

2024 GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

MULTIPLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES: ACTION FOR IMPACT

15-16 APRIL 2024 | WASHINGTON D.C.



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Context

In our rapidly changing world, legislation needs to be responsive and adaptable when dealing with pressing concerns such as climate change, debt crises, and artificial intelligence among others. Today, debt issues are weighing heavily and putting strains on many countries in a domino effect by reducing finance for poverty reduction. We also need to further the debate on climate finance, including in fragile and conflict situations, where challenges related to climate change worsen living conditions, for instance through food shortages and natural disasters. Climate, economic shocks, and other problems have a disproportionately negative effect on women and girls. It is critical to accelerate the implementation of efficient strategies on gender equality, including economic inclusiveness. Last but not least, artificial intelligence can be a solution to many challenges provided it has the right legislative framework, which considers it as a public good. The Global Parliamentary Forum will tackle these and other topics of two days of discussions between legislators and experts.

Description

The Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) are annual gatherings that bring together finance ministers, central bank governors, development experts, private sector executives, civil society representatives, parliamentarians and academics to discuss global economic and development issues. In addition to the meetings of the Boards of Governors, the Development Committee (DC) and the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) meetings takes place. The DC and the IMFC advise the Boards of Governors of both institutions. These meetings play a crucial role in shaping global economic discussions and finding solutions to major development challenges. Around these meetings, the World Bank and the IMF organize public seminars to facilitate the interaction of governments and World Bank-IMF staff with parliamentarians, civil society organizations, journalists, private sector executives, academics, and representatives of other international organizations.

Background

Established in 2000, the **Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF (PN)** serves as a neutral platform for parliamentarians from member countries to enhance both accountability and transparency within development cooperation. It empowers parliamentarians to:

- **Share knowledge and experiences:** This allows for collective understanding of global challenges and best practices in addressing them.
- **Hold governments and international financial institutions accountable:** PN fosters dialogue and scrutiny, ensuring development efforts deliver intended outcomes.
- **Shape the international development agenda:** Parliamentarians actively participate in discussions and influence policy decisions.

Through its diverse membership and events, the PN fosters transparent engagement between parliamentarians and the World Bank & IMF. This exchange of information and feedback accelerates progress and ultimately contributes to achieving effective development goals.

Programme Sunday, 14 April | Venue: World Bank, I Building, 1850 I Street N.W.

12:00 – 5:00 pm Badge pickup:

We encourage all participants to collect their badges before Monday to the extent possible to ensure full participation from the start of the GPF.

Programme Monday, 15 April | Venue: World Bank, I Building, 1850 I Street N.W.

8:00 am Badge pickup:

Please note that there will be lines for badge pick-up. Make sure you pick up your badge as early as possible to arrive in time for the first session.

Programme Monday, 15 April | Venue: World Bank HQ (Preston Auditorium) 1818 H Street N.W., Washington

8:30 am – 9:30 am Breakfast

9:30 am – 10:30 am Welcome Session

Speakers:

The Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP, Chair of Business and Trade Committee, UK; Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Hon. Marlene M. Forte KC, MP, Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Jamaica; Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Discussion with World Bank and IMF Leadership

Parliamentary Engagement at the Spring Meetings of the IMF and World Bank

Speakers:

Julie Kozack, Director of Strategic Communications, Communications Department, IMF

James Heimbach, Vice-President, External Corporate Relations, World Bank

Moderator:

The Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP, Chair of Business and Trade Committee, UK; Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Townhall with the World Bank President and IMF Managing Director

Speakers:

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, IMF

Ajay Banga, President, World Bank

Moderators:

The Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP, Chair of Business and Trade Committee, UK; Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Hon. Marlene M. Forte KC, MP, Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Jamaica; Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

12:00 pm – 12:10 pm Group Photo

Please note that the room doors will close at 10:30 am for this session.

No exception.

We strongly encourage you to be in the room prior to the beginning.

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm – 2:45 pm **Opportunities and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence: A Call for Global Legislative Governance**

The transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across sectors like manufacturing, finance, and healthcare is undeniable, promising increased productivity and reshaped work landscapes. However, alongside these opportunities lie inherent risks demanding proactive mitigation through a robust global legislative framework. Only then can we ensure that AI remains a valuable tool, equitably serving all.

Moderator:

Hon. Sven Clement MP, Luxembourg, Board Member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Speakers:

Antonio Spilimbergo, Deputy Director, Research Department, IMF

Florence Jaumotte, Division Chief, Research Department, IMF

Christine Zhenwei Qiang, Director, Digital Development Global Practice, World Bank

Julian Mueller-Kaler, Director of the Strategic Foresight Hub, Stimson Center

Parliamentarian Speakers:

Hon. Neema Lugangira MP, Board Member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF, Tanzania

Hon. Giulio Centemero MP, Italy, Co-Chair of the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments

Hon. Collins Adomako-Mensah MP, Ghana, Board Member of the Parliamentary Network

Discussant:

Dr. Ricardo B. Leite, President and Founder, UNITE

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm **Accelerating Climate Solutions in a Fragile World**

Responding to escalating climate threats in fragile and low-income developing countries demands a multifaceted, globalized approach. While financing mechanisms like the IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) are crucial, maximizing their effectiveness hinges on several key elements. Global institutions must strategically prioritize and focus their efforts, aligning resources with the most pressing needs and demonstrably impactful interventions. Robust accountability mechanisms are also essential to ensure transparency, efficiency, and measurable progress towards climate goals. Finally, effective partnership with legislators is vital to navigating the complex regulatory landscape and securing sustained political commitment. By adopting these principles, we can optimize the RST and World Bank's evolution, collectively accelerating the implementation of climate solutions and safeguarding vulnerable populations.

Moderator:

Hon. Neila Tazi, Senator, Morocco, Board Member of the Parliamentary Network

Opening Remarks:

H. E. Dr. Tulia Ackson MP, President of IPU, Speaker of the National Assembly, Tanzania

Speakers:

Soukeyna Kane, Director of the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, World Bank

Ananthakrishnan Prasad, Advisor and Unit Chief, Climate Finance Policy Unit, Monetary and Capital Markets Department, IMF

Peter Schlosser, Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University

Parliamentarian Speakers:

Hon. Rosa Galvez, Senator, Canada

Hon. Madjara Tiegbana Coulibaly MP, Côte d'Ivoire, Board Member of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank and IMF

Hon. Amira Saber MP, Egypt

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm

Coffee Break

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm

Debt and Growth: Investing in the International Development Association and the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust

Rising debt levels in low-income developing countries threaten to cripple economic development progress. Crises like the pandemic and multiplying conflicts, combined with inflation and slowed economic growth, have strained public finances in developing countries, pushing more nations towards debt distress. Tools like the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and the International Development Association (IDA) are essential. The session will:

- Analyze the impact of rising debt on development progress
- Explore strategies for debt alleviation and sustainable debt management
- Advocate for replenishing the PRGT and IDA to secure their critical role in creating a future where development thrives, rather than succumbing to debt

Moderator:

Hon. Tony Loffreda, Senator, Canada

Opening Remarks:

H. E. Emmanuel Sinzohagera, Senator and Speaker of the Senate, Burundi

Video:

Incentivizing Sustainable Debt

Speakers:

Akihiko (Aki) Nishio, Vice President of Development Finance, World Bank

Guillaume Chabert, Deputy Director, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, IMF

Xochitl Sanchez, Director of the Secretariat, ACTION

Parliamentarian Speakers:

Hon. Estelle Youssouffa MP, France

Hon. Volkmar Klein MP, Germany

5:30 pm

Reception

Venue: World Bank HQ (East Dining Hall)

Programme

Tuesday, 16 April | World Bank HQ (Preston Auditorium) 1818 H Street N.W., Washington

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Breakfast

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Enhancing Accountability and Governance for Better Development Results: The Role of Parliamentarians

Strong accountability & governance are key to economic development success. Parliamentarians can play a key role in unlocking the power of accountability for sustainable development and economic growth. This session explores how MPs can collaborate with World Bank & IMF to:

- Reduce poverty and improve economic growth and development effectiveness
- Support local actors and institutions for stronger accountability
- Inform and implement effective governance strategy

Moderator:

Hon. Fadil Aliyoum MP, Cameroon

Opening Remarks:

H. E. Kandia Camara, Senator and Speaker of the Senate, Côte d'Ivoire

Speakers:

Orsolya Szekely, Secretary, Accountability Mechanism, World Bank

Rhoda Weeks-Brown, General Counsel and Director, Legal Department, IMF

Nadishani Perera, Executive Director, Transparency International, Sri Lanka

Corina Rebegea, Advisor, Anti-Corruption, National Democratic Institute

Parliamentarian Speakers:

Hon. Jeta Statovci MP, Kosovo

Hon. Iaroslav Zheleznyak MP, Ukraine

Hon. Eléonore Caroit MP, France

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Coffee Break

10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Championing Equality: Empowering MPs to Implement Effective Gender Strategies

Global crises disproportionately impact women and girls. Closing the gender gap requires policy change. This session will explore how Parliamentarians can leverage effective gender strategies to advance gender equality for strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Join us for an insightful discussion with experts and fellow MPs as we dive into:

- The pressing need for gender equality in the face of global challenges.
- How MPs can utilize World Bank and IMF strategies to promote gender-responsive policies.
- Concrete examples of successful initiatives that have advanced gender equality and empowered women.

The launch of a new '**Women Parliamentary Council**', a platform for collaboration and action.

Moderator:

Hon. Marlene M. Forte KC, MP, Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Jamaica; Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Opening Remarks:

H. E. Beatriz Argimón, Vice-President of Uruguay, President of the General Assembly, and President of the Senate

Speakers:

Hana Brix, Global Director for Gender, World Bank

Monique Newiak, Deputy unit chief, Inclusion and Gender Unit, Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, IMF

Norman Loayza, Director, Global Indicators Group (Women Business and the Law), the World Bank

Parliamentarian Speakers:

Hon. Esther del Brio, Senator, Spain, Board Member of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank and IMF

Hon. Karen Melchior MEP, Denmark

Hon. Sahar Albazar MP, Egypt

Discussant:

Amanda Ellis, Senior Director, ASU Wrigley Global Futures Lab

12:15 pm – 12:30 pm **Concluding Remarks**

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm **Lunch**

Global Young MP Initiative Meeting (by invitation only)

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Planting Seeds of Growth: Creating green jobs for young people and the planet**

Youth unemployment is an urgent cross-border challenge affecting the lives and livelihoods of billions of young people worldwide. Creating more and better jobs is essential to the World Bank's mission to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity on a livable planet. Good jobs are the surest way out of poverty, and as a fast-growing number of youth are entering working age, creating and preparing them for relevant, higher-skilled jobs is paramount to boosting prosperity. Linking these jobs with the transition to greener economies offers double dividends, for people and the planet.

**Parliamentarians for Global Health (Limited seating) | World Bank HQ
1818 H Street N.W., Washington - Room MC 9 - 850**

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Health is Wealth – Parliamentarians as Key Players in Health Financing for Pandemic Preparedness**

The session will facilitate a discussion where Parliamentarians can explore further the topic of how financial constraints can affect healthcare, be it regarding support to innovation, expansion of access to health services, international health solidarity and cooperation, or even global emergency crises preparedness (e.g., how healthcare system resilience can be increased worldwide through the Pandemic Treaty and how it should be financed).

The International Forum on Global Health (IFGH) can play a vital role in connecting national and international budgetary issues with the need for sustained investments in health. The IFGH is a working group launched by UNITE and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF in 2021, which gathers members of international parliamentary assemblies and networks under a common global health and economic agenda. It is co-chaired by Ricardo Baptista Leite, former MP in Portugal, and President and Founder of the UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health, and Rt Hon. Liam Byrne, UK, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF.

Therefore, besides a discussion on the current context for health financing worldwide, this event will also aim to gather the Steering Committee of the IFGH to help further develop a vision and workplan for the future of this platform.

Moderator:

Dr. Ricardo Baptista Leite, *President and Founder UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health*

Contacts

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