



SPRING  
MEETINGS  
2025

# GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

April 21-22, 2025



WORLD BANK GROUP



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK  
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund



## Context

The Global Parliamentary Forum (GPF) is the flagship parliamentary event at the Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), organized jointly by the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF (PN), the WBG, and IMF. The event gathers approximately 200 legislators from around the world to dialogue with senior leadership from the WBG and IMF as well as global development experts. The highlight of the Forum during Spring Meetings is a townhall with WBG President Ajay Banga and IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

The Spring Meetings of the IMF and 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.

## 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** for collective understanding of global challenges and best practices in addressing them.
- **Hold governments and international financial institutions accountable** by fostering dialogue and scrutiny, ensuring development efforts deliver intended outcomes.
- **Shape the international development agenda** through active participation of parliamentarians in discussions and policy decisions.

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

## Badge Pickup

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**Sunday, 20 April 2025 | 12:00 – 5:00 PM | World Bank, I Building, 1850 I Street N.W.**

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

**Monday, 21 October 2025 | 7:00 -9:00 AM | World Bank, I Building, 1850 I Street N.W.**

*Late Badge pickup: Please note that there will be lines for badges. Make sure you pick up your badge as early as possible to arrive in time for the first session.*

## Programme

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**Monday, 21 April 2025 | World Bank HQ, 1818 H Street N.W.**

Time	Topic	Venue
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>World Bank HQ, Preston Auditorium, 1818 H Street N.W.</b>
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<b>Discussion with MPs</b>  Participating MPs will have a chance to share their priorities with the leadership of the Parliamentary Network and inform the action plan for the next year.  <b>Moderators:</b> <b><i>The Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP</i></b> , Chair of Business and Trade Committee, UK; Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF	<b>World Bank HQ, Preston Auditorium, 1818 H Street N.W.</b>

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<p>10:30 am – 12:30 pm</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Discussion with World Bank Group and IMF Leadership</b></p> <p><i>Parliamentary Engagement and Spring Meetings Priorities of the WBG and IMF</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b>  <b>Julie Kozack</b>, Director of Strategic Communications Department, IMF</p> <p><b>James Heimbach</b>, Vice-President, External Corporate Relations, WB</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b>  <b>The Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP</b>, Chair of Business and Trade Committee, UK; Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF</p> <p><b>Townhall with the WBG President and IMF Managing Director</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b>  <b>Ajay Banga</b>, President, WBG</p> <p><b>Kristalina Georgieva</b>, Managing Director, IMF</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b>  <b>The Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP</b>, Chair of Business and Trade Committee, UK; Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF</p>	<p>World Bank HQ, Preston Auditorium, 1818 H Street N.W.</p>
<p>12:30 pm – 12:45 pm</p>	<p><b>Group Photo</b></p>	<p>World Bank HQ, Preston Auditorium, 1818 H Street N.W.</p>
<p>12:45 pm – 1:45 pm</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>	<p>World Bank HQ, Preston Auditorium, 1818 H Street N.W.</p>

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1:45 – 3:15 PM

### **Fireside Chats: Fostering International Economic Stability**

In an era of sluggish global growth, high national debt, and pervasive uncertainties, the principles of Bretton Woods and strong multilateralism are more crucial than ever. Parliamentarians play a vital role in upholding these principles, fostering international economic partnerships, stability, and growth. Their decisions on national and sub-national economic legislation, budgets, and reforms directly shape the effectiveness of governments, WBG and IMF policies, lending, and capacity-building advice. This session will explore how parliamentarians, in collaboration with the WBG, the IMF, and other development partners, can reinforce multilateral approaches to promote long-term global economic resilience, stability, sustainable growth and job creation.

**World Bank HQ,  
Preston Auditorium,  
1818 H Street N.W.**

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1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

### **World Bank Group**

**Axel van Trotsenburg**, *Senior Managing Director, WBG*

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

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2:30 pm – 3:15 pm

### **International Monetary Fund**

**Rex Atish Ghosh**, *IMF Historian, Strategy, Review and Policy Department, IMF*

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

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3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

### **Coffee Break**

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3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

### Shaping the Future of AI Governance

World Bank HQ,  
Preston Auditorium,  
1818 H Street N.W.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents a transformative opportunity to revolutionize industries, boost productivity, drive economic growth, and create jobs. However, its rapid advancement also poses a significant risk: exacerbating existing economic inequalities, both within and between nations. While advanced economies may gain substantial advantages, emerging markets and developing economies risk being left behind due to AI infrastructure and skills gaps. Beyond inequality, AI raises critical ethical, accountability, and transparency concerns. Effective AI governance demands a collaborative approach, involving governments, the private sector, international organizations, financial institutions, lawmakers and civil society. This session will explore perspectives from parliamentarians, the WBG, and the IMF on harnessing AI's potential and shaping its future. The session will discuss strategies to maximize AI's benefits while minimizing its risks, ensuring equitable distribution and establishing robust governance frameworks that prioritize safety, fairness, and ethics.

#### Speakers:

**Christine Qiang**, *Global Director of Digital Core, Digital Transformation, WB*

**Giovanni Melina**, *Deputy Division Chief (Macroeconomics), Research Department, IMF*

#### Parliamentarian Speakers:

**Hon. Cynthia Lopez Castro**, *Senator, Mexico*

**Hon. Sabrina Carlota Ajmechet MP**, *Argentina*

#### Discussant:

**Hon. Kevin Vuong MP**, *Canada*

#### Moderator:

**Hon. Sven Clement MP**, *Luxembourg; Board Member, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF*

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5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

### IMF Meeting with Parliamentarians from Middle East, North Africa & Central Asia

IMF HQ2: Room  
#08B-073

**Jihad Azour**, *Director of Middle East, North Africa & Central Asia Department, IMF*

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5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Reception**

**World Bank HQ,  
East Dining Room**

**Special Guest Speaker:**

**Samuel Munzele Maimbo**, Vice President for Budget, Performance Review, and Strategic Planning, WBG (on Special Leave to campaign for the Presidency of the Africa Development Bank)

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**Tuesday, 22 April 2025 | IFC Headquarters, 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.**

Time	Topic	Venue
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>IFC Headquarters Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.</b>
9:30 am – 11:00 am	<b>Catalyzing Private Capital for Growth and Jobs</b>  To unlock the transformative power of private capital for economic growth and job creation, targeted regulatory reforms, alongside financial and other sectoral adjustments, are essential. This session explores how these reforms, leveraging indicators, data, AI, and other emerging market-based technologies, can catalyze this process. Parliamentarians and governments, as policy architects, must prioritize an enabling investment climate by crafting legislation that reduces red tape, ensures regulatory clarity, streamlines bureaucratic processes, and establishes predictable fiscal policies. The WBG and IMF can then provide support that fosters macroeconomic stability, including offering financial, policy, and technical expertise, to mitigate investment risks. This session will delve into the practical steps these actors can take together: identifying key reform areas within the regulatory landscape and other sectors, designing effective implementation strategies, and fostering an environment that attracts private investment, especially in emerging and low-income developing economies, ultimately leading to sustainable and inclusive growth and boosting productivity. Parliamentarians will discuss key reform areas and implementation strategies with WBG and IMF staff.  <b>Speakers</b> <b>Makhtar Diop</b> , Managing Director, International Finance Corporation	<b>IFC Headquarters Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.</b>

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**Norman Loayza**, Director, Global Indicators Group, WBG

**Ranjit Singh**, Assistant Director, Monetary & Capital Markets Department, IMF

**Parliamentarian Speaker:**

**Hon. Giulio Centemero MP**, Italy; President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

**Discussant:**

**Hon. Tony Loffreda**, Senator, Canada

**Moderator:**

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

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11:00 am – 11:15 am	<b>Coffee Break</b>	<b>IFC Headquarters Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.</b>
11:15 am – 12:45 pm	<b>Enabling Entrepreneurship</b>  Attracting private capital for sustainable growth, job creation, and fostering entrepreneurship demands targeted reforms. Parliamentarians and governments are central to shaping the legislative and regulatory landscape to build investor confidence and support a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem. This includes streamlining bureaucratic processes, enacting clear and supportive legislation that empowers entrepreneurs and workers, ensuring transparent governance, and creating predictable fiscal frameworks. The WBG and IMF play a vital supporting role, providing technical assistance and financial stability, crucial for de-risking investments, particularly in emerging markets where entrepreneurial activity can be a significant driver of growth. This session will explore how these key players can collaborate to implement specific reforms—from strengthening contract enforcement and modernizing financial regulations to promoting access to finance for startups—that unlock private capital, drive inclusive growth, build resilient economies, and cultivate a thriving entrepreneurial environment.  <b>Speaker:</b> <b>Nathalie Kouassi Akon</b> , Director, CGEDR, IFC  <b>Athene Laws</b> , Economist (Macroeconomics), Regional Studies-Research Division, Africa Department, IMF  <b>Parliamentarian Speakers:</b> <b>Hon. Salim Merah MP</b> , Algeria	<b>IFC Headquarters Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.</b>

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**Hon. Annely Akkermann MP, Estonia**

**Moderator:**

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

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12:45 pm – 12:50 pm	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>	<b>IFC Headquarters Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.</b>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>IFC Headquarters Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.</b>
Afternoon	<b>IMF Meetings with Parliamentarians</b>  Interested Parliamentarians will be escorted to their designated meeting rooms at IMF Headquarters, located in Building 1 or 2 (see below).	
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>IMF Europe Department Meeting with Parliamentarians from Europe</b>	<b>IMF HQ2: Room No. 08B-073</b>
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	<b>IMF Legal Department Meeting on Debt Transparency with Global Parliamentarians [by invitation]</b>	<b>IMF HQ1: Room No: 3-476 - Conf Room</b>
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	<b>IMF Africa Department Meeting with Parliamentarians from Africa</b>	<b>IMF HQ2: Room No: 06B-606</b>

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Time	Topic	Venue
8:30 am – 9:00 am	<b>Breakfast</b>	IFC Headquarters B2 Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
9:00 am – 9:05 am	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Amira Saber MP</b> , Egypt and Co-Presiding Officer of the Global Young MP Initiative <b>Sven Clement MP</b> , Luxembourg and Co-Presiding Officer of the Global Young MP Initiative	IFC Headquarters B2 Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
9:05 am – 9:30 am	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>Discussion: The importance of Young MPs in global development</b> <b>Speaker:</b> <b>James Heimbach</b> , Vice-President of External and Corporate Relations, WB <b>Moderator:</b> <b>Sibeso Sefulo MP</b> , Zambia and Steering Committee Member of the Global Young MP Initiative	IFC Headquarters B2 Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
9:30 am – 11:00 am	<b>Discussion: Delivering Results for Future Generations</b> <b>Speakers:</b> <b>Elena Ianchovichina</b> , Lead Economist, Jobs and Growth, WB <b>Christabel Dadzie</b> , Senior Social Protection Specialist, WB <b>Moderator:</b> <b>Ravindra Airlangga MP</b> , Indonesia and Steering Committee Member of the Global Young MP Initiative	IFC Headquarters B2 Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
11:00 am – 11:15 am	<b>Coffee Break</b>	IFC Headquarters B2 Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.

11:15 am – 12:45 pm	<b>Breaking the Cycle: The Tole of Youth in Tackling Fragility, Conflict and Violence</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> <b>Shubham Chaudhuri</b> , <i>Director of the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, WB</i>  <b>Steven Hill</b> , <i>Executive Secretary, International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> <b>Kofi Arko Nokoe MP</b> , <i>Ghana and Steering Committee Member of the Global Young MP Initiative</i>	<b>IFC Headquarters B2 Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.</b>
12:45 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Young MP Lunch</b>	<b>IFC Headquarters B2 Auditorium 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.</b>

## Contacts

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