



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA *Regional Chapter*



WORLD BANK GROUP



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF launched its Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Chapter on 1 and 2 December in Tunis, Tunisia. The event, which was co-organized with the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the support of the Tunisian Government, gathered 50 participating MPs coming from Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia to join discussions on common regional development challenges, including youth unemployment. The event was also attended by civil society and private sector representatives.



The conference opening featured addresses from HE Prime Minister Youssef Chahed, HE Finance Minister Lamia Zribi, HE Development, Investment and Cooperation Minister Fadhel Abdelkefi. In the follow up of the successful Tunisia2020 investment conference, the representatives from the Tunisian government welcomed such initiative for the strengthening of international cooperation at the legislative level and underlined the critical role of the parliament's oversight and monitoring functions in ensuring the achievement of the necessary economic and social objectives. The initiative was also praised by World Bank Group MENA Vice-President Hafez Ghanem as an opportunity for dialogue and the exchange of good practices for the region development, as well as by IMF Deputy Director for the Middle East and Central Daniela Gressani who insisted on the need for MPs to hold their government accountable.

The launching event provided the delegation with the space to debate on the following topics: the enabling of youth entrepreneurship and job creation in the context of a high youth unemployment rate; economic and governance reform priorities especially to tackle the consequences of conflicts; the role of regional networks in supporting collaboration among accountability institutions; as well as the role of parliament in fragile states.



On the second day, the delegation was welcomed by HE Mohamed Ennaceur, Speaker of the Tunisian Parliament, in the Assembly of People's Representatives in order to further discuss the MENA Chapter scope, structure and activities. The MPs expressed their wish to meet regularly in order to learn from successful experiences; to benefit from the World Bank and IMF capacity building programmes for parliamentarians as well as from their expertise on topics of interest; to increase awareness on the World Bank and IMF activities among parliaments and the public opinion; and to see greater parliamentary engagement in the World Bank and IMF project negotiation processes. The participants agreed to continue the discussion process by having national focal points liaising with the network before meeting again in the upcoming year in Morocco.



The Parliamentary Network would like to thank the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, for their support in organizing the event. The PN would also like to express its gratitude to the Speakers, Discussants, Moderators, MCs, and Participants. The PN thanks the numerous organizations who collaborated in making the Conference a success. The PN wishes to thank its Members who came from all over the world to be part of this important gathering.

The [Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF](#) (PN) is a non-governmental organization providing an international policy platform and informative body of knowledge sharing and research for parliamentarians to engage with international financial institutions. The Parliamentary Network is composed of over 1000 legislators from World Bank and IMF member countries, striving to promote dialogue between MPs and Senior Officials from the World Bank and IMF, civil society, academics, government and private sector representatives. The mission of the PN is to increase transparency and accountability in the development cooperation process by fostering an oversight role of Parliaments and civil society.

The [World Bank](#) is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their 189 member countries. Established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has more than 10,000 employees in more than 120 offices worldwide. The World Bank Group has [engaged systematically](#) with MPs since about 2000, both in borrowing countries and in donor countries. Further, World Bank's country offices have increasingly included parliamentarians in Country Partnership Frameworks Consultations.

The [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF) is an organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 189 countries that make up its membership. The IMF proactively [engages](#) with MPs through already established “umbrella” parliamentary organizations, reaching out to parliamentarians on the committees that have oversight of economic issues with the intent of ensuring the stability of the international monetary system.



Opening remarks

Moderator

Wassim Ben Larbi, Journalist, Express FM

Speakers

Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif, MP Tunisia, Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

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

Hafez Ghanem, MENA Vice-President, World Bank Group

Daniela Gressani, Deputy Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF

H.E. Youssef Chahed, Head of Government, Tunisia

The launching conference of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF (Parliamentary Network) was opened by Parliamentary Network Vice-Chair Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif (MP Tunisia) who highlighted the importance of the event, marking a turn in the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation in the MENA region. With parliamentarians from the region sharing a common heritage and now facing a set of common challenges, the launch of the Parliamentary Network MENA Chapter came at a critical time. Citing the example of the Tunisian democratic transition, Hon. Soukri Cherif reminded that parliamentarians have a key role to play through their constant commitment to the strengthening of democratic institutions and can gain a lot from their exchanges in the framework of the MENA Chapter.

Parliamentary Network Chair Hon. Jeremy Lefroy (MP United Kingdom) welcomed the participants and insisted on the importance of parliamentary cooperation for a better support and understanding of the work undertaken by the World Bank and the IMF. He explained that poverty and inequality reduction could be reached through: job creation for all and especially for the young; more accessible financial tools, such as leasing or equity; greater access to public services, in particular healthcare and education; climate action; gender equality; governance and respect for human rights. Both the IMF and the World Bank are committed to these items and, as the people's representatives, parliamentarians have the responsibility to work with them and their governments to ensure that such objectives are met and that they do correspond to the people's needs and aspirations.

The World Bank Group, represented by MENA Vice-President Mr. Hafez Ghanem, emphasized the essential work of MPs in achieving economic development, poverty reduction, equity and justice in the MENA region. In order for the region to face this critical period, the World Bank advocates focusing on youth and creating opportunities. Indeed, the MENA is the youngest region in the world and yet is confronted with the highest youth unemployment rate. MPs therefore have the duty to respond to their young population's expectations. Mr. Ghanem also underlined the need for a new social contract, based on inclusive growth, in the region now that the governments were not able to provide their people with enough public sector jobs, subsidies, basic products and education. A social contract revision, combined with inclusive and transparent institutions would enable the implementation of a new economic system with opportunities for youth. With the region being



confronted to this new challenge, Mr. Ghanem praised the MENA Chapter initiative, announcing a new era of collaboration, and exchange on common development issues.

“The creation of the Parliamentary Network MENA Chapter on the World Bank and the IMF will mark the beginning of a new era of collaboration, exchange of knowledge and good practices around common development challenges”

Mr. Hafez Ghanem, World Bank Vice President for the MENA region



Ms. Daniela Gressani, IMF Deputy Director for the Middle East and Central Asia Department, also welcomed the launch of the MENA Chapter of the Parliamentary Network as an incredible opportunity for parliamentarians to work together and share experiences. She also insisted that the MENA Chapter would prove to be an opportunity for the IMF to listen to MPs and to learn from them for a more relevant, more responsive, and more efficient IMF action in the region. While the IMF mission consists in providing macroeconomic policy advice in order to allow for families and businesses to thrive, IMF dialogue with stakeholders is crucial as it allows for the IMF to better explain the relevance of its work and to learn from stakeholders' feedback.

H.E. Youssef Chahed, Head of the Tunisian Government, welcomed the official launch of the MENA Parliamentary Network Chapter in the follow-up of the Tunisia2020 Investment. Tunisia stands out among other Arab Spring countries and managed to maintain institutional stability while achieving democratic accomplishments such as the drafting of the new constitution ensuring human rights, the establishment of an independent judiciary system, the holding of two fair elections, and a soon-to-be constitutional court. Amidst such transition, the Tunisian Assembly of People's Representatives played a key role in the creation of a new democratic and social system by monitoring the government's achievements and by drafting and adopting laws. As the legislative institution, the Tunisian Parliament contributes to the reforms defined by the country's economic and social objectives. The parliament is also currently looking at ways to improve its budget monitoring through new programmes. H.E. Youssef Chahed insisted that his country needed reforms in order to achieve greater fairness and to attract investment to Tunisia. He thanked the World Bank and the IMF for the support both institutions provided during the democratic transition and welcomed the Parliamentary Network initiative as leverage for greater international cooperation at the legislative level.





“Our Parliament played a crucial role in creating a new democratic and social system by monitoring the government’s achievements and enshrining a new democratic culture”

HE Youssef Chahed,
Head of the Tunisian
Government



Opening session

Moderator

Wassim Ben Larbi, Journalist, Express FM

Speakers

H.E. Lamia Zribi, Minister of Finance, Tunisia

H.E. Fadhel Abdelkefi, Minister for Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia

Tunisian Minister of Finance H.E. Lamia Zribi welcomed the MENA Chapter Launch participants and gave an overview of the Tunisian financial situation. The Tunisia2020 Investment conference succeeded in mobilizing stakeholders and partners ready to support the Tunisian democratic transition, through investment and the financing of promising projects. Tunisia is confronted to sluggish economic growth, a high unemployment rate and increasing budgetary and financial imbalances. As a response, the government has led expansionary monetary and budgetary policies, respectively acting on interest rates, reserve ratios, and spending with the aim to foster a favorable environment for investment and enabled to increase the budget. The increased resources will be dedicated to investment, private initiative and entrepreneurship, and to job creation, as well as to social measures and to the gradual reduction of the deficit. If combined with a favorable economic conjecture and growth, the budget implementation would enable greater development in Tunisia, H.E. Lamia Zribi concluded before welcoming again the contributions and conclusions to be drawn from the MENA Chapter initiative.



(From left to right) HE Fadhel Abdelkefi and HE Lamia Zribi

H.E. Fadhel Abdelkefi, Minister for Development, Investment and International Cooperation, also welcomed the participants to the MENA Chapter Launch, in the follow-up of the Tunisia2020 Investment Conference. Tunisia2020 demonstrated the country's ability in organizing a high-level



event, in welcoming delegations from all over the world, in developing projects and in raising a significant amount of funds. As minister, H.E. Abdelkefi has had opportunities to discuss the potential of Tunisia for economic growth with World Bank and IMF representatives. The concretization of projects will however require a joint effort from the Tunisian government and parliament. The parliament is an important institution in the Tunisian political system and its members have the difficult task to pass sound budgetary laws and to foster investment through the simplification of the legal and administrative framework. Indeed, the economic crisis requires the government to cooperate with the parliament and to submit to the scrutiny of its members.



Official launch of the MENA Regional Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

Moderator

Wassim Ben Larbi, Journalist, Express FM

Presentation of Mission and Objectives

Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif, MP Tunisia, Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Speakers

Hon. Mohamed Ali Houmed, Speaker of Parliament, Djibouti

Hon. May ElBatran, MP Egypt

Marie-Françoise Marie Nelly, Country Director for the Maghreb and Malta, World Bank Group

Christoph Rosenberg, Assistant Director, Communications Department, IMF

The Parliamentary Network Vice-Chair Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif (MP Tunisia) presented the Network to the audience. Founded in 2000, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF provides an independent platform for legislators around the world to promote better accountability and transparency in development cooperation projects. The network now counts over 1,000 members and is open to all members of parliament who hold a current mandate. The network is directed by an elected Board of Directors and has an international secretariat based in Paris. The network ensures that the voice of parliamentarians is heard on key World Bank and IMF subjects. It organizes a range of various events for legislators, among which: seminars at the Annual and Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF; field visits (Indonesia 2016, Peru 2015, Tanzania 2014); and regional events. Interested parliamentarians can join by registering through our [website](http://parlnet.org) or contacting the secretariat (secretariat@parlnet.org).





“It is crucial that MPs get involved in ensuring the transparency of the World Bank and IMF projects they are asked to approve”

PN Vice-Chair
Hon. Olfa Soukri
Cherif

Hon. Mohamed Ali Houmed (MP, Speaker of the Djibouti National Assembly) introduced the participants to his country and to the role of the National Assembly in Djibouti. Djibouti has been experiencing, since the late 1990s, a 6.6% average annual growth rate namely thanks to its service economy, to the development of port and rail facilities, to its economic integration with Ethiopia, and to good administrative governance. The economy of Djibouti has potential in terms of renewable energies, industrialization and tourism and is attractive for foreign investors. The current economic measures, developed in the framework of the Vision Djibouti2035 plan aim to foster employment with a focus against unemployment and poverty. Hon. Ali Houmed then suggested that issues such as economic growth, unemployment, the fight against poverty, sustainable development, migration and security, and youth ought to be at the center of the Chapter’s reflections. Furthermore, the MENA Chapter is expected to be a forum for knowledge and experience exchange as well as a stepping stone for greater inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Hon. May ElBatan (MP Egypt) presented the Egyptian parliament’s mission and features to the audience. The current Egyptian legislature happens to be the most representative to-date with one third of MPs aged under 35, 15% percent of women MPs, as well as representatives of the Diaspora and of people with specific needs. The four missions entrusted to the Egyptian parliament are: legislating (1); contributing to the State-policy (2); monitoring policy implementation and the government’s activities (3); implementing the new constitution, with a focus on the provisions related to rights and liberties, in order to pursue on the democratic path started in 2011 (4). Hon. ElBatan further depicted the economic landscape in Egypt, highlighting the direction taken towards the implementation of economic reforms that aim at the achievement of decent life for all, economic growth and the creation of new cities and the development of marginalized regions. Egypt has an ongoing programme led with the cooperation of the World Bank and the IMF and founded on four pillars: setting up a flexible budget policy; renewing the finances to absorb debt and inflation; strengthening social security; and creating jobs while fostering investment. Hon. ElBatan underlined the complementarity between international financing institutions and legislators in the promotion of transparency, explaining that the Parliamentary Network offers a good platform to exchange experiences and open dialogue on the policies needed to achieve inclusive growth and development.



Ms. Marie-Françoise Marie Nelly, World Bank Country Director for the Maghreb and Malta, welcomed the MENA Parliamentary Network Chapter as a positive initiative for change in the region. Drawing on her experience with parliamentarians, she highlighted the need for international cooperation at the legislative level to promote sustainable development and peace. This is even more crucial with the increasing powers and responsibilities obtained by legislators as a result of the post-2011 changes in some MENA countries. In Morocco and Tunisia, the role of parliament has been increased with greater leverage in decision-making, along with a greater accountability and oversight role. Ms. Marie Nelly further suggested the Chapter could explore difficult topics such as the development and the use (including at the administrative level) of information and communications technologies; climate change in the follow-up of COP22 and the involvement of parliamentarians in the implementation of mitigation policies; youth policies and youth representativeness in the decision-making process; as well as the open government. In order to be effective, the network will need an action plan and active involvement from its members.



“The IMF is keen to hear back from parliamentarians to get a better understanding on which reforms are politically feasible”

Christoph Rosenberg, IMF Assistant Director for Communications

Mr. Christoph Rosenberg, IMF Assistant Director for Communications, welcomed the MENA Chapter in a context where parliaments of the region have an increasing part to play in the shaping of policies. He highlighted the convergence between the IMF’s ultimate agenda for inclusive growth and the daily work conducted by legislators on various issues related to taxation, energy subsidies, or civil services with the aim of improving the lives of the poorest. The IMF has been increasingly engaging with parliamentarians, despite its natural and invariable counterpart being the executive. Indeed, the executive cannot remain the only partner in countries where the IMF has programmes (e.g. Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan); it therefore regularly engages with parliamentarians, who have the final word on the budget ratification. At the regional level, the IMF has also initiated, in 2014, consultations with MPs and other stakeholders in the framework of a dialogue on Building the Future in the Arab world¹. The Parliamentary Network is a unique platform to exchange experiences and the IMF is very

¹ Building the Future: Jobs, Growth, & Fairness in the Arab World, 11-12 May 2014, Amman, Jordan. For more information: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2014/act/>



keen on contributing with its economic and reform expertise and on hearing back from the MPs in order to get a better understanding of which reforms are politically feasible.

Discussion

The discussion allowed the MPs to express their views and expectations about the network and the policies to implement for the development of the MENA region.

Common issues to address in the region

- Hon. Maher El Gamiel (MP Egypt) underlined the existing common issues at stake in the MENA region, as several countries are currently studying and implementing laws related to good governance, transparency, or anticorruption.
Mr. Christophe Rosenberg (IMF) noted that the demand for job-creation in the private sector, especially from the young, combined with global changes and increasing integration can explain the existence of common priorities in the MENA region
- Unemployment and poverty: Hon. Mohd Jawad Hadid (MP Jordan) reminded the audience that unemployment triggered the Arab Spring uprisings and wondered what specific policies and programmes could be implemented to end poverty.
- Youth: Mr. Habib Karaouli, a private sector representative, insisted on the need to foster youth civic engagement and participation to elections; in a context of declining participation in Tunisia.
Hon. Mohamed Ali Houmed (MP Djibouti) called MPs to raise awareness among the young for them to engage with policy makers.
PN Vice-Chair Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif (MP Tunisia) insisted on the importance of listening to the young and delivering more inclusive policies
- Public-private partnerships (PPP): Hon. ElBatan noted that the Tunisian policies on the matter could benefit from the Egyptian experience where many PPP were implemented since 2009

Country-level progress

- Hon. Redha Faraj (MP Bahrain) noted that the Kingdom of Bahrain has already implemented good governance and is equipped with the latest technology.
- Hon. Lilia Ksibi (MP Tunisia) expressed her hopes for MPs to meet the expectations of greater inclusion after the Tunisia2020 conference.
- Hon. Abdelali Hamidine (Senator Morocco) explained that MPs can gain from partnerships with civil society and explained that the 2013 Constitutional Reform enabled CSOs to attend parliamentary sessions and give feedback on legislation.

The Parliamentary Network MENA Chapter scope and objectives

- Hon. Abdelkader Chenini (Senator Algeria) insisted on the need to communicate and popularize the Parliamentary Network so that it can benefit more MPs.
- Hon. Naamane Laouar (MP Algeria) the MENA Chapter added value will reside in its capacity to raise popular acceptance of World Bank and IMF projects, namely through exchanges on monetary means and on the legislative issues faced by MPs.
- Hon. Aicha Dabar (MP Djibouti) reflected on the impact of the decisions taken in the framework of the MENA Chapter and pleaded for greater parliamentary advocacy to the World Bank and the IMF.



Ms. Marie-Françoise Marie Nelly (World Bank Group) explained that, in several cases, meeting with MPs led the World Bank to redefine its strategy to provide better support (e.g. for deprived areas)

- Ms. Marie-Françoise Marie Nelly (World Bank Group) invited the MPs to channel the concerns from their Assembly and to raise them in the framework of the MENA Chapter.

World Bank and IMF parliamentary engagement

- Hon. Baya Djenane (MP Algeria) highlighted the need for international financial institutions (IFIs) to increase their cooperation with MPs
- Hon. Iqbal AlMadhy (MP Iraq) called IFIs to better explain and clarify the use of the allocated funds to the MPs in order for them to define their position on reforms accordingly
- Mr. Christophe Rosenberg (IMF) explained that governmental cooperation cannot be entirely replaced by parliamentary cooperation given the fact that the many issues, including the monetary, are under the scope of the executive. He however conceded that IMF programmes require national ownership to be effective.

The discussion concluded with the adoption of the declaration² by the members from ten MENA countries represented: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia.



² Annex 3 Read the declaration by the MENA Chapter founding members in [English](#), [Arabic](#) and [French](#)



Regional economic and governance priorities

Moderator

Line Refai, Journalist, France24

Speakers

Fadhel Mahfoudh, President of the Tunisian Bar Association

Hon. Neila Mia Tazi, 5th Vice-Chair of the House of Councilors, Morocco

Ferid Belhaj, Country Director, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Iran, World Bank Group

Renaud Seligmann, Practice Manager, Governance Global Practice, World Bank Group

Bjoern Rother, Mission Chief for Tunisia, IMF

Overview

How can economic and governance reforms help alleviate unemployment and other economic challenges facing the region? What has been the economic impact of conflicts, and can such reforms mitigate these impacts?

Mr. Bjoern Rother, IMF Mission Chief for Tunisia, gave a presentation of the economic impact of conflicts in the MENA region³. Conflicts affect both the countries directly in conflict, as well as their neighbours. In the two cases, countries can suffer from damage to their physical capital and infrastructure; deaths, internal displacement and refugees; weakening confidence and security (with an impact on tourism); as well as weakening social cohesion and institutional quality. There are also impacts to the economy as a whole, causing important drops in GDP growth. Policy responses to conflicts exist at different levels. On the short-term, priority ought to be given to the protection of institutions, to spending prioritization and on macro-economic stabilization. On the long-term, it is important to focus on post-conflict rebuilding; establishing a joint economic vision for the future; defining an ambitious programme; managing capital inflows; and addressing the long-term needs of refugees, including access to infrastructure and services (e.g. in Lebanon and Jordan). Furthermore, a crisis-prevention agenda would give emphasis to inclusive growth, including five key themes: fiscal policy; labour markets; access to finance; business climate; and governance. Parliamentarians have a key role to play in ensuring the delivery of such agenda, especially in ensuring the maintaining of service quality at adequate level.

World Bank Country Director Mr. Ferid Belhaj gave further details as to the concrete consequences of conflicts. In Lebanon, for instance, there are now about 1,5 million of Syrian refugees, in addition to the 500000 Palestinian refugees already present before 2011. This causes an increasing pressure on the Lebanese infrastructure and public services, in addition to impacting social cohesion and the economy. We witness a similar situation in Jordan. Both countries were already fragile prior to the Syrian crisis and, although they present institutional differences, they demonstrated resilience in

³ Access the presentation slides here :

<http://www.parlnet.org/sites/default/files/The%20MENA%20Region%20The%20Economic%20Impact%20of%20Conflicts%20-%20Rother.pdf>



absorbing the important refugee inflows. The challenge, nowadays, lies in the creation of economic opportunities from this crisis situation. The Parliament can play a pre-emptive role to avoid these desperate situations by anticipating and tackling popular discontent.



“Legislators have a crucial role in preventing conflicts because they can anticipate and absorb popular discontent”

Ferid Belhaj, World Bank Country Director for Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Iran

Mr. Renaud Seligmann, Global Governance Practice Manager at the World Bank, provided more elements of context about the MENA region. The region itself represents, at the same time, 5% of the world population; 45% of registered terrorism acts; 58% of the world refugees; and 68% of the world conflict casualties. From the World Bank perspective, these conflicts originate from governance failures, often resulting in a shortfall for economic growth. When comparing countries with strong and weak institutions, the differential can reach 5.2 percentage points in GDP growth. This can be explained by the fact that strong institutions ensure better quality services, allow for enhanced control over corruption and therefore greater citizen confidence and participation in politics. When comparing indicators based on accountability, stability, violence, public sector efficiency, norm enforcement, rule of law, and control over corruption, the World Bank finds a low ranking for the MENA region, especially in terms of accountability and freedom of speech.

Mr. Fadhel Mahfoudh, President of the Tunisian Bar Association, further insisted that economic expansion was necessarily subject to the ensuring of legal security. Countries like Syria and Libya rank very low in terms of legal security and therefore will see their economic growth impeded, once the conflicts end. The situation of Tunisia is different because legal security is ensured, namely thanks to major Tunisian institutions that are: the Court of Accounts, which provides financial advice, the Judiciary (*Magistrature*), and the *Conseil Administratif*. Despite efforts and the gradual implementation of legislation against corruption, Tunisia still faces problems linked to the democratic transition (e.g. informal economy and corruption).



“The inclusion of private sector and trade union representatives in our Parliament has allowed for enriched debates, especially on topics like job-creation”

Hon. Neila-Mia Tazi, Vth Vice-Chair of the Moroccan House of Councillors



As a representative of the private sector in parliament, Hon. Neila-Mia Tazi (5th Vice-Chair of the House of Councilors of Morocco) highlighted the specificity of the Moroccan parliament of granting representation, since last year, to private sector and trade union representatives in its House of Councilors. This has so far allowed for enriched parliamentary debates especially on topics such as job-creation where the private sector is directly involved. In addition, the new constitution and the reforms which followed enabled the implementation of a new set of institutions against corruption and in the promotion of human rights.

Discussion

The discussion gave the MPs an opportunity to discuss the ways to take to improve economic and governance reforms.

Ensuring law effectiveness

- Hon. Redha Faraj (MP Bahrain) underlined the necessity of ensuring the effective implementation of laws once they are passed.
Mr. Renaud Seligmann further pointed out the gap between the quality of legislative texts and their consistent and fair implementation, an issue that could be relevant to the MENA Chapter.

Fighting corruption

- At the request of Hon. Manel Maher (MP Egypt), Mr. Seligmann provided two success stories in the fight against corruption: (1) Philippines: CSOs, MPs, and private sector associations formed a coalition to improve the degree of information on tenders and counter the use of procurements as bribes. Procurement costs were reduced by putting the information online and encouraging people to denounce abusive practices. (2) Rwanda: In the aftermath of the genocide, corruption was perceived as a factor leading up to the massacre. A combination of political will and a coalition allowed reducing the levels of corruption in the country.
- Mr. Bjoern Rother focused on tax collection, procurement procedures and most importantly transparency: putting the information online and supporting advocates of transparency (such as Transparency International) has an impact on reducing corruption.



Mr. Ferid Belhaj cited best practices examples including: Thailand where lawyers provide expertise to the unprivileged; and Tunisia where parliamentary oversight NGOs exist.

- Hon. Naamane Laouar (MP Algeria) insisted political will was key in the fight against corruption.

The Role of MPs in improving governance

- Parliaments are counter-weights to the executive branch and therefore have a responsibility in controlling what the government does.



Spotlight session: Enabling youth entrepreneurship and spurring job-creation in MENA

Moderator

Line Refai, Journalist, France24

Speakers

Robert Blotevogel, Resident Representative for Tunisia, IMF

Hichem Elloumi, Vice-president, Union for Industry, Trade and Crafts, Tunisia

David Robalino, Manager, Jobs Cross-cutting Solutions Area, World Bank Group

Philippe de Meneval, Senior Private Sector Development Specialist, World Bank Group

Elyes Jeribi, Executive Director, SMART Tunisia

Fred Fenwick, Programme Manager, Peace Child International

Overview

What are the main challenges facing youth in MENA today? What is the economic and social impact of youth unemployment and what can be done to address it?

Mr. David Robalino, Manager on Jobs Cross-cutting Solutions Area for the World Bank, cited that about 700 million young people live in a precarious situation, being either unemployed or working in the informal sector. In the MENA region, the phenomenon is even more important. In Tunisia, Egypt or Libya the youth unemployment rate reaches at least 30% and young people do not have access to quality jobs. As a response, Tunisia implemented two types of programmes: (1) connecting the young with professionals and providing them with vocational training and; (2) entrepreneurial programmes focusing on financial and technical assistance and access to funding opportunities. At the global level, the World Bank noted that most programmes are not well connected to the economy and job creation, nor do they meet the expectations of both employers and the young.

Mr. Robert Blotevogel, IMF Resident Representative for Tunisia, highlighted the fact that the MENA was the region where youth unemployment is the highest. Deficiencies in training and education systems and the young's relative lack of experience lead them toward the informal sector when looking for jobs. In most of the region's countries, the State is the primary employer, thus reducing opportunities in the private sector. In addition, small and medium-sized enterprises do not have easy access to financing which prevents them from growing. Parliamentarians can help tackle these constraints by creating a more favorable legal framework for enterprises and by encouraging the public and private sectors to cooperate on the implementation of a new education system which would give opportunities for the young to gain more practical knowledge and manual skills.





“MPs can foster youth job-creation by reflecting the voice of young people in reforms”

Robert Blotevogel, IMF
Resident Representative for

Mr. Hichem Elloumi, Vice-president of the Tunisian Union for Industry, Trade and Crafts, linked youth unemployment in Tunisia to the low growth rate experienced by the country. Since 2011, the GDP growth rate brutally fell from 5% to 1.5%. Better quality growth would help the integration of Tunisia’s youth. The 2020 UTICA programme aims at more growth and jobs, supporting enterprises and encouraging them to recruit young people. In addition, because the Tunisian economy is relatively small and composed of too many low value-added sectors in its economy, Mr. Elloumi called for the revalorization of its sectors which are relatively diversified.

Mr. Elyes Jeribi, SMART Tunisia Executive Director, suggested a few elements to achieve the ambitions of Tunisia2020 and tackle unemployment: investing in infrastructure and internet connectivity; reforming and digitalizing the Tunisian administration is to make more investment and change friendly; supporting the private sector in its digitalization and in gaining more competitiveness. As a result, about 50000 jobs would be created, with higher added value.

Mr. Philippe de Meneval, World Bank Senior Private Sector Development Specialist, added that any solution will need to include new public policy tools and to increasingly rely on private agency in order to reach the rural population and to gain influence on the private sector. He also stressed the importance of providing resources for young entrepreneurs through mixed financial arrangements: for instance, small funding then followed with facilitated access to capital. This would require policy-makers to think about a full range of financial solutions for entrepreneurs.

Mr. Fred Fenwick, Peace Child International Programme Manager, explained that each region required a specific approach. In the case of the African continent, the level of informality is high and most people are self-employed. Therefore, it is important that their entrepreneurial skills and ideas for sustainable businesses are encouraged. While job-creation has often been approached from the top-down, it also requires a bottom-up approach and entrepreneurship is the key point to solve the job-creation crisis. Effective action also requires from all stakeholders to use monitoring evaluation in order to better identify what works and what does not.

Discussion



The discussion gave the MPs an opportunity to examine the proposed measures to reduce youth unemployment.

Involving the young in youth employability and job creation

- Hon. Redha Farraj (MP Bahrain) underlined the need to involve the young in creating the jobs that are meant for them
 - Mr. Robalino agreed and supported the inclusion of youth associations in the process of reforms for job creation.

Growth challenges for job-creation

- Hon. Bassem Albinmohamed (MP Bahrain) pointed out that the current drop in oil prices will contribute to an increase in the youth unemployment rate. Given the number of university graduates per year, the job market needs to be reshaped to provide them with better opportunities.
 - Mr. Blotevogel further indicated that job creation and youth employment required economic growth and dynamism.
- Hon. Manal Maher (MP Egypt) stressed the need to work on work culture by fighting the positive image of the informal sector that is sometimes relayed. She also suggested working on a review of opportunities for job-creation in all sectors.

Involving the private sector in job-creation related reforms

- Mr. de Meneval raised the issue of adjusting youth and job public policies so that they respond to the need of the private sector.
- Mr. Jeribi added that the rationale behind the involvement of non-public institutions was that they are more flexible, and have better knowledge equipped to deal with such complex issue.



The role of regional networks

Moderator

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

Speakers

Abdellatif Kharrat, First President, Tunisia Court of Accounts; Secretary General, ARABOSAI

Amel Elloumi Baouab, Government Commissioner, Tunisia Court of Accounts

Hon. Vincent Galea, MP, Vice Speaker of Parliament, Malta

Hon. Mahdjoub Bedda, MP Algeria, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee

Hon. Redha Faraj, MP, Shura Council, Bahrain

Overview

How can regional networks support collaboration among accountability institutions and stakeholders for strengthened external oversight?

Mr. Abdellatif Kharrat and Ms. Amel Elloumi Baouab opened the session by sharing the experience of the Arab Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI), a regional network which comprises supreme audit institutions from the 22 member-countries of the Arab League, including the Tunisian Court of Accounts. ARABOSAI aims to strengthen cooperation to develop and improve the financial control capacity of its members. The organization is involved in key areas such as the fight against corruption, the achievement of the sustainable development goals, strategic management and the development of relations with relevant stakeholders. In most Arab countries, the legal framework enables relations between the Parliament and Supreme Audit Institutions although its scope is seldom defined. The existing practices include: sending annual reports to the Speaker of parliament; organizing hearings with thematic parliamentary committees and sharing observations, results and recommendations; and parliamentarians attending seminars organized by audit institutions. ARABOSAI promotes good practices from around the world such as: the record and publication of hearings and interviews with parliamentary committees; the production of simplified reports for MPs; the monitoring of parliamentary proposals; the compiling of recommendations from various reports in a given area; guidance on how audit reports can be used; and training courses for MPs and staff from Supreme Audit Institutions.

Further to this presentation, Hon. Mahjoub Bedda (MP Algeria) shared his insights on oversight and highlighted the need for parliamentarians to be better trained in finance and budget related issues. He also pointed out that several ways of exercising oversight exist and expressed the wish to see the MENA Chapter facilitating sessions and meetings with IMF and World Bank experts, but also with regional court of accounts in order for the MPs to share their experience with them.

Hon. Vincent Galea (Vice Speaker of Parliament, Malta) welcomed the MENA Chapter initiative, as a network aiming to improve transparency and accountability and creating cooperation opportunities, through the exchange of practices and experience. Members of Parliament, along with representatives of the judiciary, are indeed the best positioned to promote accountability and greater transparency because they monitor and can sanction their government.



Key elements for the success of the network were also underlined by Hon. Redha Faraj (MP Bahrain). The members would have to be patient with each other and to listen to the other party's view in order to ensure smooth communications. Another element is that parliamentarians need to listen to their constituents, accept their comments or criticism and involve them in the process.

Discussion

The following discussion allowed the participants to exchange on:

The MENA Chapter continuity

- Hon. Baya Djenane (MP Algeria) and Hon. Vincent Galea (Vice Speaker, Malta) raised the issue of funding for the network to be sustainable.

The relation of Parliaments with audit institutions

- The need to have audits more focused on the monitoring and achievement of the SDGs, in addition to public finance management was raised by Hon. Naamane Laouar (MP Algeria). Outcomes and improvement of the citizens' lives should be taken into account. In order to achieve that, M. Kharrat pointed that the initial budgets need to be objective-based.
- Hon. Bassem Albinmohamed (MP Bahrain) underlined the complexity of audit reports which requires from MPs to have expertise in audit in order to understand such reports. Hon. Mahdjoub Bedda (MP Algeria) suggested that MPs are better trained and use the MENA Chapter as an opportunity for briefings with World Bank and IMF experts.
- Ms. Elloumi Baouab highlighted that the MENA Chapter can be used as a space to ensure a more efficient relationship between audit institutions and Parliaments, especially on development issues.



Meeting with the Tunisian parliament

Speaker

Hon. Mohamed Ennaceur, Speaker of the Tunisian Parliament

The Parliamentary Network delegation was welcomed at the Tunisian Parliament, the Assembly of Representatives of the People, by Speaker Hon. Mohamed Ennaceur. Hon. Ennaceur recognized the importance of the topics related to investment, economic reforms and inclusions which have been discussed by the MENA Chapter. This set of issues happened to be the core of the Tunisian parliamentary debate, especially in the context of budget vote and the organization of Tunisia2020 conference. Several laws have indeed been adopted by the Tunisian parliament in order to foster investment, to strengthen the social and political stability in the country and to support the government's efforts in the implementation of reforms.



(From left to right) Hon. Jeremy Lefroy, Hon. Mohammed Ennaceur, and Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif



The role of parliaments in fragile States

Moderator

Line Refai, Journalist, France24

Speakers

Ferid Belhaj, Country Director, Lebanon Iraq Jordan and Syria, World Bank Group

Christoph Rosenberg, Assistant Director, Communications Department, IMF

Hon. Jean Oghassabian, Chairman of the Economy, Trade and Industry Committee, Lebanon

Hon. Mohd Jawad Hadid, Senator, Jordan

Overview

What role does the legislature play in conflict management in fragile States? How can its role be strengthened?

Mr. Ferid Belhaj was invited to open the session and provided a definition of what a fragile State is. He therefore explained that *fragility* is a concept that has multiple meanings depending on the region. In the case of the MENA area, fragility is mostly a consequence of human's actions, as opposed to an exposure to nature for instance. At the institutional level, some countries have very weak institutions that lack resilience and do not deliver the expected performance, as it is the case in Lebanon. In other countries such as Syria or Iraq, fragility is mostly due to conflict and strife. Mr. Belhaj referred to a report⁴ in which the economic impact of the Syrian conflict on Lebanon was estimated to amount to \$7.5 billion. Many visits were organized to the country and followed by the crafting of instruments and projects aiming to alleviate the pressure on the receiving communities while fostering the development impact of the refugees' arrival. However, the \$75 million provided by multilateral donors did not suffice and failed to meet the needs of the Lebanese and Jordanian societies, although they are providing a global public good by welcoming refugees.

Further to these elements, Mr. Christoph Rosenberg added that the MENA region accounts for 68% of the world battle related death while it only makes up 5% of the population⁵. Two countries, Lebanon and Jordan, have been doing the world a favour by welcoming many refugees and are now facing the challenges of integrating the refugees to their economies, labour markets and societies. The IMF has a \$20 million budget for the region which includes programmes in Egypt, in Iraq and in Jordan. Such programmes are meant to be implemented in a flexible way, through budget grants rather than loans, especially in the case of Jordan and Lebanon that are in need of international help.

⁴ *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, World Bank, 2013. Read the full report here: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/925271468089385165/Lebanon-Economic-and-social-impact-assessment-of-the-Syrian-conflict>

Read the executive summary:

<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/MNA/LBNESIA%20of%20Syrian%20Conflict-%20EX%20SUMMARY%20ENGLISH.pdf>

⁵ According to the Economist, *Another Arab awakening is looming, warns a UN report*:

<http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21710934-arabs-make-up-just-5-worlds-population-they-account-about-half>



*“In post-conflict situations,
the Parliament matters
because it ensures a fairer
representation of the people”*

Hon. Jean Oghassabian, MP
Lebanon



Hon. Jean Oghassabian raised the challenges for members of parliament in conflict and crisis-prevention contexts. In addition to their mandate of ensuring representation, accountability, oversight and democratic alternation, it is important, that parliamentarians take the necessary steps to prevent conflicts by undertaking constitutional reforms, by elaborating strategies to foster peace, and by establishing credible mechanisms to avoid discrimination. In conflict and post-conflict situations, Hon. Oghassabian insisted that the parliament’s role is also to provide support to conflict victims, through psychological care and reintegration programmes, especially for refugees and displaced people. In the case of Lebanon, the challenge is significant with over 1 million registered refugees, the pressure that it poses to the State and the lack of a clear vision from the international community on the Syrian conflict.

In the case of Jordan, as Hon. Mohd Jawad Hadid explained, the country is experiencing economic reforms after a 5-year crisis. Jordan is one of the ten poorest countries in terms of water resources and therefore needs to lead projects to increase its water resources, such as the Red Sea-Dead Sea one. However, securing the necessary funds for conducting such projects is difficult: Hon. Hadid explained that most lenders, including the European Investment Bank and the World Bank had imposed conditions that led the government to implement the project with its own resources instead. In addition to water scarcity, the country is under the pressure of refugee inflows putting services such as education to test.

Discussion

The following discussion allowed the participants to exchange on:

Lending mechanisms

- Hon. Karim Darwish (MP Egypt) wondered what other solutions could be proposed, other than loans and grants for countries in the region that also need help, for instance, to boost tourism and to improve at the structural level. He called for MPs to join efforts in putting greater pressure on the international community for concrete action.



- With regards to tourism, Mr. Rosenberg insisted that encouraging the global economy and avoiding protectionism can allow that growth in Europe, for instance, can spillover and translate into increased tourism in Egypt. Ms. Marie Nelly added that regional cooperation and integration is an important component for fostering trade or tourism and can offer successful examples of policies to be replicated across the border.
- Mr. Belhaj advocated a two-pronged approach: 1) mitigating the immediate impacts; 2) addressing the upcoming shocks at medium and longer terms. In that sense, the Parliament plays a crucial role because it has the final say on financing schemes.

Opportunities for further collaboration between international financial institutions and MPs

- As the drop in oil prices has badly affected exporting countries, Hon. Baya Djenane (MP Algeria) asked how the World Bank and IMF could work with the Parliamentary Network in finding solutions for all sectors in which help is needed.
- As a Tunisian MP, Hon. Rym Mahjoub expressed the wish to see MPs more closely to the negotiation of loans, especially in deciding on their orientation to consumption or investment. She also highlighted the important mandate of parliamentarians who do not always manage to fulfill all their oversight functions because of the length in the legislative process.
 - Mr. Rosenberg underlined that the IMF only advises governments on reforms but does not make decisions on their behalf but can help parliaments in providing accounting mechanisms.
 - With regards to the World Bank, Mr. Belhaj explained that parliamentary engagement has not yet become an integral part of the organisation's country dialogue. Both parties could however benefit from such dialogue, and reduce the level of misunderstanding on what the World Bank does and contribute by sharing useful feedback on its activities.



Working session with members of the regional network

The delegation gathered took part in a working session aiming at validating the governance arrangements of the MENA chapter. The participants were able to share their expectations and to define objectives for the chapter.

The MPs therefore suggested the chapter engages in activities with the World Bank and IMF such as: training sessions on topics relevant to the current legislation in the region (e.g. public-private partnerships); and experience-sharing workshops during which parliamentarians will be able to draw lessons from each other's countries.

It was also suggested that upcoming meetings of the chapter take place in each country and that they include other stakeholders, namely coming from civil society organisations or supreme audit institutions.

The participants also expressed their wish to deepen their engagement with both the World Bank and IMF, to be able to refer to experts when in need of information or of a better understanding on a given topic of the institutions' expertise. The legislators also wished to gain a better grasp of the negotiation frameworks, whether it be the World Bank's Country Strategic Partners or the IMF's Article 4 consultations.

“It is fruitful to establish partnerships between MPs and to exchange views. We need more experience-based discussions and less lectures and papers”

Hon. Redha Faraj, MP Bahrain

“The MENA Chapter should be a key interlocutor for MPs with international financial institutions”

Hon. Abdelkader Chenini, Senator
Algeria

“There is a communication deficit between the World Bank and IMF, on the one hand, and the public opinion and MPs, on the other. Parliamentarians need better visibility and more information on the negotiations led with the government”

Hon. Rahhal El Makkaoui,
Senator Morocco

“It would be useful for our Parliaments to receive support in capacity-building from the World Bank and IMF”

Hon. Manal Maher El-Gamiel, MP Egypt

“I see the launch of the MENA Chapter as a positive step and achievement for MPs in their relation with the World Bank and IMF”

Hon. Iqbal AlMadhy, MP Iraq



Closing remarks

The MENA Chapter launching concluded with a few words from the Tunisian Ministry of Tourism whose representative highlighted the success of the Tunisian democratic transition and the remaining challenges ahead of Tunisia2020. Tourism is indeed a key sector to the economy of Tunisia, comprising a cultural dimension and openness. So far, the sector has proved to be resilient but it still needs a boost, namely through the reformed *Code d'Investissement* and the implementation of a framework to spur enterprises, as well as through the tackling of security issues in the region.

Both the World Bank and IMF representatives, Mr. Renaud Seligmann and Mr. Robert Blotevogel, expressed their will to work jointly with parliamentarians in order to fulfill their wish to have a prosperous and peaceful region. While they reminded the participants that governments were sovereign, there is still room to improve the World Bank and IMF engagement with legislators and cooperation to achieve sustainable development.

Parliamentary Network Chair Hon. Jeremy Lefroy (MP United Kingdom) and Vice Chair Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif (MP Tunisia) thanked the Tunisian parliament for welcoming the MENA Chapter and called for an upcoming meeting to take place in Morocco.



PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK AND IMF

December 1 - 2, 2016

THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2016

Venue: The Sheraton Hotel, Tunis

09:30 - 10:00

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

10:00 - 10:45

OPENING REMARKS

- **Hon. Jeremy Lefroy**, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF
- **Hafez Ghanem**, MENA Vice President, World Bank
- **Daniela Gressani**, Deputy Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF
- **H.E. Youssef Chahed**, Prime Minister, Tunisia

Moderator: **Wassim Ben Larbi**, Journalist, Express FM

10:45 - 11:15

OPENING SESSION

- **H.E. Lamia Zribi**, Minister of Finance, Tunisia
- **H.E. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, Minister for Development, Investment, and International Cooperation, Tunisia: Presentation of the Government's new Five-Year Plan and Country Partnership Framework

Moderator: **Wassim Ben Larbi**, Journalist, Express FM

11:15 - 12:30

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE MENA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WB & IMF

Presentation of Mission and Objectives

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

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA CHAPTER

December 1 - 2, 2016

Speakers:

- **Hon. Mohamed Ali Houmed**, Speaker of Parliament, Djibouti
- **Hon. May El Batran**, Chair of the Committee of Communication and Information Technology, Egypt
- **Marie-Francoise Marie Nelly**, Country Director for the Maghreb and Malta, World Bank
- **Christoph Rosenberg**, Assistant Director, Communications Department, IMF

Moderator: **Wassim Ben Larbi**, Journalist, Express FM

Discussion and Q&A

Adoption of the declaration by members of the Networks

12:30 - 13:45

REGIONAL ECONOMIC & GOVERNANCE REFORM PRIORITIES

How can economic and governance reforms help alleviate unemployment and other economic challenges facing the region? What has been the economic impact of conflicts, and can such reforms mitigate these impacts?

Speakers:

- **Fadhel Mahfoudh**, President of the Tunisian Bar Association
- **Hon. Neila Mia Tazi**, Vice Chair of the House of Councillors, Morocco
- **Ferid Belhaj**, Country Director, Lebanon Iraq Jordan and Syria, World Bank
- **Renaud Seligmann**, Practice Manager, Governance Global Practice, World Bank
- **Bjoern Rother**, Mission Chief for Tunisia, IMF

Moderator: **Line Refai**, Journalist, France24

Discussion and Q&A

13:45 - 14:45

LUNCH

PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK AND IMF

December 1 - 2, 2016

14:45 - 16:00

SPOTLIGHT SESSION

Enabling Youth Entrepreneurship & Spurring Job-Creation in MENA

What are the main challenges facing youth in MENA today? What is the economic and social impact of youth unemployment and what can be done to address it?

Speakers:

- **Robert Blotevogel**, Resident Representative for Tunisia, IMF
- **Hichem Elloumi**, Vice President, Union for Industry, Trade, and Crafts, Tunisia
- **David Robalino**, Manager, Jobs Cross-Cutting Solutions Area, World Bank
- **Philippe de Meneval**, Program Leader, World Bank
- **Elyes Jeribi**, SMART Tunisia
- **Fred Fenwick**, Program Manager, Peace Child International, UK

Moderator: **Line Refai**, Journalist, France24

Discussion and Q&A

16:00 - 16:15

COFFEE BREAK

16:15 - 17:30

THE ROLE OF REGIONAL NETWORKS

How can regional networks support collaboration among accountability institutions and stakeholders for strengthened external oversight?

Speakers:

- **Abdellatif Kharrat**, First President, Tunisia Court of Accounts & Secretary General, ARABOSAI
- **Amel Elloumi Baouab**, Government Commissioner, Tunisian Court of Accounts
- **Hon. Vincent Galea**, Vice Speaker of Parliament, Malta
- **Hon. Mahdjoub Bedda**, MP, Chairman, Finance and Budget Committee, Algeria

Moderator: **Hon. Jeremy Lefroy**, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

Discussion and Q&A

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA CHAPTER

December 1 - 2, 2016

17:30 - 17:45

WRAP-UP SESSION

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

19:30

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE OFFERED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Al Rachidia, Tunis

20:00

DINNER OFFERED BY THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

Dar Eljeld, Tunis

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016

Venue: The National Assembly of the Representatives of the People

09:00 - 09:45

MEETING WITH PARLIAMENT

- **H.E. Mohammed Ennaceur**, Speaker of the Tunisian Assembly
- **H.E Abdelfattah Mourou**, Vice-Speaker
- **H.E. Faouzia Ben Fodha**, Vice-Speaker

Discussion and Q&A

09:45 - 10:00

WELCOME REMARKS

Recap and presentation of the agenda for the day

- **Hon. Jeremy Lefroy**, President of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

10:00 - 11:15

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN FRAGILE STATES

What role does the legislature play in conflict management in fragile states? How can its role be strengthened?

- **Ferid Belhaj**, Country Director, Lebanon Iraq Jordan and Syria, World Bank
- **Christoph Rosenberg**, Assistant Director, Communications Department, IMF

PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK AND IMF

December 1 - 2, 2016

- **Hon. Jean Oghassabian**, Chairman of the Economy, Trade and Industry Committee, Lebanon
- **Hon. Mohd Jawad Hadid**, Senator, Jordan

Moderator: **Line Refai**, Journalist, France24

11:15 - 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 - 12:30	WORKING SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL NETWORK Validation of the Network's Governance Arrangements, etc. Moderator: Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif , Tunisia MP, Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank & IMF
12:30 - 12:45	CLOSING REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Hon. Jeremy Lefroy, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF■ Marie-Francoise Marie Nelly, Country Director for Maghreb and Malta, World Bank■ Robert Blotevogel, Resident Representative for Tunisia, IMF
12:45 - 13:15	GROUP PHOTO
13:30 - 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 - 16:00	VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY MUSEUM (OPTIONAL)

List of Participants

List as of 7 December 2016

1. Parliamentarians (51) from 10 MENA countries

- **Algeria**
Mahdjoub Bedda, MP, Chair of the Committee of Finance and Budget
Abdelkader Chenini, Senator, Chair of the Committee of Economic Affairs
Amel Deroua, MP
Baya Djenane, MP
Naamane Laouar, MP
Ouahiba Zaidi, MP
- **Bahrain**
Redha Abdulla Faraj, Member of the Shura Council
Ahmed Ebrahim Behzad, Member of the Shura Council
Bassam Ismaeel Albinmohamed, Member of the Shura Council
- **Djibouti**
Mohamed Ali Houmed, MP, Speaker of National Assembly
Aicha Dabar Guelleh, MP, Chair of the Committee of Foreign Affairs
Oumma Mohamed Hamid, MP, Rapporteure of the Committee of Finance, General Economy and Planification
Charmake Moussa Arreh, MP, Chair of the Committee of Finance, General Economy and Planification
Hassan Omar Mohamed, MP, Secretary-Rapporteur of the Committee of Finance, General Economy and Planification
- **Egypt**
Ahmed Badawy, MP, Deputy Chair of the CIT committee
Mohammed El-Amary, MP, Chair of the Health Committee
Karim Darwish, MP, Deputy Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
May ElBatan, MP
Manal El-Gamiel, MP
Soliman Wahdan, MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
- **Iraq**
Abeer Al Hussein, MP
Iqbal AlMadhy, MP
- **Jordan**
Mohd Jawad Hadid, Senator
- **Lebanon**
Jean Oghassabian, MP, Chair of the Committee of Economy, Trade and Industry Planning
- **Malta**

Frederick Azzopardi, MP
Vincent Galea, MP, Deputy-Speaker of House of Representatives

- **Morocco**

Rahhal El Makkaoui, Member of the House of Councillors, Chair of the Committee on Finance, Planification and Economic Development

Abdelali Hamidine, Member of the House of Councillors, Chair of the Committee on Education, Cultural and Social Affairs

Abdillah Hifdi, Member of the House of Councillors, President of the Group CGEM

Amal Misra, Member of the House of Councillors

Mohamed Razama, Member of the House of Councillors, Chair of the External Affairs Committee

Neila-Mia Tazi, 5th Vice Chair of the House of Councillors

- **Tunisia**

Hedy Ben Braham, MP

Mohamed Ben Salem, MP

Slim Besbes, MP

Myriam Boujbel, MP, Chair of the Committee on Regional Agriculture

Abderraouf El May, MP

Samy Fatnassi, MP, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Finance, Planning and Development

Mohamed Frikha, MP

Mohamed Hamdi, MP

Houcine Jaziri, MP

Abdelaziz Kotti, MP

Lilia Ksibi, MP

Rym Mahjoub Massmoudi, MP

Abdellatif Mekki, MP

Mongi Rahoui, MP, Chair of the Committee on Finance

Olfa Soukri Cherif, MP, Vice Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF

Faycal Tbini, MP

Wafa Makhoulouf, MP

Hafedh Zouari, MP

- **UK**

Jeremy Lefroy, MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

2. **Observers (51)**

Hussain Hashim Majid, Parliamentary staff, Bahrain

Mahdi Waberi Hassan, Chief of Staff of Speaker bureau, Djibouti Parliament

Habib Mohammed Ebo, Financial and Administrative head of Parliament, Djibouti Parliament

Nabil Alhisah, Secretary of the Jordanian senate

Khalid Adennoun, Parliamentary staff, Morocco

Abdellatif Assaraj, Parliamentary staff, Morocco

Basma Soudani Belhadj, Chief of Staff, head of Political Affairs, Union du Maghreb Arabe
Taieb Baccouche, Secretary General, Union du Maghreb Arabe
Cherifa Gouider, President of Chamber of the Tunisian Court of Accounts
Ayda Bay, Advisor, Tunisian Court of Accounts
Veronika Ertl, Research Advisor, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Khouloud El Wattar Kassem, MENA Coordinator, Women In Parliament
Noureddin Hadeif, Diplomatic Secretary, Algerian Embassy to Tunisia
Rakah Amirouche, Diplomatic Secretary, Algerian Embassy to Tunisia
Saoussen Ben Romdhane, Trade issues Officer, EU Delegation to Tunisia
Zouhair El Kadhi, Tunisian Ministry of Finance
Oumaya Saharaoui, Press attaché, Tunisian Ministry of Finance
Cheuni Maher, Tunisian Ministry of Development, Investment and Cooperation
Zoubeir Zouari, Tunisian Ministry of Development, Investment and Cooperation
Jean-Raphael Giuliani, UNDP
Fethi Jelassi, TEAM International
Imene Arfaoui, Parliamentary staff, Tunisia
Latifa Ben Amara Ayoui, Parliamentary staff, Tunisia
Hosni Gabda, Parliamentary staff, Tunisia
Hajer Guizani, Parliamentary staff, Tunisia
Nader Merief, Parliamentary staff, Tunisia
Azza Toubari, Parliamentary staff, Tunisia
Leila Zouaoui, Parliamentary staff, Tunisia
Hayet Soukri, Rotary
Lilia Turki, Rotary
Salhia Zalila, Rotary
Souad Zarrad Saidane, Rotary
Chaima Bouhlel, President, Al Bawsala
Mohamed Badra, TEC
Sana Guermazi, Researcher
Marie-Eve Bilodeau, Tunisia Country Director, National Democratic Institute
Chiraz Arbi, Programme Assistant, National Democratic Institute
Mounir Boumessouer, Sedan
Meha Bergani, Soroptimist International
Zohra Turki, Soroptimist International
Mona Ben Turkia, Soroptimist International
Chirine Zouari, Soroptimist International
Lotfi Gabsi, I'm Tunisian
Selma Badra, I'm Tunisian
Amel Zarrouk, National Office for Tunisian Tourism
Quentin Deforge, Researcher, Université Paris Dauphine
Noureddine Naifa, Researcher in global security
Habib Karaouli, Banque d'Affaire de Tunisie
Enis Abid, Certified public Accountant, AJECT



Déclaration des membres fondateurs du Chapitre Moyen-Orient et Afrique du Nord du Réseau parlementaire sur la Banque mondiale et le FMI

Tunis, le 1er décembre 2016

Contexte : les chapitres régionaux et locaux du Réseau parlementaire sur la Banque mondiale et le FMI

Un chapitre du Réseau parlementaire rassemble un groupe de parlementaires qui s'engagent dans la mission et les principes du Réseau. Les chapitres peuvent être nationaux ou régionaux et peuvent contribuer à renforcer la position des parlementaires vis-à-vis des institutions financières internationales et acteurs du développement.

Les chapitres du réseau parlementaire facilitent l'interaction régulière entre les parlementaires locaux et les bureaux régionaux de la Banque mondiale et du FMI, notamment lors des consultations sur les cadres de partenariat de la Banque mondiale, les consultations de l'article IV du FMI, les examens des dépenses publiques et les politiques et projets de développement de la Banque mondiale.

Les chapitres sont des groupes de discussion informels agissant dans le cadre et la mission du Réseau parlementaire. Ceux-ci doivent être créés par une initiative locale ou régionale et comporter au moins trois à cinq parlementaires fondateurs par pays. Les chapitres locaux et régionaux doivent également rendre compte de leurs activités au Secrétariat du Réseau. Les membres des chapitres doivent remplir le formulaire d'adhésion au Réseau afin d'être considérés comme membres du Réseau parlementaire.

Les chapitres s'engagent à se réunir régulièrement et de discuter des questions macroéconomiques et des questions de développement, d'adopter un programme d'activités, d'assurer l'indépendance financière du Chapitre et d'établir une liaison permanente avec le Secrétariat du Réseau parlementaire. Ils peuvent choisir d'élire un/e président/e local/e ou régional/e qui peut tourner sur une base prédéfinie.

Le lancement du chapitre Moyen-Orient et Afrique du Nord du Réseau parlementaire

La série de soulèvements qui ont eu lieu dans la région MENA depuis le début de 2011 a catalysé la mise en place de réformes renforçant le rôle de contrôle parlementaire. Fort de cet élan, et conformément aux règlements du Réseau parlementaire, le chapitre MENA a pour ambition d'établir une plateforme d'échange de connaissances et de retours d'expériences entre parlementaires de la région sur les meilleures pratiques en matière de gouvernance à même de répondre aux défis du développement.

Objectifs

Le chapitre du Réseau parlementaire MENA représente une plateforme de dialogue, d'échange et d'action entre les parlementaires régionaux et le personnel régional de la Banque mondiale et du

FMI. L'objectif de ladite plateforme est de fournir aux membres l'espace, le réseau et les ressources nécessaires pour partager leurs expériences sur les meilleures pratiques en matière de gouvernance à même de répondre aux problématiques de développement communs à la région. La création du Réseau parlementaire MENA renforcera les relations entre les parlements régionaux et la BM et le FMI, et ce en facilitant un échange continu sur leurs engagements respectifs dans la région.

Ce document définit les engagements des membres fondateurs de la section MENA du Réseau parlementaire. Les pays représentés sont l'Algérie, le Bahreïn, Djibouti, l'Égypte, l'Irak, la Jordanie, le Liban, Malte, le Maroc et la Tunisie.

- Les membres du Chapitre représentent eux-mêmes et leurs électeurs. Les chapitres doivent, dans la mesure du possible, respecter une représentation équitable homme-femme.
- Les membres du Réseau parlementaire MENA s'engagent à rencontrer régulièrement des représentants locaux de la Banque mondiale et du FMI pour discuter de projets, de programmes et de prêts à l'étude.
- Les membres du Réseau parlementaire MENA s'engagent à organiser, dans leurs pays respectifs, et au niveau régional des groupes de travail réguliers, à communiquer régulièrement et/ou à organiser des réunions régulières.
- Les membres doivent collaborer avec leurs gouvernements pour assurer leur participation au processus ; Et préconiser des modifications légales ou réglementaires au besoin.



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

إعلان صادر عن الأعضاء المؤسسين لفرع الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا للشبكة البرلمانية عن البنك الدولي و صندوق النقد الدولي

تونس العاصمة، 1 ديسمبر / كانون الأول 2016

الإطار: الفروع الإقليمية و المحلية للشبكة البرلمانية عن البنك الدولي و صندوق النقد الدولي

يجمع فرع الشبكة البرلمانية مجموعة من البرلمانيين الملتزمين برسالة الشبكة و مبادئها. يمكن للفروع أن تكون قطرية أو إقليمية، و هي تتيح تعزيز موقع البرلمانيين في صلة بالمؤسسات المالية الدولية و غيرها من الجهات المعنية بالتنمية.

تيسر فروع الشبكة البرلمانية التفاعل المنتظم بين البرلمانيين المحليين و موظفي المكاتب القطرية للبنك الدولي و صندوق النقد الدولي، بما في ذلك المشاورات المتصلة بأطر الشراكة القطرية (CPF) للبنك الدولي، و مشاورات المادة الرابعة لصندوق النقد الدولي، و استعراضات الإنفاق العام، و سياسات البنك الدولي / صندوق النقد الدولي و مشاريعهما الفردية.

تقوم الفروع بدور مجموعات نقاش غير رسمي تعمل ضمن نطاق و مهام الشبكة البرلمانية. تُشكّل الفروع بناء على مبادرة محلية أو إقليمية و تتطلب ما لا يقل عن 3 إلى 5 برلمانيين مؤسسين في كل بلد، و لهذا الغرض، تقدم الفروع المحلية و الإقليمية تقريراً عن أنشطتها إلى أمانة الشبكة. و للحصول على العضوية، يتعين على أعضاء الفروع ملء استمارة عضوية الشبكة.

على الفروع مسؤولية الاجتماع بشكل منتظم و مناقشة قضايا الاقتصاد الكلي والتنمية، واعتماد برنامج الأنشطة، وضمان الاستقلال المالي للفرع، و الحفاظ على تواصل دائم مع أمانة الشبكة البرلمانية. يمكن اختيار رئيس محلي أو إقليمي عبر الانتخاب مع تداول المنصب على أساس محدد مسبقاً.

إطلاق فرع الشرق الأوسط و شمال أفريقيا للشبكة البرلمانية

و قد أُنشئت سلسلة الانتفاضات التي عرفتها منطقة الشرق الأوسط و شمال أفريقيا منذ بداية سنة 2011 المجال لبعض الإصلاحات المتعلقة بالرقابة البرلمانية. و بناء على هذا الزخم الإصلاحي الهام، و طبقاً للوائح الشبكة البرلمانية، سيوفر فرع الشرق الأوسط و شمال أفريقيا منصة للبرلمانيين لتبادل الخبرات و المعارف حول أفضل الممارسات، و العمل على سن تشريعات في مواجهة التحديات الجمة للتنمية.

الأهداف

يمثل فرع الشرق الأوسط و شمال افريقيا للشبكة البرلمانية منصة للحوار والتبادل بين البرلمانيين في المنطقة و الموظفين الاقليميين للبنك الدولي وصندوق النقد الدولي. و يكمن الهدف من هذه المنصة في تمكين المشاركين من الفضاء و الشبكة و الموارد اللازمة للنظر في أفضل الممارسات لمعالجة القضايا المشتركة والأكثر تحديا في المنطقة و تبادل الخبرات حولها. و من شأن بعث هذه الشبكة تعزيز العلاقة بين البرلمانات الإقليمية والبنك الدولي وصندوق النقد الدولي من خلال تيسير التبادل المستمر بشأن التزامات كل طرف في المنطقة.

تضبط هذه الوثيقة التزامات الأعضاء المؤسسين لفرع الشرق الأوسط و شمال افريقيا للشبكة البرلمانية. البلدان الممثلة هي الجزائر، البحرين، جيبوتي، مصر، العراق، الأردن، لبنان، مالطا، المغرب، و تونس.

- أعضاء الفرع يمثلون أنفسهم وناخبهم. على الفروع احترام التوازن الجندي إلى أقصى حد ممكن.
- يتعهد أعضاء الشبكة البرلمانية للشرق الأوسط و شمال افريقيا بالالتقاء بشكل منتظم مع المسؤولين المحليين للبنك الدولي و صندوق النقد الدولي لمناقشة المشاريع و البرامج و القروض قيد النظر.
- يلتزم أعضاء الشبكة البرلمانية للشرق الأوسط و شمال افريقيا بتنظيم اجتماعات في إطار مجموعات عمل دورية، و الاهتمام بالجانب الاتصالي، و عقد اجتماعات اعتيادية.
- على الأعضاء اتباع كل الوسائل المعقولة للتحرك من خلال الوكالة المالية ذات الصلة الرئيسية بالبنك الدولي و صندوق النقد الدولي كالخزانة، أو البنك المركزي، أو صندوق الاستقرار، أو غيرها من الوكالات المالية المعتمدة.
- ينبغي على الأعضاء التحرك من خلال حكوماتهم لضمان المشاركة في هذه العملية، و كذلك الدعوة لإجراء تعديلات قانونية أو ترتيبية عند الاقتضاء.



Declaration by the founding members of the Middle East and North Africa Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

Tunis, 1 December 2016

Background: Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF Regional and Local Chapters

A Parliamentary Network Chapter brings together a group of parliamentarians who are committed to the Network's mission and principles. Chapters can be national or regional and can help to strengthen the position of parliamentarians among international financial institutions and other development stakeholders.

Parliamentary Network chapters facilitate regular interaction between local parliamentarians and staff in World Bank and IMF country offices, including consultations on World Bank Country Partnership Frameworks (CPF), IMF Article IV consultations, Public Expenditure Reviews, and World Bank/IMF policies and individual projects.

Chapters are informal discussion groups acting within the scope and mission of the Parliamentary Network. They must be a local initiative or regional initiative and require at least three to five founding parliamentarians per country. To be considered as such, local and regional Chapters should report on their activities to the Network's Secretariat. Members of Chapters must fill out the Network's membership form in order to be considered Parliamentary Network members.

Chapters take the responsibility to meet regularly and discuss macroeconomic and development issues, adopt a program of activities, ensure the financial independence of the Chapter and establish a permanent liaison with the Parliamentary Network's Secretariat. They can choose to elect a local or regional Chair who can rotate on a pre-defined basis.

The launch of the Middle East and North Africa Chapter of the Parliamentary Network

The series of uprisings that took place in the MENA region since the beginning of 2011 have introduced some reforms related to parliamentary oversight. Building on this important momentum, and according to the by-laws of Parliamentary Network, the MENA Chapter of the Parliamentary Network will act as a platform for parliamentarians from the region to exchange knowledge and experiences on best practices, and push for legislation to tackle pressing development challenges.

Objectives

The MENA Parliamentary Network chapter represents a platform for dialogue, exchange and action among regional parliamentarians and World Bank and IMF regional staff. The objective of the platform is to provide members with the space, network and resources to reflect and share experiences on best practices for tackling the region's common and most challenging issues. This creation of the MENA Parliamentary Network will strengthen the relationship between regional parliaments and the WB and the IMF by facilitating a continuous exchange regarding their respective engagements within the region.

This document lays out the commitments of the founding members of the MENA Chapter of the Parliamentary Network. The countries represented are Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia.

- Members of the Chapter represent themselves and their constituents. Chapters should respect a gender balance to the extent possible.
- Members of the MENA Parliamentary Network undertake to meet regularly with local World Bank and IMF officials to discuss projects, programmes, and loans under consideration.
- Members of the MENA Parliamentary Network commit to organizing in their countries and at a regional level, regular working groups, communications, and/or routine meetings.
- Members should work with their governments to ensure involvement in the process; and advocate for legal or regulatory changes as required.

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