



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund



WORLD BANK GROUP

G7 Parliamentary Conference

Friday 21 June 2019, French Senate

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

G7 PARLIAMENTARY MEETING

21 JUNE 2019 | FRENCH SENATE, PARIS

On 21 June 2019, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF (PN) organized in collaboration with the World Bank a one-day parliamentary meeting on G7 priorities, hosted by the French Senate. The main objective of the day was to discuss how parliamentarians of G7 and partner countries can contribute to the G7 priorities in their respective parliaments. Participants had the occasion to discuss and share their current national strategies and ongoing trends in their respective countries related to topics discussed during this G7 Parliamentary Meeting with several specialists.

France's priorities are closely aligned with the activities of the Parliamentary Network, most recently discussed at the 2019 Global Parliamentary Conference in Washington, such as the impact of new technologies on development, investing in human capital, the fight against inequalities, and climate protection. The G7 parliamentary meeting elaborated on these and other crucial issues, such as universal access to health and governments' responsibility to be accountable to the public.

Senator Damien Regnard welcomed participants and highlighted the commitment of parliamentarians to ensure that pledges made by their governments are upheld. He also stressed the value of this G7 Meeting to exchange experiences and best practices. Honorable Olfa Soukri Cherif, Vice Chair of the PN, who initiated the event, focused on the importance of the common political priorities of the G7 countries and that we need to act together. World Bank European Country Director Mario Sander von Turkus presented the Human Capital Index, developed by the World Bank and launched last year. The index provides clear, overview of the positive outcome of long run indications of investment in human capital, such as the education, and how important it is for parliamentarians to use the index to create and implement meaningful policies.

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF stated that in order to create sustainable societies we must act together on issues such as the rise in the global temperature, technological development, and the international trade environment. In addition, he also emphasized the need to rebuild multilateral relations in order to achieve sustainable societies.

France's Head of G7 Task Force Kevin Magron brought to light the French Presidency 2019 fight against inequalities, in particular through two work streams; civil society engagement groups and ministerial meetings. These aim to mobilize all stakeholders of the society on topics such as environment, digital technology, and Africa, to improve equity. In the same session, Honorable Hervé Berville, French Member of Parliament (MP) underscored the necessity to modernize the international partnership, which should be intrinsically included in policies on climate change. He also stated that youth should be a part of this new and modern international partnership. OECD's Director of Public Affairs and Communications, Anthony Gooch, presented the latest research on reaching higher growth both personally and from the perspective of the society. He also stressed the importance of having an inclusive approach to growth policies in order to reach sustainable solutions.

Margot Jaymond from the civil society organization Global Health Advocates (GHA) and Ricardo Baptista Leite MP of Portugal and President of UNITE (Parliamentary Network to end HIV/AIDS), viral

hepatitis, and other infectious diseases) spoke about the right to access health care as well as its need to reduce inequalities in the fight to eliminate infectious diseases. Parliamentarians should seize the opportunity of these groups to promote and advocate for effective implementation of governmental engagements.

In addition, one session was dedicated to the 19th replenishment of the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA). Stéphane Guimbert, Director of the IDA Resource Mobilization and IBRD Corporate Finance of the World Bank, presented its priorities, including human capital, fragility zones, Africa, and jobs among others. He stressed that parliamentarians can make invaluable contributions to the association and its work on development by promoting its 19th replenishment and making it a fruitful one in their respective countries, and thereby reach poverty eradication among the world’s poorest countries.

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP from the United Kingdom and Lahcen Haddad Moroccan MP presented the latest publications of the Parliamentary Network related to G7 priority issues, such as the need for apt policies and legislations to meet the needs of the future job market, and citizen engagement. The books provide explanations of ongoing societal phenomenon and suggest possible policy solutions. One publication focuses on government responsibility; *Holding Governments Accountable to the People*, and two cover employment; *The Case for Urgent Action on Youth Employment*, and *The Future of Work for the People We Serve*. The latter book provides an explanation of the impact of technological innovation on society, and how to make use of the opportunities it generates by providing concrete examples, for instance how to help people save to their pensions in a technologically driven society.

Co-rapporteur Honorable Monica Michel MP of France led the final session dedicated to creating a parliamentary appeal document to be included in the G7 ministerial process. The documents calls on G7 ministers to focus on fighting increasing equality, tackling climate change through delivering on commitments provided in the Paris Agreement on climate change, ensuring basic health care, improving women’s economic empowerment, including private sector and civil society in service delivery to meet tomorrow’s job need, and establishing technology initiatives apt for a prosperous inclusive growth. The appeal document will be adopted by those present at the G7 Parliamentary



Group photo of participants of the G7 Parliamentary Meeting. Photo Credits: Djibrann Hass.

Meeting and presented at the Biarritz meeting organized by France, and to be held on 24-26 August 2019.

“There is a thirst in our community to better understand the world” – Hervé Berville MP, France

“Together we are stronger, together we are winners” – Olfa Soukri Cherif MP, Tunisia

FOREWORD

About the G7 Parliamentary Conference

In collaboration with the French Senate and the World Bank, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) organized a one-day meeting on 21 June 2019. With Members of Parliament (MPs) from G7 countries and partner countries, the aim of this day was to discuss how parliamentarians of these countries can contribute to the G7 priorities in their respective parliaments. France’s priorities are closely aligned with the activities of the Parliamentary Networks, most recently discussed at the 2019 Global Parliamentary Conference in Washington D.C., in April this year, such as the impact of new technologies on development, investing in human capita , fight against inequalities, and protection of the climate.

Acknowledgements

The Parliamentary Network would like to thank the World Bank Group for their support in organizing the event. The Parliamentary Network would also like to thank the French Senate for hosting the Network the meeting. Also, the PN would like to express its gratitude to the speakers and moderators who animated the discussions and provided invaluable input in the successful conduct of the G7 Parliamentary Meeting. Finally, the PN wishes to thank its members who came from all over the world to take part in this important gathering.

OPENING SESSION

Speakers

- **Damien Regnard**, Senator, France, Representing French citizens abroad
- **Olfa Soukri Cherif MP**, Tunisia, Vice Chair, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF
- **Mario Sander von Torklus**, Special Representative and Director of Europe, External and Corporate Relations, World Bank Group

Moderator

- **Nayé Bathily**, Head of Parliamentary Relations, World Bank Group

Discussion

French Senator **Damien Regnard** welcomed participants to the French Senate, and informed on recent discussions in the Senate and the National Assembly related to the G7 priority of health, such as universal access to health care and the development of telehealth. As representative of citizens in parliament, Damien continued, it is the role of parliamentarians to ensure governmental commitments are upheld. That requires a common platform where people can work together, and the G7 Parliamentary Meeting on 21 June 2019 constituted one out of many important meetings that made collective work possible. This was particularly important as a French Ministerial G7 meeting will be held 24-26 August 2019, to which parliamentarians can contribute through their work and priorities on how to create societies free of inequalities.

Honorable **Olfa Soukri Cherif**, who initiated the Parliamentary Meeting, focused on the importance of the common political priorities of the G7 countries as well as those of the Parliamentary Network. She stated that the aim of this Parliamentary meeting is to provide an opportunity to parliamentarians to make their constituents voices heard in the work of G7.

G7, which originates from an economic project presented by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, has come overtime to include all sectors of international development. This year's main theme is closely aligned with the priorities of the Parliamentary Network's work agenda; combatting inequalities in society. Three points are on the programme of the upcoming French Ministerial Meeting organized in Biarritz; reduce inequalities, Africa, mainly the Sahel region, and combatting international security challenges in an era of digital technologies. As for the PN's programme, Olfa continued, reduction of inequalities is made through a focus on the promotion youth employment and gender equalities through legislative work – in particular on land and heritage rights for women, as well as inclusion in the workforce; second, reducing the digital divide. Technology enables opportunities of standards of living, but it can also exacerbate inequalities. The third PN priority to fight inequalities is acting for the climate. In addition, the PN is also active on the question of health care and universal access to health. Olfa underlined that in order to create action on these priorities, an appeal document will be drafted and adopted in the end of this G7 Parliamentary Meeting.

« Ensemble nous serions plus forts, ensemble nous serons gagnants ». – Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif

Mario Sander von Torklus presented the World Bank two goals; 1) eradicate poverty by 2030; 2) promote shared prosperity. Between 1990 and 2015, poverty has decreased by 50 percent. Yet, many individuals still live in extreme poverty, and in some regions the total number of poor is even increasing. Intrinsically linked to poverty is the second goal of the World Bank – shared prosperity – which derives from research that shows that slow economic progress hinders shared prosperity. Africa, which is a World Bank priority, has regions such as sub-Sahara that is beset by high inequality, food insecurity, climate change and environmental degradation among others. The French G7 Presidency has identified similar, if not the same, topics as priorities, with its focus on inequality, violence against women, environmental degradation, economic disparities and international crisis.

To reach the two goals, the World Bank focuses on human capital. Mario presented the Bank's definition of human capital accordingly; "knowledge, skills, and health, accumulated throughout people's lives to make them productive members of society". The World Bank launched its innovative a Human Capital Index (HCI) in 2019, which measures and ranks 157 countries productivity for the next

generation. It indicates the return of investment in health care and education, policy areas which previously have been difficult find clear outcomes. Policy makers can, with the HCI, learn how to better invest in human capital in order to deliver increased productivity, social cohesion and stability in society. Another fundamental issue that needs to be addressed, Mario stated, is women and girls. The World Bank's vision to reduce gender gaps is divided into four components; 1) close gender gaps in education and maternity health; 2) remove constrains to more and better jobs; 3) remove barriers to ownership; and 4) enhance women's voice in agencies.

Parliamentarians are, as legislators and representatives of the people, key in reaching the goals of the World Bank. Mario stated "*[as] the **PN is the World Bank's primary parliamentary interlocuter** [...] it plays a crucial role in our relations with policy makers at international, regional, and country, levels to promote efficiency feedback and transparency, in project design and implementation, strengthening cooperation on shared development policies and ensure meaningful sustainable results*".

The Rt Honorable **Liam Byrne** MP of United Kingdom stated that ending poverty and creating inclusive growth are central today. The world is facing three challenges; 1) rise in the global temperature; 2) rise in the industrial revolution, which will impact workers; 3) rise of trade barriers. Liam pointed out that the only solution to these "three rises" is to tackle them together.

The small fraction of 1 percent of the world's population owns half of the world's growth, and if this trend continues this share of people will reach two thirds by 2030, which is a clear direction to fostering corruption and instability. The French focus on inclusive growth is, therefore, vital to warrant fair shares, just prices, just wages.

Liam ended his discourse by emphasizing the importance of politics to counter contemporary negative forces, such as supporters of protectionism, rise of global temperature, and that parliamentarians are key actors to secure inclusive growth.

During the question and answer (Q&A) session that followed, questions and challenges were raised:

- Honorable Lahcen Haddad MP of Morocco requested regional action plans by the World Bank's International Development Association in order to overcome poverty.
- Honorable Jeremy Lefroy MP of the United Kingdom presented an interest in learning whether there is a correlation between reduction of democratic space and prosperity.
- Honorable Issa Mardo Djibir MP of Chad stressed the importance of and encouraged continuing investing in human capital.
- Italian Senator Eugenio Comincini addressed the need of the World Bank and IMF to push countries to act on reducing the climate change.
- Honorable Lilia Ksibi MP of Tunisia stated that she would like to see the "Polluter pays" principle present in the politics of the richer countries as they are the ones that contributes the most to climate change while less developed countries are suffering from it.

G7 PRIORITIES – WHAT IS THE ROLE FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS?

Speakers

- **Kevin Magron**, Head of Mission for G7-G20, French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
- **Hervé Berville MP**, France, Member of the Foreign Affairs Commission

- **Anthony Gooch**, Chair, OECD Global Parliamentary Network; Director of Public Affairs and Communications, OECD

Moderator

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

Discussion

Kevin Magron presented the work of 2019 French G7 Presidency and how parliamentarians can contribute to it. The French main theme is fight against inequalities. Taking care of the climate is key in fighting inequalities for France. The earth will face increasingly extreme weather conditions with unexpected drought and floods, and the most vulnerable populations, dependent on agricultural activities, are most at risk. Another core issue to fight inequalities is to ensure inclusive technological evolution. It should aim at eradicating online jihadist content and disinformation to preserve our democracies. France has also a particular focus on the African region. Deliverables of this regional focus regards making opportunities for a digital transformation in Africa, increasing transparency and female entrepreneurship.

The work to combat inequalities is channeled through ministerial meetings and civil society engagement groups. During its presidency, France is organizing several ministerial meetings on various issues, such as gender equality (9-10 May 2019), digital technology (15 May 2019), health (16-17 May 2019). In parallel, France has incorporated civil society engagement groups in order to include all concerned parties of the society. These groups are divided in the number of seven; Youth 7, which focuses on young people; Women 7, which focuses on women; Civil 7, which constitutes the group of non-governmental organizations; Labor 7, which constitutes the trade union group; Business 7, which has a focus on employers; Think tanks 7, which constitutes of Think tanks; and finally Science 7, which englobes the academia. Ministerial meetings and civil society engagement groups aim at mobilizing all stakeholders of society on topics such as environment, digital technology, and Africa, to improve equity. In addition, he put forth that France will hold a meeting in July where parliamentarians will play a central role. The presidency will end with the Biarritz meeting on 24-26 August 2019, where the both civil society through the engagement groups and the Ministers will meet and close this chapter of the French G7 Presidency.

Honorable **Hervé Berville**, French Member of Parliament stated that the world is currently facing three types of crises: 1) economic prosperity crisis, which generates discussions among parliamentarians on what economic model to strive for, but also leaves room for populism and nationalism; 2) legitimacy crisis, where the international community is questioned; and 3) security crisis. To counter these crises, parliamentarians must explain the benefits of the international community to their constituencies. *“People are hungry to learn about how the world functions. By talking with electorates one contribute to eradication of populism and nationalism”* Hervé said.

Hervé also emphasized the necessity to modernize international partnerships. Reformed partnerships should also face the challenges of climate change, including considering the impact of those most vulnerable to its effects. He also stated that youth should be a part of this new and modern international partnership.

OECD’s Director of Public Affairs and Communications, **Anthony Gooch**, presented the latest research on reaching higher growth, both personally and from the perspective of the society, as well as the organization’s latest work on the digital market.

The OECD has since the economic crisis in 2008 developed a new policy agenda, which promotes economic growth. In 2012, the organization added inclusion and integrity in their work to establish what spurs the economy. This had an avalanche effect according to Anthony; other international institutions and initiatives, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Economic Forum, have incorporated the notion of “inclusiveness” in their framework. Anthony stressed the importance of having an inclusive approach to growth policies in order to reach sustainable solutions.

Currently, the OECD has a particular working focus on the online market, where the OECD-G20 taxation initiative *Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)* takes up a large part of the organization’s work. BEPS is a groundbreaking policy initiative that has an inclusive approach.

Finally, Anthony recommended to those who are concerned with the jobs and employments in a digitalized world to read about consequences and impacts on OECD’s platform “I am the future of work”.

During the Q&A session that followed, questions and challenges were raised:

- Somali Senator Hodan Osman asked what the G7’s plan is to fight terrorism. Kevin stated that it is a French priority, particularly to take measures in the African region. France has developed a roadmap to reinforce police and enforcement capacities and is working on preventive measures. In addition, Kevin stated that there is a strong correlation between human development and crises, and it is for that reason of high importance to promote a strong IDA replenishment.
- Several participants highlighted the need for further cooperation among countries to counter negative forces, and to further development and prosperity through sustainable policies that include gender, and climate change amongst others. Anthony suggested creating discussion groups within parliament, and even with opposition parties, to debate challenges of terrorism, and the forces that criticize the international community.

FOCUS ON: ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HEALTH

Speakers

- **Margot Jaymond**, Advocacy Officer responsible for the G7, Global Health Advocates
- **Ricardo Baptista Leite MP**, Portugal, Vice Chair, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF; President of UNITE – Parliamentary Network to end HIV/AJDG, Viral hepatitis, and other infectious diseases

Moderator

- **Issa Mardo Djibir MP**, Chad, President of the Special Commission in charge of following up the implementation of the Sustainable development goals

Discussion

Margot Jaymond presented organization’s work with the G7, why it is necessary, and the issues at stake. GHA has been involved in the G7 process through partaking in the civil society engagement groups, in particular the Civil 7, and in ministerial discussions. Margot stated that G7 has for long been

active in diminishing HIV, and tuberculosis, and this year's focus on health look closer at the impact of climate change on health.

In addition to underlining that good health is a basic right, **Honorable Ricardo Baptista Leite** MP gave emphasis to the clear connection between health and prosperity. To work effectively, one needs good health, and parliamentarians should promote and advocate for effective implementation of governmental engagements.

Ricardo's presentation focused on universal health coverage (UHC). He said that UHC should cover everyone and, thereby, leave no one behind in the strive for equality in society. However, such a health care system would be limited by budget constraints, and it is necessary to find the right balance of spending, according to Ricardo. He continued by suggesting incorporating the efficient methods of the industrial revolution and car making industry into the sector of health. In the contemporary context, it would imply making use of the digital revolution for better prevention, and for that more data is needed. Ricardo ended his presentation by reminding all participants that governments around the world have adopted Agenda 2030, which provides an explicit mandate (Goal 3) to act for health coverage.

During the Q&A session that followed, questions and challenges were raised:

- Honorable Yeo Fozie MP of Côte d'Ivoire asked how parliamentarians could contribute to universal health care. According to Margot it is crucial to have insight of development budgets, and GHA works continuously to add transparency to budgets.
- Honorable Hodan Osman invited the panel to respond to how to provide health services to rural areas, absent of hospitals and medical centers. Ricardo responded asserting that there needs to be a redesign in international development management, as current budgeting does not have sufficient means to reach goal 3 of Agenda 2030 (Good health and wellbeing). He also underlined the importance of creating ownership so that poor countries can deliver better health care by themselves, independently of rich countries.

IDA: KEY RESULTS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

Speakers

- **Stéphane Guimbert**, Director of International Development Association Resource Mobilization and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Corporate Finance, World Bank

Discussant

- **Jeremy Lefroy MP**, United Kingdom, Board Member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Moderator

- **Hodan Osman**, Senator, Somalia, Board Member, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Discussion

Senator **Hodan Osman** introduced the session and presented the panel.

Honorable **Jeremy Lefroy** MP of United Kingdom (UK) presented International Development Association (IDA) as the subdivision of the World Bank, which provides grants and concessional loans to the world's poorest countries. Funded by governments donations, IDA is replenished every three years. Jeremy explained that since he joined the PN's Board, he has witnessed several replenishments, and learned how important IDA is. On the occasion of IDA's 17th replenishment, he actively advocated in his own parliament to deliver a constructive and impactful UK contribution to the work of IDA. Jeremy invited all parliamentarians to bring the discussion of IDA to the table, to share the knowledge of what the association is doing and how many people benefit from IDA.

World Bank Director of International Development Association Resource Mobilization and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Corporate Finance, **Stéphane Guimbert**, presented what IDA has delivered so far and the priorities for the 19th replenishment (IDA19). IDA is investing in multiple sectors to improve living conditions of the world's poorest. It has invested in 3 million farmers to improve their access to technology; it has invested in 12 million people to provide safety nets; and 9 million people have access to new sources of electricity. IDA has also been active in immunization of children, creating jobs, providing services in water and health, and construction of infrastructure among other projects. Results of IDA's investment are clear indications that the association can reach high development results, but to implement the sustainable development goals until 2030, more must be done, and IDA19 needs to be more ambitious, Stéphane said.

IDA's priorities overlap with those of the French G7 Presidency; Africa, human capital and fragility. Half of the world's poor live in Africa and, therefore, Stéphane pointed out, IDA is focusing on Africa, in particular on the Sahel region. The five countries in the Sahel face significant environmental changes, lack of employment for youth, and lack of infrastructure. Stéphane stated that one should expect over 11 million young people to join the labor market in the next 20 years and creating jobs is critical to ensure stability. That is why IDA has a particular focus on job creations, as well as on reforming laws in countries, investing in education and skills, and private sector firms that invest in risky environments. Another focus is human capital investment – education and health. Africa, which is at the bottom of the World Bank's Human Capital Index, could increase its regional GDP 2,5 times if it brings its population to its full potential. IDA is also focusing on connectivity, the digital economy, the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic project (SWED). The SWED project provides health services to women and girls to improve access to quality reproductive health care, and will be scaled up with IDA19¹. Finally IDA19 will also concentrate on fragile and conflict states. Stéphane said that IDA is currently partnering with UN agencies and other international organizations to understand the diversity of fragility, and to implement measures which aims at tackling fragility. Stéphane emphasized the necessity to have a regional approach to IDA programmes.

PRESENTATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK'S PUBLICATIONS

¹ Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic project is currently implemented in seven countries; Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

Speakers

- **Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP**, United Kingdom, Chair, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF
- **Lahcen Haddad MP**, Morocco, Vice Chair, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Moderator

- **Gergana Ivanova**, Coordinator, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Discussion

Rt Honorable **Liam Byrne MP** and **Lahcen Haddad MP** presented the latest publications of the PN related to G7 priority issues, such as the necessity for apt policies and legislations to meet the needs of future job markets, and citizen engagement. The books provide explanations of ongoing societal phenomenon and suggest possible policy solutions.

Holding Governments Accountable to the People focuses on government responsibility and covers all components of good governance. With this book, Lahcen put the accent on the need for strong institutions and the voice of the people as a driver of democracy. The publication presents fiscal oversight caveats and underscores the importance of being able to forecast public spending, which necessitates transparency. Access to information is crucial. *“One cannot hold governments accountable if there is no access to information, such as budget spending”* Lahcen stated.

Two other publications were presented during the session. *The Case for Urgent Action on Youth Employment* discusses on employment issues in relation to youth and job creation, and presents practical experiences from policy makers and practitioners. *The Future of Work for the People We Serve* provides an explanation of the impact of technological innovation on employment, and how to make use of the opportunities it generates by providing concrete examples; for instance, how to help people save to their pensions in a technologically driven society.

WORK SESSION

Moderator

- **Monica Michel MP**, France, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Discussion

Honorable **Monica Michel MP** introduced the work session and presented the appeal document that constituted the foundation of the session. Monica and Olfa are co-rapporteurs of the appeal document, which shall be included in the G7 ministerial process. Each participant was invited to contribute to the drafting and the document resulted with clear objectives to move the development agenda forward.

The document was drafted with the purpose of urging ministers of the G7 countries to consider parliamentarians, i.e., legislators and voices of the people, to fight increasing inequality, to tackle climate change through delivering on commitments provided in the Paris Agreement, to ensure basic health care, to improve women's economic empowerment, including private sector and civil society in service delivery to meet tomorrow's job needs, and to establish technology initiatives apt for a prosperous inclusive growth.

In addition to the main issues, the session allowed to incorporate and adopt additional components and notions. In particular, participants stressed the importance to strengthen the role of women's access to technology, to provide support of the parliamentarians to IDA19, to reshape the globalization by promoting fair trade as well as economic efficiency to address the root causes of inequality". They also decided to put an emphasis on future generations, as well as including biodiversity and accountability in relation to the climate change provision.

The appeal document, upon final review by parliamentarians who attended the G7 Parliamentary Meeting, will be presented at the Biarritz meeting organized by France on 24-26 August 2019.