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2010 Annual Conference – Part 2

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Message . . .

The 2010 PNoWB Annual Conference was a great success. In my role as the new PNoWB Chair, I would like to thank our members and partners for the tremendous support during the preparations and throughout the conference, which took place from 2-4 December 2010 in Brussels, Belgium. This was also the occasion to partially renew PNoWB's Board. You can find the profiles of all [Board Members](#) as well as the [report](#) from the conference on PNoWB's website (www.pnowb.org).

PNoWB members during the conference provided valuable feedback and suggestions for activities in 2011. These were included in PNoWB's [Action Plan 2011-2012](#). One of PNoWB's new activities in 2011 is the parliamentary questions programme, by which questions based on the key policy themes will be suggested by PNoWB Board and members, and distributed to parliamentarians by the Secretariat. Under this programme, Parliamentarians can also ask peers to pose questions in their respective parliaments, so that MPs from one country can pose a question in the parliament of another. This year, PNoWB will also work with partner organizations to ensure that Parliamentarians are an integral part of the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. I would also like to inform you that PNoWB has entirely updated its [website](#). There you can find all the latest news from the World Bank, the IMF and other international organizations on [one page](#). Becoming a PNoWB member is now easier as the membership form can be filled in directly online.

Your continued commitment is important for the Network to remain a respected and valued organization, and to uphold the important link between parliamentarians and international financial institutions. Please take every opportunity to participate in PNoWB's activities, from providing feedback on its work to participating in conference and field visits. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

Visit PNoWB's new website!
www.pnowb.org

Alain Destexhe, MP
Chair, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank



Disaster Risk Reduction: An Instrument for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

By Loren Legarda, MP, Philippines;
UNISDR Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and Pacific

Through many decades, the complexity of the development problems in our world has been widely examined for insights into better approaches and solutions. Yet, the problems have persisted and the tasks for well-intentioned development leaders have become more daunting than ever. Our world is wrought with danger. Disasters abound and are getting bigger, deadlier and worse. Our cities are burgeoning and climate change impacts are intensifying along with disaster risks. If there is one development issue that cuts across all these development concerns, it is disaster risk reduction. Resolving this development issue is today's most daunting task for all sectors. For inequitable economic growth, population pressures and extreme climate events have connived to increase disaster risks in our midst. Poor urban governance, ecosystems decline and vulnerable rural livelihoods have also become principal sources of risk, driving disaster vulnerability and poverty, the reduction of which is foremost among our Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Our region, Asia, is the world's most disaster prone region. If we let disasters continue to exact its toll on the lives and livelihoods of the people we are mandated to lead and represent, and let their impact on our society and economy linger, our sustainable development goals, particularly our MDGs, become all the more elusive. As political leaders, we play a critical role and assume a moral responsibility in arresting this chronic development problem. A conscientious parliamentarian would not want to see the poor and most vulnerable constantly drawn back into abject poverty for lack of government investments in disaster and climate risk reduction. A responsible politician would not want the government to waste millions on building schools that may suddenly collapse on children during an earthquake. As lawmakers, we have the mandate to introduce change and to ensure that it happens. We can create the enabling policy environment for effective disaster risk reduction.

We can urge our respective governments to develop risk reduction strategies supportive of national development agendas. We can also lay the foundation for increased investment in risk reduction in order to safeguard development gains.

Recently I met with my UNISDR colleagues to assess the impact of the first mini-global parliamentarian meeting that I co-chaired here in Manila in 2008. And I must admit that I am truly impressed by our parliamentarians' commitment and sustained effort in promoting disaster risk reduction. In 2009, in response to the Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians, similar consultative parliamentary meetings were held in Africa, Latin America, and Europe, with UNISDR's support. Several regional and international parliamentary forums and parliaments also heeded the Manila Call for Action and held meetings that advocated for the synergy between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. These included the Pan-African Parliament in South Africa, the Annual Conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank in Paris, and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians for Population and Development in Hanoi. The outcomes of these meetings advanced disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation altogether, and were reported at the high level segments of the COP 15 climate change conference in Copenhagen by parliamentarian delegates, myself included. This year, we witnessed several parliamentary networks and assemblies from all regions of the world take on the agenda and advocacy for disaster risk reduction as an instrument for achieving the MDGs. Among the laudable accomplishments this year are also:

- Firstly, the development and publication of the 'Advocacy Kits for Parliamentarians'; and
- Secondly, the passage by the Inter-Parliamentary Union of two resolutions urging governments to support DRR actions at various levels.

Based on this progress, we have all the reasons to believe that parliamentarians can really make a difference. With focus on Asia, we ought to discuss how we could sustain our gains and step up our initiatives on reducing disaster risks towards more sustainable socio-economic development in the region. We also ought to discuss what remains for governments to do, and how parliamentarians can make the needed change happen. Our mission of reducing disaster risks should transcend political

boundaries and our calls for action should echo through the challenging times ahead. Our vision of improved socioeconomic standards and quality of living for our people compels us to constantly renew our commitment to responsible and effective political leadership, governance, and public service and to work towards a more sustainable world and more resilient human societies for many generations to come.



The Millennium Declaration, adopted at the UN Summit in 2000, in New York, identified 8 Specific Goals (MDGs). The MDGs cannot be achieved without much increased effort in disaster risk reduction. Around 85% of people exposed to earthquakes, cyclones, floods and droughts live in developing countries. The direct damage costs alone have increased from USD 75 billion in the 1960s to nearly a trillion dollars in the past ten years, excluding additional billions of dollars required for disaster relief and recovery.

The devastating and lasting impact of the earthquake in Haiti and flood in Pakistan in 2010 is a strong reminder that disasters pose a serious threat to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Disasters around the world each year push millions of people back into severe poverty, poor health, and limited access to clean water and food. This dire situation will be repeated in different parts of the world if the international community and national authorities fail to make changes in their current practices of development.

Changes are required to ensure that both investment in MDG initiatives and socio economic development will be disaster resilient and protect people and people's livelihoods. Such changes demand strong commitment and political

leadership, which parliaments are strategically positioned for. In most countries, parliaments can be very instrumental to increasing political and economic investment in making socio-economic development disaster resilient and climate proof.

Legislators often oversee policy changes and budget allocation, in addition to their primary role in legislation development. Our successful experience has highlighted that parliamentarians, with increased understanding and knowledge of disaster risk reduction, can play a strategic role in creating synergy between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and in making disaster risk reduction an instrument for achieving MDGs.

UNISDR chaired the session on Disaster Risk Reduction during PNoWB's 2010 Annual Conference. The focus was on instruments for Achieving Millennium Development Goals aims to offer a platform for panelists and participating parliamentarians to: 1) share views and opinions on disaster risk reduction and the MDGs, 2) to discuss roles and responsibilities of parliamentarians in making MDG investment disaster resilient and climate proof and 3) brainstorm on ways forward to promote disaster resilient development planning and practices.



Moving Forward on Fighting Illicit Financial Flows

By Raymond W. Baker, Director, Global Financial Integrity (GFI)

This is a crucial time for proponents of increasing transparency and accountability in the global financial system. Events ranging from the historic United States case against Swiss bank UBS to the recent corruption scandal in India have made it clear that illicit financial practices—bribery, tax evasion, banking secrecy—must not be tolerated.

Moving ahead, European Parliamentarians should support growing efforts by regulators and multi-lateral bodies to implement, expand, and continue reforms achieved in 2010. This includes new U.S. legislation aimed at increasing foreign account tax compliance and increasing transparency in the extractive industries abroad, the UK Bribery Act of 2010, and a multi-year anti-corruption action plan adopted by the G20 at its last meeting in Seoul.

While 2010 was a big year for financial transparency efforts, progress will take a Herculean effort. Dismantling the deeply entrenched, systemic system of opaque financial institutions and covert practices that move trillions of illicit dollars around the world will take time. This is a network that's been growing since the 1960s when major western financial institutions, with complicity of their governments, began building an integrated structure designed to move disguised and often illicitly-derived money across borders.

It has been suggested that perhaps half of global trade and capital transactions pass through tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions. The Cayman Islands Monetary Authority proudly reports that more than 10,000 "collective investment schemes," mostly hedge funds, are registered there, operating without regulation, reporting requirements, or leverage restrictions. In competition with Delaware and Nevada, nearly all U.S. states now allow establishment of corporations with beneficial ownership known only to company formation agents. Swiss bank UBS was caught providing tax evasion services to

Americans. Liechtenstein was caught hiding ill-gotten gains for thousands of individuals across more than a dozen countries.

The City of London functions as a tax haven, offering preferential treatment to offshore money and managing the mass movement of funds into disguised entities in the Channel Islands and Caribbean tax havens. Wall Street markets special investment vehicles designed to shift dodgy assets and liabilities off visible balance sheets. The monetary loss associated with these types of activities is staggering. Analysis by Global Financial Integrity (GFI) has found that illicit financial flows remove \$1 trillion in dirty money from the developing world every year. A recent report on India found that the country lost \$462 billion due to tax evasion, crime, and corruption from 1948 to 2008. The India report also found that India's illicit capital flight contributed to stagnating levels of poverty and increased income disparity despite booming economic growth for the period examined.

Additional analysis by GFI of regions like Africa and individual country case-studies like Greece show direct ties between tax evasion and economic woes, corruption and poverty, and, perhaps most shocking—an ever-present connection to Western financial institutions. As the famous Nigerian anti-corruption crusader, Nuhu Ribadu once remarked, "a plane never takes off without having a place to land," the money streaming out of developing countries must always end-up somewhere: usually that is a developed country bank or offshore financial centre.

There is an opportunity now, in on-going efforts by individual nations and multi-lateral bodies like the G20 to clean-up the global financial system to build-in crucial transparency measures. EU parliamentarians should buttress these efforts by heralding in state-specific measures aimed at increasing information exchange and enhanced

reporting by financial institutions and companies in their respective territories/jurisdictions. Key measures would include: requiring country-by-country reporting of sales and profits by multinational corporations, closing loopholes in anti-money laundering laws and establishing a common set of “specified unlawful activities” for cross-border financial flows for all OECD countries, requiring that beneficial ownership be recorded in publicly available records, and establishing the automatic exchange of information between countries on interest and dividends received by non-resident individuals, corporations, and trusts.

Members of Parliament could further this effort by backing efforts to increase the scope of the EU Savings Tax Directive and support efforts to

implement the multi-year anti-corruption action plan adopted by the G20 in Seoul in November. The current culture of opacity benefits the rich—corporations, wealthy individuals, criminals, even terrorists, shielding income and assets from accountability. It contributes to widening income disparity and undermines the rule of law, forestalling the spread of a well functioning democratic-capitalist system.

The antidote to weak or weakly enforced regulation is transparency. Reform must be comprehensive in commensuration with the systemic nature of the current system of opacity. Reversing the course of recent decades and legislating financial transparency for the future should be the first order of business in the New Year.



Promoting employment-centred pro-poor growth policies to eradicate poverty in Africa

By Emmanuel Nnadozie, Director, Economic Development and NEPAD Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

From an economic growth standpoint, African countries weathered the global economic crisis rather well and have shown solid recovery in 2010. Average growth rate has increased from 2.3 percent in 2009 to 4.7 percent 2010. Notably, in 2008-2009 African countries witnessed a rollback of progress made in economic and social conditions in large part because of the three major crises—food, energy and economic—that erupted in 2007 and 2008. The world has also been alerted about the dire consequences of the global climate change for Africa, while political instability and conflict remain a nagging issue in some parts of the continent. There is now a consensus that climate change is a critical issue for Africa; and indeed its greatest challenge in the 21st century along with poverty. Climate change is likely to disproportionately affect the continent’s development trajectory, as most of African countries are characterized by weak diversified

economic structures, poor infrastructure, fragile governance structures and institutions and poor human development. The threat to growth and poverty reduction is among its most significant consequences since growth is central to development. These challenges and their combined effect have accentuated many of the key development issues that many African countries have not been able to address even before the global crisis. These include the inability to sustain strong growth momentum over the long run and ensuring that economic growth translates into significant employment gains and improved social conditions for ordinary Africans. Also, there are special challenges faced by the 33 African Least Developed Countries (LDCs), African land-locked countries and those facing conflict and insecurity. A look at the current composition and distribution of growth in Africa shows that while the problem of insufficient growth was being effectively

addressed before the global financial and economic crisis of 2008 and 2009, the greater challenge remains that of ensuring that the benefits of growth is shared broadly across society..

Growth has not generated high levels of employment to eradicate poverty

Before the global economic and financial crisis Africa had posted strong economic growth with average annual growth rates of 4.6 per cent in 2000-03 and 6.1 per cent in 2004-07. Despite the impressive economic growth record, many African countries are still struggling to expand growth in sectors that can generate greater employment. In fact, during that period, Southern Africa reduced unemployment by a mere 0.8 per cent and paid employment remains below 20 per cent in most African countries. Also the continent has the most and alarmingly high vulnerable employment rate (77 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa) among developing regions. We do not need a sophisticated economic theory to understand that the way you sustainably reduce poverty, create wealth and generate a sizeable middle class is through decent jobs. But if you look at development policy in Africa employment, the missing link between growth and poverty reduction has not always featured prominently. Therefore, there is need to pay serious attention to this gap and growth-employment-poverty reduction nexus as well as the problem of inequality.

Decent employment is the missing link between growth and poverty eradication

Evidence shows that growth reduces poverty in two ways. First, it provides the resources and capacity for the social spending to attack poverty directly. Second, if it occurs in areas and sectors where the poor are concentrated, it generates jobs and increases productive capacity that will lift people out of poverty. If high-quality growth occurs in labour-intensive sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, construction, textiles, and services, the associated increase in employment will have a positive effect on the working poor and their dependents, and on the unemployed poor who can now be employed or self-employed. How far growth affects poverty depends on how much the growth increases opportunities for employment and on the extent to which the poor can join economic processes and

take advantage of the improved employment potential. Levels of education, skills and access to capital and productive assets are important variables, as are social spending on health, education and training that will enable the poor to take advantage of more rewarding employment opportunities generated by growth. Therefore, economic growth is the key to poverty eradication and employment is the vehicle through which growth can translate into poverty eradication. Therefore governments must pay attention to labour intensive employment focused public investment that stimulate private sector growth and widen access to decent work by the poor.

Employment-centred pro-poor growth will significantly reduce poverty

Although there are various ways in which a country can grow and history is full of examples of engines of growth, African countries can no longer rely on static engines of growth, especially trading in primary commodities as a means sustaining high level growth in the long-run. The emphasis must be on the dynamic engines of long-term growth underpinned by accumulation of productive resources, including physical and human capital. These engines include four sectors with significant export potential: manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, and mining. Recognizing the critical sectors is one thing but turning African economies into a well-oiled growth machine that achieves its maximum possible growth rate is another matter altogether. Certain interconnected parts must work together and certain growth drivers are required. The two most important drivers are human capital and technology. Investment in human capital through high levels of education, especially for women, stimulates growth including through spillover effects. African governments, through optimal education policies, can raise the levels of education and increase human capital, creating a virtuous cycle that enables the economy to increase its capacity to produce new ideas. Furthermore, countries that have grown at significantly high levels have painstakingly provided an enabling environment marked by peace and security, quality institutions, infrastructure and support for the private sector. Institutions are particularly important in providing good governance and macroeconomic stability. High growth must be sustained and pro-poor and gender sensitive, and income must be better distributed if growth is to lead to significant

poverty reduction. If poor people are to participate and share in growth fruits, African governments need to address the informal sector and recognize and support the entrepreneurial spirit of their nationals especially those working in agriculture and in small and medium enterprises. With millions unemployed and many more underemployed or existing in the precariousness of the informal economy, especially many of the Africa's youth, pro-poor policies related to work must be mainstreamed into national poverty reduction strategies in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Productive employment directly attacks poverty, improves human welfare and helps minimize social, political, and economic problems. Therefore, the creation of productive employment must be one of the most important poverty reduction strategies for African governments without which African cannot achieve the MDGs.

Active employment policies are needed to supplement pro-poor growth policies

Successful employment generation strategies are key to poverty reduction and social stability. This is because growth does not always result in employment, it is important to adopt an active labour market policy, as well as employment-friendly macroeconomic policies in order to improve labour market conditions. Employment policies must adopt a dual approach both stimulating output in relatively high productivity and high-wage sectors of the economy, whilst increasing the amount of labour relative to other factors of production used to produce a given amount of output. Increasing employment, especially for the poor, women and youth requires sustainable pro-poor growth and agricultural modernization. Public, private, and international resource spending must focus on providing the infrastructure needed to support the growth of labour absorption enterprises in agriculture, industry, particularly agro-industry, and commerce. No less important are investments in human capital, with special attention to the health and education sectors, which prepare the population to take advantage of employment opportunities, provided by economic growth. Effective intermediation to improve labour market conditions requires a coherent platform for upgrading and coordinating public employment services and private placement agencies under the

country's Active Labour Market Policy (ALMP) strategies. This includes modernizing employment delivery systems, private placement agencies, and support through the education system. Furthermore, African governments need to capitalize on new job growth opportunities that can result from green growth and green jobs. Response to climate change presents opportunities for low-carbon growth and job-creating green economy through the pursuit of an informed, sustainable development growth trajectory that simultaneously improves economic growth and creates employment. African countries must harness the full potential of technological innovation in order to meet the challenges of mitigation and adaptation in Africa and globally. However, effective adaptation and the development of green economies to provide green growth and create green jobs require resources and building adequate capacity. Mitigating the risks and adaptation require structural reforms, economic diversification and adopting low-carbon strategy for growth and job-creation. Also it is important to mainstream adaptation in development and integrate adaptation, mitigation and development in national development plans. Most important however is learning from good experiences in Africa and elsewhere and raising awareness about the challenges and possibilities that climate change creates.

In sum...

African governments must mainstream employment, promote full employment, and develop an employment agenda that addresses three key employment issues: insufficient demand for labour, insufficient supply of skilled labour, and unfavourable labour market conditions. The key to creating significant amounts of jobs (i.e. increasing the demand for labour) and reducing poverty in African countries lies in economic growth (pro-poor growth) and economic diversification and structural transformation. Mainstreaming employment policies in national development strategies, including a special focus on green jobs, involves the systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions across government departments and agencies. Therefore a deeper understanding of how employment policies can complement and reinforce policy actions across the board is an important step in eradicating poverty and achieving the MDGs.



Parliamentary & CSO Cooperation in the Changing Aid Architecture

By Jeff Balch, AWEPA Director of Research & Evaluation

The business of aid is changing rapidly and irreversibly. The PD and AAA set a process in motion that has started to level the playing field and reduce traditional power imbalances between donors and recipients. Even the terms used to describe the aid relationship are in flux. Donors are now called providers or development partners; recipients or beneficiaries are partners, partner countries and regions. Partner countries have embraced and demanded ownership of their own destiny, wrenching it back from the grasp of so-called development experts in donor agencies and Northern think tanks.

But, the more things change, the more some things stay the same. Despite significant gains in the rhetoric of multi-stakeholder involvement, the reality is that aid remains largely an exclusive relationship between the executive branch of a donor country, pursuing its national interest, and the executive branch in a recipient country, pursuing a political agenda related to re-election of the ruling party. Parliamentarians and civil society representatives are engaged in only a nominal way in the aid reform process, and they each complain of still not being taken seriously. Do they have a case?

The OECD/DAC WP-EFF has been careful to include a CSO umbrella on its Executive Committee, and a host of NGOs clamour into high-level events on aid effectiveness to call for human rights-based approaches and attention to democracy. But they are a long way from satisfied, if such a thing is possible. Parliamentarians are only just starting to take up the challenge that CSOs have been fighting for years. They have made up some ground, but are excluded from the WP-EFF Executive Committee decision-making and have been all but forgotten when it comes to resources for participation in the ongoing dialogue. Now MPs and CSOs find

themselves in the same boat, without much of a paddle.

The light at the end of this tunnel is the approaching HLF4 in Busan in one year's time. There is a unique window of opportunity to grasp this culminating moment in the aid effectiveness debate and demand a role for citizens in determining ownership and securing accountability. Donors have long praised democratic governance and chastised offenders on occasion, but donor investment in CSOs has fallen short of their expectations, and the petty support to parliaments is not enough to compensate for the damage done by decades of undermining domestic accountability. Now things are starting to change.

The African Union has called for a complete overhaul of the aid system. NEPAD is not satisfied with a technocratic solution to why aid isn't working. It wants a move from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness, to making policy coherence for development more than just words. The only way something substantial will change, is if parliaments and civil society find a way to exploit their own strengths and synergies to construct an aid architecture based on the voice of the people, a voice articulated by their elected representatives bringing civil society views onto the political agenda.

Parliamentarians and CSOs agree wholeheartedly on one thing: the need for their own capacity development. This should no longer be in silos, each working independently of the other, but in harmony and based on agreed criteria for what makes a strong CS or parliament. Effective aid will strengthen both democracy and development. This is where the aid architecture should be headed.



Research and policy: No bridge is needed

By Enrique Mendizabal, Head of the Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) programme, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Emery Roe argues that policymakers carry around narratives (ideas, beliefs) that help them to understand the world and this affects how they interpret reality, identify problems, prioritise resource allocation, and choose between policy options. A policymaker who believes in the tragedy of the commons will always attempt to take natural resources away from the people; someone who doesn't will work with them to find a solution. The same thing happens when we think about the role of research in policy. Some see the research and policy worlds as two entirely different communities; with a large, intractable, gap between them. Naturally, this gap needs to be avoided, or bridged, (hence the phrase: bridging research and policy). This view is strengthened by the fact that policymakers and researchers often work under different incentives structures, they use different tools and often have different immediate or short term objectives.

The idea of a gap, and the bridge that needs to be built over it, can be a rather comfortable one for researchers and policymakers alike. From researchers' perspective it implies that policymakers are not interested in the valuable evidence they possess –and are often not even able to use it because they lack the skills or are pressured by selfish short term political objectives. For policymakers, the problem can be easily simplified: researchers live in ivory towers.

However, reality is much more complex, and exiting. In 2009 I co-edited a book focusing on the relationship between think tanks and political parties in Latin America (Mendizabal and Sample 2009). The cases studied in the book provided clear evidence that a number of networks, organisations and individuals operate in the space between research and policymaking. In Peru, Martin Tanaka, found that informal technocratic networks bring together policy actors from academia, consultancies, the private sector, the public sector, political parties, and the media to focus their attention on long and medium term policy discussions around

particular issues. In Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay, the more politically mature Latin American democracies, Adolfo Garce described how political parties and public policy bodies have developed their own research capacities or have negotiated formal institutional relations with research centres.

These close links can be found elsewhere. DIE is the German Government's international development think tank; and in Vietnam and China, line ministries have their own internal research centres or think tanks. Even the UN has its own in-house research capacity; and some, like the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) are known for their high academic standards. The World Bank, too, has an enviable research cadre. This middle ground also includes regulatory bodies, parliamentary commissions, scientific advisors, and professional associations.

Furthermore, in Latin America as in the U.S. and in Europe, and in some policy sectors in Africa, there is a revolving door between academia, civil society including think tanks, the private sector and politics. And we must not forget, of course, that many policymakers were moulded in the lecture halls of universities. In fact both communities are so tightly interconnected that it would be impossible to talk about one without the other. Focusing on Chile, Jeffrey Puryear's book *Thinking Politics* (1994), describes the complex roles that intellectuals, politicians, policy research institutes and political parties played in organising and developing the programmatic platform that brought back democracy in the 1990s.

In another recent study, we have found the same historically intricate relation between research institutions and policymaking actors in East and South East Asia: think tanks in Japan and South Korea are closely linked to the private sector; in China and Vietnam to the State; and in Indonesia and Malaysia to their national or regional leaders (Nachiappan, Mendizabal and Datta, 2010).

Focusing on the founding forces of think tanks in the U.S., from philanthropists who believed in the role of science in progressive the early 1900s to political leaders and players with explicit connections to political parties and the pursuit of power in the 1990s and the first decade of the 21st Century, Andrew Rich's 2004 study of the roles of experts in U.S. politics illustrates the same complex historical relationships between knowledge and politics. And in the book *The Argument* (2009), Matt Bai describes how the recent Republican and Democratic strategies to win over the White House largely depended on the capacity of partisan think tanks and intellectuals to shape the national discourse.

In other words, both at the national as well as the international levels, the space between research and policy is full: with independent academics, intellectuals, experts, policymakers and politicians who belong to informal and formal policy networks; with think tanks or research centres associated to policy actors; and with researchers and research centres that operate within the policymaking boundaries of parties, governments and international organisations. Therefore, rather than a bridge,

what researchers and policymakers need, if they wish to work with each other, is a map. In this crowded context a number of opportunities for parliaments exist. In the UK, the Overseas Development Institute works closely with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development (APGOOD); in Peru, the Economic and Social Research Consortium (CIES) has an MoU with parliament to provide oversight support on a number of policy areas; in the Democratic Republic of Congo a similar arrangement exist between the parliament and the school of law to review draft legislation; and the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) works closely with the National Assembly providing policy briefs and support on specific laws and policies. These initiatives demand a careful negotiation between parties to ensure that all properly understand the nature of each others' work. Researchers need to be less naïve and arrogant towards the policy process and policymakers and seek to be more engaging and transparent. Equally policymakers must attempt to engage in the research process by supporting the setting of the research agenda, helping to define the problem and research questions and provide feedback on preliminary findings.



The Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) programme at ODI works with partners in developing and developed countries at the intersection of research, policy and practice to ensure better outcomes for the poor. They do this by focussing broadly on two main areas: understanding the role of knowledge in policy and practice, and the skills and capacities needed for researchers and organisations to effectively translate knowledge into action.

Linking research, policy and practice - especially in the development sector - can help save lives and reduce poverty.

For instance, the results of household disease surveys in two rural districts in Tanzania informed a process of health service reforms that contributed to over 40% reductions in infant mortality between 2000 and 2003.

All too often these realms fail to take advantage of the substantial opportunities for cooperation. This can lead to mediocre or even detrimental policies, research that simply gathers dust on library shelves and lack of innovation.

For more information, please visit www.odi.org.uk/



Strengthening Safety Nets in a Volatile (but Innovative) World

By Hassan Zaman, Lead Economist, Poverty Reduction and Equity, World Bank

We are dealing with two types of trends. One relates to the fact that people have to deal with more crisis-related events than before. We are all too familiar with the recent financial crisis and its impact of people's lives especially with the high unemployment that persists in OECD countries. What we may be less aware of is that food price volatility has increased since 2008 and local price spikes of key food staples occur even when global food prices are on the decline. These spikes push those living on the margins deeper into poverty and have irreversible consequences for young infants unlucky enough to be born into poor families. Finally there is data which shows an increase in the frequency of natural disasters in the last decade compared to the 1990s possibly associated with climate change. The second type of trend relates to long term outcomes. There has been considerable progress in poverty reduction over the past two decades and the target of halving poverty from 1990 to 2015 is likely to be met, though with considerable country-specific variations. However other equally important indicators are not doing so well especially those related to nutrition – both child mortality rates and underweight rates have made slow progress especially for the poor. So the key message here is that while income poverty gains have been made, progress in malnutrition has been slow. There are many policy implications relating to addressing greater volatility depending on what the source of the shock is. One common thread for all types of shocks is the importance of effective safety nets which cushion people against shocks. Second these trends means that policies and programs which focus on nutrition need greater attention including ensuring that existing safety net programs have greater nutritional impact without altering their core objective related to income poverty and volatility. In practice the status quo is that while safety nets in many low income countries have expanded over the past decade most consist of fragmented programs which cover small shares of the poor with small amounts of income transfers particularly in Sub Saharan Africa. In several other countries universal subsidies are

used instead of targeted programs which imply that considerable amounts of public resources are spent on the non-poor. Many middle income countries have reasonably effective programs with wide coverage and generosity – several were used during the recent financial crisis. However as we look ahead at the prospects for making safety nets more effective there is cause for optimism for three reasons: (i) other low and middle income countries have shown effective safety nets can be created – specific examples include Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net program covering around eight million people, Brazil's Bolsa Familia with nearly 13 million beneficiaries – and that there is a large amount of accessible knowledge on the details of setting up safety net programs; (ii) technological innovations especially the use of cell phones for payments and monitoring means that programs can be more efficient and accountable; and (iii) product innovations especially in the area of fortifying rice and wheat with essential micro-nutrients implies that the large number of food based safety net programs can have significant nutritional benefits for poor households. In light of these global trends the World Bank has stepped up its internal capacity and its operational focus on malnutrition and is carefully monitoring sources of volatility (such as by regularly monitoring domestic food prices). One form of its assistance relates to protecting vulnerable households and individuals from the damaging effects of shocks by strengthening safety nets. During FY09-10, World Bank lending for safety nets reached more than US\$5.6 billion in 58 countries, almost seven times the pre-crisis average (FY06-08). In order to strengthen country capacity to build safety nets especially in low income settings, the Bank also established a Rapid Social Response (RSR) Program which to date has allocated US\$37.6 million towards 34 activities with more than half in Sub-Saharan Africa. These resources have maintained or expanded social protection spending and combined with the lessons learnt from other good practice examples and the sources of innovation discussed above lay the basis for better safety nets in the future.



Beyond the numbers: The role of population in economic development & the health MDGs

By Eduard Bos, Africa Health, Nutrition, and Population Unit, World Bank

Concepts. Economic development, as measured by economic growth and poverty reduction, is an obvious factor related to making progress in tackling the MDGs for child and maternal mortality, child malnutrition, and infectious diseases. Second, the title suggests an exploration of population and economic development, as well as population and the MDGs. These are relationships that require a more nuanced examination of the concepts. Moreover, the linkages among population, economic development, and MDGs are complex, going in both directions. Consider, for example, that the decline in child mortality has been an important force in increasing population growth in many countries, while at the same time lower fertility reduces high risk births and consequently child mortality, offsetting population growth from improved child survival. Population growth is in itself a complex phenomenon, that reflects both fertility and mortality rates, and its greatest impact often results from changes in the population age structure, rather than from overall changes in population size.

MDGs. The health MDGs are defined in terms of progress in rates and proportions, meaning that they are measured by changes in both a numerator and a denominator. For example, one indicator for the MDG for reducing child mortality is increased coverage with measles vaccination. The numerator is the number of children immunized, and the denominator is the total number of children below age 1. For the maternal mortality MDG, the numerator is the number of women dying of pregnancy related causes, and the denominator is the number of live births.

The emphasis in making progress towards the MDGs has been very much on the numerator

(providing more measles vaccines for children, providing better delivery care). Almost no attention has been paid to accelerating progress towards the MDGs by addressing the denominators. The denominators, of course, are the populations at risk that have in many cases been increasing rapidly, thereby erasing gains made in improved health services. However, population aspects have an expanded impact on MDGs, beyond the numbers that are represented as denominators.

Population and MDGs. The denominators for the health MDGs are strongly linked with the levels and patterns of fertility, which in turn reflect the desire for the number of children couples aim to have. The number of children couples have during the reproductive span is to a large extent determined by the practice of family planning.

Contraceptive use affects progress towards the MDGs in several ways: through the reduction in high risk pregnancies and births (numerators), through the reduction in the population at risk (denominators), and through the effect of investments in health and education, and possibly, economic growth and poverty reduction. Access to reproductive health, which includes family planning, is therefore not just one of the targets included in the MDG list, but is one that is related to achieving many of the other MDGs, in health and in other areas.

Focus on the poor. Access to reproductive health services is the area in which coverage differs the most among the poorest quintiles and those better off. For reproductive health to have an impact on the MDGs, a strong focus on reaching poor and other disadvantaged populations will be necessary.



Economic Development and the MDG's – is population a factor?

By the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population & Development (AFPPD)

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), established in 1981, is a coordinating body of 25 national parliamentary committees and official standing parliamentary committees on population, health, and social affairs. AFPPD conducts regular advocacy through these committees that aim to involve, educate and motivate parliamentarians on issues related to population and development, including: sexual and reproductive health, poverty, maternal and children's health, HIV/AIDS, women's empowerment, violence against women, trafficking, development, and cultural sensitivity. These advocacy efforts are designed to build capacity and willingness of parliamentarians to actively support legislation and the allocation of resources to contend with and seize population and development challenges and opportunities at a national and local level. To ensure parliamentarians' engagement and motivation in these areas, AFPPD has used a wide variety of advocacy strategies.

One key strategy is the organization of conferences and workshops at the national, regional and international level. AFPPD also facilitates the attendance of national committee parliamentarians at conferences and workshops staged by other organizations including multilateral and international bodies. In addition, AFPPD uses field visits, study tours, panel discussions, focus groups, information dissemination, and an innovative Person-to-Person advocacy technique that utilizes one-on-one discussion style interviews to assess existing knowledge and views on issues, as well as to provide information to enhance parliamentarian support for available solutions. In addition, national parliamentary committees frequently conduct their own country-specific advocacy campaigns. AFPPD seeks to support their capacity in this area through the provision of training for national committee staff on activities ranging from reviews of legislation, drafting of bills and round table discussions to workshops and seminars for national, state and local level parliamentarians.

This session 'Economic development and the MDGs – is population a factor?' will focus on

parliamentary advocacy in support of International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. If we consider the major global issues facing us today including climate, energy, severe poverty, food, the global economy and political instability, why should anyone be concerned about population? The simple answer is that virtually all of these issues relate in some critical way to population growth which is projected to top 9 billion in the next 50 years. This staggering statistic should make us pause and consider how we will feed all these people and where will they all live. We know that climate change, rising energy prices, and growing water scarcity, soil erosion and loss of farm land will make it more difficult to grow the crops necessary to feed our expanding population. Add water, land and other resource scarcity to the equation and the potential for conflict and civil war increases.

For these reasons we will focus on the need to increase investments in sexual and reproductive health, including family planning. Doing so will ensure access to reproductive health hereby enabling women to manage the number and spacing of their pregnancies and go safely through pregnancy and childbirth. By educating and empowering women, and giving them access to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning we can save lives, fight poverty, and accelerate progress to achieve all of the Millennium Development Goals. It is vital that lawmakers protect hard-won development gains and press for urgent and concerted action to achieve further advances.

Today, women and their children constitute almost 80 per cent of the world's poor. As world leaders make decisions about the financial, energy, food, and climate change crises, they must focus their impact on the most vulnerable populations. If not, women and children will bear the brunt of these multiple crises and society as a whole will be diminished.

Barriers to ICPD/SRHR actualization include communication, advocacy, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. In terms of communication there remains an overwhelming need for information and greater awareness of

parliamentarians, government officials, and the general public on ICPD and SRHR issues. Accurate provision of information through effective advocacy will help overcome religious and cultural opposition when the factual benefits of strengthening SRHR are clearly presented and available. Parliamentary advocacy can also address methods and tools for working with parliamentarians, strategic avenues, funding mechanisms, and oversight roles for MPs and monitoring activities for networks.

We must also not lose sight of the demographic challenges we face. While rapid population growth continues in many developing countries, some of the wealthiest countries are facing a decline in population. While the world's largest youth population resides in our region we are also experiencing an increase in the ageing population. New challenges are becoming evident as societies must find ways to support more people outside of the working age group for longer periods of time.

There is a link between economic and social development, poverty reduction, women's empowerment, gender equality and population dynamics. Migration due to politics, economics, conflict and natural disaster are all factors in the demographic challenges we face. Laws, policies

and programs are needed to address human rights, manage population movements, and ensure adequate living standards.

Continued advocacy on the part of parliamentarians and government representatives is essential to ensure that family planning, reproductive health and rights, and population issues receive the priority attention they deserve. By creating opportunities, protecting the rights of all people, seeking justice, strengthening public health initiatives and emphasizing transparency, accountability and strong civil society legislators can initiate transformational change. By mobilizing people and making their voices heard, particularly the most vulnerable, parliamentarians can create a brighter future for everyone.

During this decade, funding for population and reproductive health has remained at the same level while funding for other areas of health has increased substantially. It is imperative that governments make the health and reproductive rights of women a financial priority in order to attain long term economic development. Ensuring universal access to reproductive health, including family planning, will accelerate progress to achieve all of the Millennium Development Goals.

ICPD — International Conference on Population and Development

The 1994 [International Conference on Population and Development](#) (ICPD) was a milestone in the history of population and development, as well as in the history of women's rights. At the conference in Cairo, 179 countries agreed that population and development are inextricably linked, and that empowering women and meeting people's needs for education and health, including reproductive health, are necessary for both individual advancement and balanced development. The conference adopted a 20-year Programme of Action, which focused on individuals' needs and rights, rather than on achieving demographic targets. Concrete goals of the ICPD centred on providing universal education; reducing infant, child and maternal mortality; and ensuring universal access by 2015 to reproductive health care, including family planning, assisted childbirth and prevention of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.

At the conference, the world agreed that population is not about numbers, but about people. Implicit in this rights-based approach is the idea that every person counts. The conference also made it clear that empowerment of women is not simply an end in itself, but also a step towards eradicating poverty and stabilizing population growth. Reproductive health and rights are cornerstones of women's empowerment.

UNFPA, governments and development partners marked the [15th anniversary](#) of the ICPD, in 2009 by taking stock of how much has been accomplished and how much more is left to do. A series of expert [meetings](#) and events helped to identify gaps and challenges, to consolidate lessons learned over the last 15 years, and to come up with practical recommendations for accelerating progress.

For more information on please <http://www.unfpa.org/public/icpd/>



PNOWB Can Help Africa Seize its Moment

Article prepared by the World Bank's Africa Region

In recent years, a common view about the progress and prospects of Africa has been emerging: the region is turning the corner and the future is looking up. This viewpoint is shared by regular commentators on the continent and global research and management firms; by development experts, investment advisors, and, yes, even many of the sceptics who once wrote Africa off.

Even more encouraging is that these observations are backed by the data. Before the global economic crisis economic growth averaged 5 percent a year for a straight decade, rising to 6 percent between 2006 and 2008. Africa's poverty rate was shrinking at one percentage point a year – from 59 percent in 1995 to 50 percent in 2005. Private capital flows have outstripped official development assistance, in witness to the fact that returns on investment in Africa are among the highest in the world. Without a doubt, the Africa region still faces real challenges; weak governance and corruption, energy deficiency, poor service delivery, and finding enough productive jobs for youth in teeming cities.

What sometimes remains unsaid, however, is that underlying this resurgence was steadfast reform and prudent policymaking by Africans themselves. These reforms were championed by leaders in governments, parliaments, civil society and the private sector. Persistent policy improvements by coalitions of reformers have helped Africa bounce back from the triple impact of the food, fuel, and financial crises faster than most regions. In the midst of the global financial crisis, some African leaders even deepened the macroeconomic reforms that fuelled pre-crisis growth. Now the continent is on track to register 5 percent growth this year, and there is increasing recognition that Africa can be part of the solution to the recession, helping propel global recovery.

The returns and transformative role of dynamic sectors such as ICT provide but a glimpse of the continent's investment potential.

The record demonstrates that policy innovation and commitment to reform do deliver strong development results. This resolve by African leaders now needs to be backed by adequate financial resources—including a robust IDA 16 replenishment—to enable Africa consolidate these achievements and put in place systems that will make her more resilient to future shocks.

PNOWB can play a unique role in entrenching and spreading the gains from these reforms by providing a forum for policymakers with diverse experiences to engage in evidence-based debates. PNOWB is an excellent platform for South-South knowledge-sharing and members can learn from reformers who have succeeded despite the odds. When playing their vital oversight role parliamentarians can share global good practice garnered from PNOWB events and help improve development effectiveness. To keep in step with a changing context, the World Bank's Africa Region is reviewing its Africa strategy and has been listening to views of stakeholders in many countries and through online discussions. The aim is to improve our flexibility and effectiveness, strengthen partnerships with African society and other development actors, and contribute to visible improvements in the lives of poor Africans. We want to more sharply focus on delivery, innovation and results.

We will encourage African countries to improve their own domestic revenue generation efforts. Simultaneously, we will mobilize the development community to step-up financing to reach the MDGs and leverage public money to attract more private resources for Africa's development.

The environment for reform has never been more conducive and we believe that Africa is poised for rapid growth. PNOWB is well positioned to be part of this process. Working with other reformers, it can help Africa seize its moment.



New Impetus for Private Sector Development through the G20 Seoul Consensus

The most useful initiative coming out of the recent G20 Summit in Seoul may be the “Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth” (the Seoul Consensus). It recognizes that in a globalized world recovering from an economic crisis a new paradigm for sustainable economic development is necessary, especially for low income countries. While not negating traditional development assistance, it unequivocally states that the private sector has a key role to play in worldwide poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Coming from the G20, itself a product of globalization and the new multi-polar world, the Seoul Consensus will be influential and serve as another wake-up call to governments and other stakeholders that the private sector must be engaged to reach the G20 objective of “ensuring a more robust and resilient global economy for all” (Toronto, June 2010).

The Seoul Consensus recognizes that for economic growth to be sustainable it must be shared by all, and that wealthy countries need growth in poor countries as much as these need investment by the wealthy. While the G20’s call for increased cooperation is not new, its realization that there is no one-size-fits-all formula for development distinguishes it from its more rigid predecessor, the Washington Consensus. In fact, instead of trying to impose advanced country models on low-income countries, through the Seoul Consensus the G20 will engage the countries it is trying to help as equal partners that have the right--and responsibility--to design and implement development strategies that fit their needs.

It does not preach a particular doctrine, but rather endorses nine “key pillars” where concerted action and reform are most critical for inclusive and sustainable development: infrastructure, private investment and job creation, human resource development, trade, financial inclusion, growth with resilience, food security, domestic resource mobilization and knowledge sharing. Each of these priorities is backed by a detailed action plan. Almost all are impossible without private sector engagement.

IFC is pleased with the intent of the Seoul Consensus and its ambitious action plan. While many of the goals have been on the international development agenda for some time, it is important for the G20 to reiterate and refine them at a time when the world appears to be awakening from an economic nightmare to a new globalized economic reality.

We are particularly heartened by the G20’s increased emphasis on private sector led growth, since this has been IFC’s mission for over 50 years. For this to be effective, the “pillar” of increasing financial inclusion, supported by the launch of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, may be the most important. IFC will take the lead in this partnership for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It is SMEs that create most employment, and employment, preferably in the formal sector, is the cure for poverty, with a multiplier effect for the whole economy.

The ideas generated by the 14 winners of the G20 SME Finance Challenge and the SME Finance Innovation Fund through which IFC will help implement those ideas, will contribute greatly to giving entrepreneurs the access to finance they need to thrive. At IFC we hope that the millions of microenterprises we support will grow up to be SMEs, and that these in turn will grow to become large enterprises that will spread their knowledge, products and services to new markets. It is the entrepreneurs who run these enterprises that energize the world economy and create the employment we need to reduce poverty. We must create the enabling environment for them, and therefore welcome the G20’s ideas and activism as outlined in the Seoul consensus.

The Group of 20 and Ashoka’s Changemakers, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation, launched an online competition to find the best models worldwide for public-private partnerships that catalyze finance for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). For more information, please visit <http://www.changemakers.com/g20media>.



PNoWB 2010 Annual Conference Report

Executive Summary

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) is a global, action-oriented network of legislators from both donor and partner countries advocating for transparency and accountability in international development. The network provides MPs with direct access to senior-level leadership in the World Bank; publishes regular policy resources to help inform legislators in their work; and implements a number of programs including parliamentary field visits and global advocacy campaigns. PNoWB is a platform for law makers and civil society actors to hold not only International Financial Institutions (IFIs) such as the World Bank to account for development outcomes, but also their own governments.

PNoWB's Annual Conference is a both an annual general meeting for members as well as a development conference, bringing together MPs, civil society actors, and representatives from IFIs and development agencies. The Annual Conference is a time for reflection and discussion among various development stakeholders, as well as an opportunity to identify the Network's policy foci for the coming year.

The 2010 Annual Conference and 10th Anniversary Celebration were held in Brussels on 2-4 December. Hosted by the Belgian Government and the Belgian Presidency of the EU, the conference welcomed over 220 participants, including 130 parliamentarians from 70 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

The Conference came at a key moment for development cooperation. The world has five years remaining to meet the Millennium Development Goals amidst continued financial challenges, rapid urbanization, a growing list of political, governance and security concerns, and an ever-increasing amount of large-scale natural disasters. In short: development effectiveness is more important than ever before.

The wider development community in recent years has embraced the concept of strengthening active citizenship to help build effective states and a more equitable development environment. Development

cooperation has become about fostering community ownership through participation, oversight and input, and parliamentarians have a key role to play. From identifying and operationalizing alternative mechanisms to finance development and ensuring that development-related legislation is evidence-based, to increasing aid effectiveness through oversight, elected lawmakers are the key link between development policy, practice, and outcomes.

The themes of PNoWB's 2010 Annual Conference -- financing for development; evidence-based policymaking; aid effectiveness and alignment; and MDG review – were identified by the Board in consultation with the World Bank with the aim of engaging parliamentarians, partner organizations, civil society actors and IFIs in pressing issues at the intersection of development cooperation and governance.

Over the course of three days of discussion and interaction, four main policy axes emerged, roughly corresponding to the Conference themes:

- Rethinking development financing.
- Access to information and empowering MPs to strengthen in-country oversight/evaluation of development programs.
- Increasing the poor's access to financial services as key to meeting the MDGs.
- Opening PNoWB up to the IMF.

Rethinking development financing

Participants agreed that an entirely new vision of development financing is needed. The concept of development assistance as "charity" must give way to a new paradigm of sustained growth, with global-level regulations that foster transparency and encourage cooperation between the public and private sector.

Within this overarching consensus, there were a number of priority sub-issues identified by participants, these include:

- The role of parliaments in mobilizing the necessary national and international political

support required for innovative financing mechanisms.

- The need for greater global financial transparency and the role of the World Bank, IMF, Parliaments, Governments and the private sector in this area.

- How G20 summits and their focus on financial inclusion will shape development in the short, medium and long term.

- Parliament's role in ensuring that private-sector opportunities/involvement in development are not abused and misused, and that social and environmental concerns are addressed.

Access to information and empowering MPs to strengthen in-country oversight/evaluation of development programs

Participants identified the gap between donor-country priorities and partner-country priorities as a challenge to the evaluation process. Which one is evaluated when the World Bank looks at its programming? Sub-issues identified include:

- The importance of strengthening and institutionalizing relationships between CSOs and MPs to reinforce the development-oversight capacity of both.

- The need to recognize, acknowledge and address the gap between donor-country priorities and partner-country priorities as a challenge to the development evaluation process. Which one is evaluated when the World Bank looks at its programming? Partner-country MPs pointed out that their citizens often do not share the opinions of World Bank evaluators.

- The need to build the capacity of countries themselves to monitor and evaluate World Bank-funded development programs and development cooperation in general. Connected to this issue is also the need to increase legislators' access to data and information.

- Whether development and loan agencies should provide MPs directly with the information they need to hold the Executive branch to account.

- How the World Bank and IMF can fully involve parliamentarians in their programmatic processes.

- How parliamentarians will help to define the agenda for, and participate in, HLF-4.

Increasing the poor's access to financial services as key to meeting the MDGs

Participants discussed the role of legislators, governments and funding institutions in increasing the inclusiveness of a country's financial systems. Sub-issues included:

- Whether aid conditionalities should ever be used to help reach the poorest of the poor.

- Whether current microcredit programs are truly empowering women.

- If the entire development discourse and set of approaches should be re-aligned to reach the ultra poor.

- The future of G20 conferences in emphasizing financial inclusion, especially for the poorest of the poor.

- The role of MPs, CSOs and funding agencies in ensuring that funds reach rural areas, instead of pooling in urban areas.

Opening PNoWB up to the IMF

Finally, PNoWB members showed great interest in opening up the Network to the IMF, thus widening the Network's focus to reflect priority issues identified by members; increasing MPs' access to senior leadership in both of the Bretton Woods institutions; and providing a recognized platform for the IMF to dialogue with legislators. There was also mention of increasing the Network's activities with the World Trade Organisation, in effect making PNoWB a one-stop-shop for parliamentary dialogue with the World Bank, IMF and WTO, thus reducing the amount of time and travel needed to engage with all three institutions.

These emerging policy axes will inform PNoWB's programmes and policy priorities in the coming two years, strengthening the Network's results-based approach by providing a framework for precise and measurable outcomes. They will also contribute to PNoWB's overarching aim of increasing parliamentary participation in the development cooperation process at country, regional and global levels.

**For the full report on the 2010 Annual Conference,
please visit www.pnowb.org**



PNoWB Action Plan 2011-2012

In 2011-2012, PNoWB will focus on parliamentary participation with networking activities, which will reinforce existing links among parliamentarians interested in international development and finance.

The Network will orient its policy and work plan according to the following five selected policy themes on the international development agenda:

- Aid Effectiveness.
- Private Sector (Ex. PPP and Doing Business).
- Good Governance (Ex. Extractive industries revenue management).
- Transparency (Ex. Open Data Initiative).
- Climate Change.

Methodology

The Network's objective in 2011-2012 is to further develop its results-based approach with the implementation of precise and measurable objectives and evaluation milestones for each specific program associated with the five selected policy themes. Examples of expected end-states:

- Ratification of international agreements.
- Improvement of national rankings and indicators in WB/IMF reports.
- Include parliamentarians where the WB/IMF used to discuss exclusively with the executive.
- Creation of country-to-country exchange.
- Increase of IDA donor commitments.
- Policy change within the WB/IMF.

Parliamentary Participation

PNoWB will keep on connecting more parliamentarians directly to the WB/IMF, as this is its greatest strength and what sets it apart from other parliamentary organizations. More parliamentarians will be invited to participate in key WB/IMF and PNoWB events, provided that funding is granted by donors for these specific activities. Examples of possible parliamentary participation in 2011:

- WB/IMF annual and spring meetings.
- Fourth high-level forum on aid effectiveness in Korea.

- PNoWB annual conference.
- PNoWB IDA 16 and aid effectiveness campaign event in India.
- PNoWB Doing Business in Africa regional meeting in Rwanda.
- PNoWB field visits.

In addition, PNoWB will seek to develop parliamentary trainings in partnership with the WB, IMF and CSO partners at national, regional and international levels. WB/IMF annual and spring meetings are an opportunity to deliver such training to visiting parliamentarians.

At national and regional levels, PNoWB encourages Chapters to strengthen their relationships with local WB/IMF country offices or visiting delegations; reporting to the Board and Secretariat is important to keep a track record of activities and associated outcomes.

Parliamentary Mobilization

PNoWB will provide parliamentarians worldwide with one question to ask their governments each month. These parliamentary questions, based on the key policy themes, will be suggested by PNoWB Board and members, and distributed to parliamentarians by the Secretariat. Under this programme, Parliamentarians can also ask peers to pose questions in their respective parliaments, so that MPs from one country can pose a question in the parliament of another.

In addition, PNoWB will regularly produce advocacy and outreach materials linked to the five selected policy themes. Specific objectives will be adopted for each action. PNoWB site will also serve as a useful policy portal. Indeed, it will be the only Website featuring at the same time live information feeds from the WB, IMF, OECD, WTO as well as selected CSO and academic partners.

Last, PNoWB Board will distribute a "Guideline on what PNoWB expects from its MPs" in order for parliamentary colleagues to better understand their role and function in international development and finance policy making.

Join the Network!

Last Name _____
First Name _____
Gender _____
Nationality _____
Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____
E-mail _____

Ruling party or opposition _____
Position _____
End of Term _____

*Please return your membership form
by e-mail to secretariat@pnowb.org
or by fax to +33 (0)1 40 69 31 64,
You can register online too at www.pnowb.org*

PNoWB Annual Conference in Brussels

The 2010 PNoWB Annual Conference and 10th anniversary celebrations took place from 2-4 December 2010 in Brussels, Belgium, and brought together upwards of 200 participants from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

PNoWB would like to thank the Belgian Government, the Belgian and European Parliaments and all its other partners and conference speakers for making this event possible. The conference report will be made available in January 2011. For more information, please visit www.pnowb.org.

PNoWB's new website

PNoWB recently updated its website, which now includes two main new features:

- Join PNoWB – Parliamentarians can now join PNoWB directly online. All you need is to fill out the Membership form directly on the website. Once you submit it, the PNoWB Secretariat is automatically informed of your request. Partners are also welcome to fill out a form to receive information on PNoWB's activities.

- News – PNoWB has aggregated the latest news from the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on its new website. This provides facilitated access to the latest news on international development and finance.

The website will remain PNoWB's primary tool for communicating with its members. It will still include all the latest policy resources published by the network, including issue and conference briefs, Parliamentarians and Development (P&D) policy series, research summaries, best practice case studies, annual conference and field visit reports. All editions of PNoWB's quarterly publication, Network Review, can also be found on the website.

The resources of PNoWB's IDA16 and Aid Effectiveness Campaign – the Principle Issue Brief and four Supporting Issue Briefs are also available online. For more information, please visit www.pnowb.org.

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