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Chairman's Foreword

It was wonderful to hear in the closing weeks of the old year that USD 52 billion has been pledged for the International Development Association (IDA)'s 17th funding round.

I would like to thank all our colleagues in the Parliamentary Network who championed the cause of the IDA with their governments. The leadership and staff of the World Bank have also worked very hard to ensure that donors have confidence in the efficiency and effectiveness with which taxpayers' money is used by the IDA.

Yet something is still largely missing: the voice of the people whom the IDA serves. The World Bank is very good at reporting results, and those results are impressive. But we need to hear more from the people who are the human face of these results.

That is where parliamentarians can play a vital role. Every programme or project supported by the IDA is in a constituency or region represented by a parliamentarian.

I suggest that the World Bank not only ask for the advice of local parliamentarians when a projects designed, but also invite their involvement when it is carried out and seek the views of their constituents when it is completed.

I realise that the projects and programmes are the responsibility of the national or regional governments. But governments may ignore parliamentarians, especially if they are members of the opposition. The World Bank can urge that they are fully involved, as democratically elected representatives of the people for whom the work is being undertaken.

The World Bank will be seeking support for the 18th replenishment of the IDA in 2016. It would be a strong endorsement of the effectiveness of its work if local parliamentarians were able to say in their own words how greatly their constituents have benefited from it.

On behalf of all my colleagues on the Board and for the secretariat - whom I thank for their work - I wish you all a successful 2014 as you work hard on behalf of those whom you represent.

*Jeremy Lefroy, MP, UK
Chairman of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF*





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Letter from the Editor

I wish you happiness, health and prosperity in 2014.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who submitted articles to the third issue of *The Parliamentary Network News*.

Last month, I was appointed as the new editor of *PN News* to succeed the outgoing editor Erik Hagström. Being able to contribute to PN in this way is a tremendous honor for me. I have always been interested in providing a forum for dialogue and discussion, and my editorial experience include leadership roles at several academic journals at Princeton University and an electronic newspaper at Phillips Exeter Academy in the United States. I will do my best to maintain the high standards set by previous editors and ensure that *PN News* continues to be an informative and thought-provoking high quality publication. If you have suggestions for improving *PN News*, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As a main source of communication within PN, *PN News* is a great medium for you to reach fellow parliamentarians and the World Bank and IMF staff around the globe with your ideas regarding PN's work and ways to increase PN's collaboration with partner organizations. *PN News* is electronically disseminated bi-monthly by the PN Secretariat to all PN members in more than 140 countries. We welcome submissions in the form of reports, editorials, and letters to the editor from PN members, the World Bank and IMF staff as well as external contributors. Your interest, feedbacks, and contributions are vital to the publication's continued success in informing both the PN community and the world about PN's achievements and engendering productive discussions on important issues at the intersection of parliamentary politics and international economic cooperation.

This issue of *PN News* opens with PN Chairman Jeremy Lefroy (UK)'s season's greetings and foreword in which he urges WB to seek more extensive involvement of parliamentarians in International Development Association (IDA) programs to better reflect the needs and opinions of the people whom IDA serves. On page 3, PN Board Member MP Göran Pettersson (Sweden) shares his view on the importance of PN's collaboration with the IMF in promoting sound fiscal policies. On page 3 also, you can find the description of the upcoming policy seminar on Emerging Europe at the Joint Vienna Institute. Information on WB's new MOOC on climate change from WB Public Relations Team can be found on page 4. On the same page, PN Secretariat asks members to send in ideas and suggestions for post-2015 development agenda. On page 5 you can find an article on the initiative of GOPAC and the WBI to tackle corruption. Upcoming PN events are listed in the last section for your information.

The next issue of *PN News* will be published in March. If you would like to submit an article for consideration for future issues or should you have any inquiries concerning the publication, you can reach me at enoh@princeton.edu.

Macroeconomics Is Not a Zero-Sum Game

PN must play a more active role in assisting the IMF promote sound fiscal policies



*Göran Pettersson, MP,
Sweden*

PN Board Member

I am sure that there are many PN members, who like me, head straight to the economic and financial indicators section of *The Economist* when opening the weekly magazine, in the same way a sports fan would read the results section of the previous day's games first in a newspaper (before the advent of the Internet, of course). Further extending the analogy of macroeconomic issues to sports games, however, would be misleading. Macroeconomics is not a zero-sum game where one nation's gain must be balanced by others' loss, for we are living in a globalized world where our economies are

inextricably linked. A macroeconomic crisis in one state has almost an instant impact on other states as its repercussions ripple through the global market. Furthermore, fiscal stability and open markets have positive effects for the world economy, creating opportunities for economic prosperity for all countries and their citizens.

For these reasons, it is crucial that the Parliamentary Network assist the IMF in promoting sound fiscal policies in all of its member nations. From February 5th to 8th, the IMF, in collaboration with the PN and the Vienna Institute, will be arranging a seminar for parliamentarians, titled "Emerging Europe." I will be representing the PN in the event. I will give an update on the results of this joint seminar in the next issue of Parliamentary Network News.

Policy Seminar for Parliamentarians on Emerging Europe

Sponsored by the International Monetary Fund and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF at the Joint Vienna Institute

5-8 February 2014

Preliminary Agenda

The IMF, together with the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF will host a seminar on Emerging Europe for Members of Parliament from Eastern Europe on 5-8 February 2014 in Vienna, in cooperation with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI).

The aim of the seminar is to increase mutual understanding of selected economic issues by country parliaments and Fund staff. There will

be a few sessions highlighting the IMF's engagement in Emerging Europe presented by European resident representatives, a session on the IMF, as well as a couple of sessions on the challenges for Europe when it comes to tackling the issue of creating more jobs and promoting economic growth. The seminar will also focus on regional trends and on discussing a Fund-supported program in one of the specific countries represented. Those presentations will offer useful materials for MPs to test and improve their economic skills.

The World Bank Group's First Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) on Climate Change

World Bank Parliamentary Relations Team

The World Bank Institute (WBI) recently established a partnership with Coursera to increase access to e-learning courses by offering massive open online courses (MOOCs). The World Bank Group is launching its first MOOC on Climate Change, based on the Turn Down the Heat report. This free MOOC will be launched on January 27th on the Coursera platform and contains a snapshot of the most recent scientific information about climate change and opportunities for urgent action. In addition, the course includes insights from leading thinkers on climate change, such as Dr. Carol Turley, Senior Scientist at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Dr. Peter Gleick, President of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security, and Dr. Thomas Karl, Director at the NOAA National Climatic Data Center.

The MOOC is being offered in two tracks: (1) General Public; and (2) Policy Makers and Practitioners. The course runs for 4 weeks, and is free of charge. Participants will have access to the material for approximately 6 months after the course ends.

To register:

1. Go to <https://www.coursera.org/#course/warmerworld>
2. Click on "Learn for free" button.
3. Fill in account information (name, e-mail, password) if you are not yet registered with Coursera.

If you have any questions about the course, please contact Peter Schierl at pschierl@worldbank.org

Post-2015 Development Agenda

PN Secretariat

As we approach the year 2015, the set date to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the balance is uneven: they have made a huge impact in many aspects, while in others there is still much to be done. Global conversations are taking place to define a post-2015 agenda that will build on the MDGs as well as open up to new challenges. It is important to engage in this debate as many actors and perspectives as possible, and therefore we believe that parliamentarians should play a role.

From the Parliamentary Network Secretariat we encourage you to participate and suggest ideas to help to define a new development agenda. You can have a look at the website

www.worldwewant2015.org which works as a platform to participate in the conversations. In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the [MY World](#) initiative, a global survey to set the next development priorities. With your suggestions and ideas we intend to write a submission on behalf of the Parliamentary Network to be circulated before 2015.

Please send your ideas to Gergana Ivanova at givanova@pnwb.org by 31 May 2014.

GOPAC and WBI Strengthen Anti-corruption Capacity of Parliamentarians



Corruption damages the economic prosperity of nations, undermines justice and democratic institutions, and erodes citizens' trust in their elected officials. Parliamentarians know that as elected representatives of their population they play a key leadership role in the fight against corruption. They have the power to combat corruption but they still need the tools and the knowledge to make it a successful fight.

GOPAC Members of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) have expressed concern about their inability to hold their executive branch of government to account. Those from congressional systems have noted that capacity development programs often focused on oversight mechanisms that are more common in parliamentary systems and do not always translate well to presidential systems. To address these concerns, GOPAC held an international study group in partnership with WBI and supported by the European Parliament's Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy. The study group brought together a globally representative group from presidential and semi-presidential systems.

Participants' echoed conclusions from the Inter-Parliamentary Union, World Bank and IMF 2011 Global survey, *Parliamentary Oversight of International Loan Agreements & Related Processes*: the existence of legal frameworks is an indispensable, but not sufficient, condition for effective oversight. The Global Survey noted that legal frameworks could be more strongly applied to improve legislative oversight. Eager and

energetic parliamentarians who strive to reduce corruption after asked: how can I contribute to better oversight in my country?

Parliamentarians know that the cost of corruption to their countries is high. The World Economic Forum estimates that corruption increases the cost of doing business by an average of up to 10 per cent. Another study by a then IMF economist, Paola Mauro, found that corruption inhibits economic performance and a reduction in corruption resulted in a direct increase in annual per capital Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The recently launched GOPAC-WBI handbook, *Improving Democratic Accountability Globally: A handbook for legislators on congressional oversight in presidential systems*, provides parliamentarians with a tool they can use to both predict and improve the effectiveness of a legislature's oversight functions. The Legislative Oversight Index (SPILO) that it introduces is a tool to assess a country's effectiveness of oversight and then to identify areas where oversight capacity can be improved.

The handbook was launched by WBI Consultant and handbook co-author Dr Riccardo Pelizzo at the Forum of Parliamentarians during the Conference of States Parties for the United Nations Against Corruption. The crowd of over 80 parliamentarians in attendance raised several questions about how to address and improve oversight in their own countries. Some of the major challenges to combating corruption that they shared include chief executives that acted as shields for corruption; citizens that are preoccupied with other events and tacitly accept corruption without realizing its detrimental impact; and legal frameworks that are in place but not effectively implemented.

GOPAC's Chair, Ricardo García Cervantes; UNCAC Global Task force Chair, Kamarudin Jaffar; Secretary of GOPAC's Board of Directors, Mary King; and WBI Consultant, Dr Riccardo Pelizzo formed the panel at the Forum session and responded to participant's queries. Mr Garcia Cervantes, who also participated in the study group, encouraged parliamentarians to remain steadfast in their commitment to change and reminded them that GOPAC has resources available to provide direction and support. The Hon Jaffar encouraged compliance with the UNCAC and urged parliamentarians to use the

GOPAC and-UNDP developed *Anti-Corruption Assessment Tool for Parliamentarians*. Dr Pelizzo reminded the audience that there can be political rewards for reducing corruption. All panelists encouraged participants to hold GOPAC workshops on specific topics to address their individual concerns.

We encourage any parliamentarians interested in accessing the GOPAC/WBI material and in holding potential workshops to contact us at info@gopacnetwork.org for more information.

Upcoming Events

5 – 8 February

Vienna, Austria

Policy Seminar for Parliamentarians on Emerging Europe

9 – 11 April

Washington DC, USA

Parliamentary Seminar at the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings

Call for Submissions

If you would like to contribute an article to the next issue of *PN News*, please contact Editor Eu Na Noh at enoh@princeton.edu or PN Program Officer Gergana Ivanova at givanova@pnowb.org.

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The articles that appear in this newsletter only reflect the opinions of the authors, and shall not be seen as the official position of PN, the World Bank, or the IMF.