framework allowing the affected countries to be reimbursed and receive various forms of assistance and protection against the harmful effects of climate change.

From the point of view of parliamentarians, the following question of communication is highly important: how to approach this issue with the constituents and convince them to act now in favor of long-term goals 20-30 years from now?

Ms. Rigaud underlined the importance of including the question of migration into the larger climate-resilient development perspective. She pointed out that the effects of climate change are already visible today in terms of deteriorating environmental conditions and refugee flows, and this evidence can be used by policymakers to send the right message to their citizens.



CONCLUSION

The 2018 Global Parliamentary Conference delivered an intensive two-day learning programme designed to provide new insights and the latest research on various pressing development issues to help members of parliament in their legislative work. The main topics on this year's agenda included the global economic outlook; taxation; gender; fragility, conflict and violence; the fight against corruption; and the role of the private sector in development. The 2018 Global Parliamentary Conference was also the first one to dedicate its entire second day to one major topic, creating space for more in-depth thematic discussions with numerous invited experts.

"The aim of this conference is to provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to stimulate debate in their own parliaments, form groups, and promote cohesion around the common global goals"



- Hon. Jeremy Lefroy, MP United Kingdom, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

The Symposium on Youth Job Creation, organized in collaboration with Peace Child International and the International Youth Foundation, was this year's innovation designed to shape the Parliamentary Network's focus on youth employment, bringing legislators together with academics and practitioners from the private sector and civil society. It featured both a panel presentation and interactive roundtable discussions, and served as the occasion to present the new booklet "The Case for Urgent Action on Youth Employment" - a treasure trove of information on strategies and practices of youth job creation by government- and nongovernmental actors around the world.

The parliamentarians were once again urged to take an active part in the Parliamentary Network's activities on the international and regional level, using this platform to make their voices heard by the international financial institutions. The President of the World Bank Group Dr. Jim Yong Kim and the Managing Director of the IMF Ms. Christine Lagarde both asserted the importance of cooperation between parliamentarians and the IFIs at the time when urgent reforms are needed around the world, both in terms of boosting the global economy and ensuring that today's economic and technological transformation results in new accessible jobs and opportunities for the new generations.





LIST OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT Global Parliamentary Conference 16-17 April 2018 | Washington DC

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Tewfik Torche, MP, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee

Bangladesh

Muhiuddin Alamgir, MP, Chair of Public Accounts Committee

Belgium

Alain Destexhe, Senator

Bert Anciaux, Senator

Bolivia

Maria Lourdes Landivar, Senator

Brazil

Elcione Barbalho, MP, Head of Joint Standing Committee to Combat Violence Against Women

Bulgaria

Tsveta Valcheva Karayancheva, MP, President of the National Assembly

Menda Stoyanova, MP, Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance

Burkina Faso

Lassina Ouattara, MP, President of the MPP Parliamentary Group

Burundi

Immaculée Ndabaneze Rurerekana, MP

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Fadil Aliyoum, MP

Musa Mbutoh Njingum, MP

Tchiouto Haman, MP

Canada

Victor Oh, Senator

Central African Republic

Rachel Ninga-Wong, President of the 8th Committee on Population, Gender, Health, Social Affairs and Human Rights

Dieudonne Djeme, 4th Vice President

Chad

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Guinea

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Mercy Barends, MP

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Iran

Gholamreza Tajgardoon, MP, Chair of the Budget and Planning Committee

Ireland

Joan Burton, MP, Labour Spokesperson on Finance to the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach

Gerald Horkan, Senator, Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and

Reform, and Taoiseach

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Jordan

Khair Abu Saalik, Chair of Economy and Investment Committee

Abdallah Obeidat, MP

Mustafa Yaghi, MP

Umayya Toukan, Senator

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Kestutis Glaveckas, MP, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance

Madagascar

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Lova Narivelo Razafindrafito, MP

Malawi

Clement Terence Chiwaya, MP, Deputy Speaker of Parliament

Mexico

Juan Gerardo Flores, Senator, Secretary of the Board of Directors; and the Committee on Communications and Transport

Jorge Luis Lavalle, Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Public Credit Committee; Secretary of the Administration Committee

Gabriela Cuevas Barron, Senator, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee; President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Rachid El Abdi, MP, Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives

Driss Sqalli Adoui, MP, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance Oversight

Lhou Lmarbouh, Senator, Vice President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Lahcen Haddad, MP

Mozambique

Jose Gudo, Rapporteur of the Planning and Budget Committee

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Isabelle Diks, MP

Achraf Bouali, MP

Niger

Amina Souna, MP, President of the Panafrican Committee on Education, Culture, Tourism and Human Resources

Jalaoui Alkabouss, MP, Quaestor of the National Assembly

Nigeria

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Ingrid Heggø, MP

Mudassar Kapur, MP

Peru

Carlos Tubino, MP, Chair of the Defense Committee

Philippines

Rodel Batocabe, MP, Vice Chairof the Committe on Dangerous Drugs

Poland

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Bartłomiej Stawiarski, MP

Portugal

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Lina Almaeena, MP

Fahad Binjumah, MP

Senegal

El Hadji Mansor Sy, MP, Deputy Speaker of Parliament

Serbia

Vladimir Marinkovic, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

South Africa

Yunus Carrim, MP, Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance

Archibold Nyambi, MP, House Chairperson of Committees, Oversight and Intergovernmental Relations

Cedric Frolick, MP, House Chairperson: Committees, Oversight and ICT

South Sudan

Anthony Lino Makana, Speaker of the Parliament

Deng Tong Kuol, Chair of the Committee on Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock

Bor Gatwech Kuany, Chief Whip to the SPLM IO

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Mirich Kot Martin, MP

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Liam Byrne, MP, Shadow Minister of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; and Digital Economy

Jack McConnell, Member of the House of Lords

United States of America

Betty McCollum, Congresswoman

Vietnam

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