



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

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# The Parliamentary Network Review

*November/December 2014, n°5*

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# Chairman's Foreword

Jeremy Lefroy, MP, United Kingdom

Chairman, The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

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Since I last wrote – about bed net distribution to prevent malaria in Sierra Leone – the people of that country and of Liberia and Guinea have been afflicted by the terrible disease Ebola. My thoughts and prayers are very much with the people of all three countries and especially with the families of those who have died or are seriously ill.

Of course, it is not just those affected by Ebola itself who are suffering, but those who contract malaria and other illnesses for whom the health services are no longer available because they have been overwhelmed in the difficult and dangerous task of treating those with Ebola.

On behalf of all our members, I would like to pay tribute to the courage of health workers who have thrown themselves into the task of caring for the sick without thought for their own personal safety. Several have lost their own lives in doing so. They are heroes and heroines.

I trust that the Ebola epidemic will bring home to all of us in parliaments across the world just how important it is to have strong, well-organised and effective health systems.

There is a tendency on the part of some politicians to be wary of “strong government.” But public health and the systems which secure and maintain it are precisely the area where strong government is needed. By that, I do not mean overbearing authority – but clear, evidence-based and efficient systems provided consistently across countries by national, regional and local governments *that have the interests and well-being of citizens at heart*.

What I would like to see, once the Ebola epidemic has been successfully tackled, is that the World Bank, IMF, and UN (through the WHO) come together to work with every single one of their members to ensure that they have an effective public health system capable of responding quickly to any epidemics in the future. Such health systems would also ensure that people would receive better preventative health care and treatment all the time, not just when a terrible epidemic arises.

As parliamentarians, we are sometimes so engrossed in current crises that we do not sufficiently plan ahead. We have a chance now to insist that our governments and international organisations make this a priority.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Joseph Bazalgette designed and constructed the sewerage system for London. It took several cholera outbreaks, including two in 1848/9 and 1853 which killed nearly 25,000 Londoners, for the UK Parliament to take the matter seriously. MPs finally passed the necessary legislation in 1858, the year of the “Great Stink” when the smell during a hot summer in Westminster and Parliament was worse than ever.

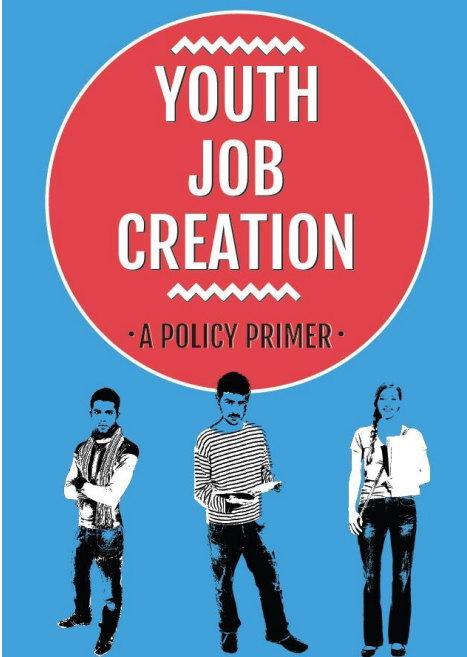
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But Bazalgette did not simply build a system for the existing population of London. He took the diameter of sewerage pipes needed – already generous – and then doubled that saying, “We are only going to do this once, and there is always the unforeseen.” As a result, London’s sewerage system has coped well with a much larger population. It is this type of forward thinking on public health systems across the world that we need now.

\* \* \* \* \*

I was delighted that the Parliamentary Network could come together with Women In Parliament to hold joint meetings and workshops in Washington in October. This was a first for us all and we intend this joint work to continue.

One of the subjects which we concentrated on was the creation of jobs and livelihoods. The PN exists to support parliamentarians as we engage with the World Bank and IMF. The twin goals of the World Bank are eliminating absolute poverty and boosting shared prosperity. Key to that is ensuring that all have a livelihood which supports them adequately, whether through employment or self-employment.



It is estimated that one billion new jobs and livelihoods need to be created in the coming decade, most for young people. The Parliamentary Network therefore launched a small booklet ‘Youth Job Creation – A Policy Primer.’ Its aim is to stimulate thinking among parliamentarians on developing policies for job creation in our own countries. We hope that this will help us all as we debate with and challenge our governments, the World Bank and IMF on how best to secure jobs and livelihoods for our constituents and all our fellow citizens.

I am most grateful to Peace Child International, its CEO David Woollcombe and the great young people who are its inspiration for putting together the booklet for us. It is the first edition; and my hope is that we will produce many more editions, each an improvement on the last, with more examples of policies which are working around the world. We will email a PDF of the booklet to all members. If you would like hard copies, please contact the PN office and we will arrange to send some to you.

I trust that you will find this edition of the Review useful. As well as news on the PN’s latest work, there is a broad range of articles covering the type of issues with which parliamentarians grapple daily – governance and constitutional matters in Haiti and Cameroon, the political economy in France, employment in Lithuania and Turkey’s development post 2015. Your letters responding to any of the articles are most welcome, as indeed are articles for the next edition.

## Editor's Introduction

While this issue of *The Parliamentary Network Review* covers a wide spectrum of topics in various parts of the world – Turkey, France, Lithuania, Haiti, and Cameroon –, inclusive and sustainable growth is its overarching theme. Many authors in this issue examine the nature of development in their countries and contemplate on ways to bring equitable opportunities and sustainability to the forefront of policymaking.

In “**The Parliamentary Network and the World Bank & IMF: Our Commitment to Inclusive Development**,” the PN Secretariat, based on findings from the Annual Meetings of the WB and IMF, reflects on the meaning of shared prosperity and balanced growth in the international development context. MP Göran Pettersson, in “**PN at the Annual Meetings of the WB & IMF**,” stresses the importance of heeding IMF’s Article IV Consultations and advises member parliaments to actively collaborate with the WB & IMF. The PN Secretariat has also contributed a report on PN’s participation in this month’s European Parliament meeting, titled “**PN Discusses Future Collaboration with EU Parliament**.”

MP Yusuf Ziya Irbec, in “**New Horizons: Turkey’s Post-2015 Development Agenda**,” discusses Turkey’s search for a new development framework of human rights and equality to succeed the Millennium Development Goals. In “**Social Contributions and French Consumer Economy**,” MP Frédéric Lefebvre proposes increasing direct salary and consequently encouraging consumer spending to stimulate the French economy.

MP Egidijus Vareikis, in “**Lithuanian Employment Sector: Its Past, Present, and Future**,” shares his insights on developments in the Lithuanian labor market as the nation recovers from the 2009 global recession and strives for job-rich and inclusive growth. In “**Ratification of Prime Minister in Haiti: a Legal or Political Act?**” MP Jocelerme Privert gives a contextualized assessment of the Prime Minister appointment procedures in Haiti and calls for reform to achieve balance of powers between the government and parliament.

The last section is dedicated to the parliamentary practices and development issues of the Republic of Cameroon, which established a new PN chapter in October this year. The World Bank Group has contributed an article on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Yaoundé, “**Building Capacity in Cameroon’s Parliament and Senate to Boost Development**.” In “**The Network of Parliamentarians as Instrument for Advocacy**,” MP Gaston Komba provides a thoughtful analysis of the role of various networks within the Cameroonian Parliament in advancing equality and sustainable development. He also offers a critique of the Cameroonian Parliament and Senate’s handling of the nation’s finances in “**The Role of Parliament and Senate in Promoting Good Governance**.”

The next issue of *The Parliamentary Network Review* will be published in March, 2015. If you would like to submit an article for consideration or should you have any inquiries regarding the publication, please contact me at [enoh@princeton.edu](mailto:enoh@princeton.edu) or Junior Program Officer William Perlmutter at [jpol@parlnet.org](mailto:jpol@parlnet.org).

Eu Na Noh  
Editor, *The Parliamentary Network Review*

# The Parliamentary Network and the World Bank & IMF: Our Commitment to Inclusive Development

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF Secretariat

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## The Network Discusses Opportunities in D.C.

In a time of great global economic uncertainty, Members of Parliament (MPs) from across the globe convened for a workshop with high-level staff from the World Bank & International Monetary Fund (IMF) during 8-10 October in Washington, D.C. The workshop was held in the midst of the Annual Meetings for the two development organizations, as the PN sought to continue fostering dialogue between local actors and development partners in the knowledge-sharing process. The event was hosted by *The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF* (PN) and *Women In Parliaments* (WIP), which for the first time, partnered with the Network. Half the participants were women, highlighting the importance of inclusive, gender-equal leadership and development today. MPs learned how the World Bank & IMF serve as a resource of expertise and investment, while also having the forum to discuss ways in which a more comprehensive relationship would yield inclusive, good governance practice.



*PN and Women In Parliament (WIP) members pose for a group photo after two days of discussion.*

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## PN's Role in Promoting Inclusive Development

The international delegation of MPs from the Parliamentary Network and World Bank/IMF officials gave great attention to the role that MPs can play in carrying out missions of mutual interest. Cyril Muller (Vice President, External and Corporate Relations, WBG) noted that a new approach has commenced. The Bank now asks of a challenge, “Who in the world has solved this specific problem and how did they do it?” The message is clear: MPs have an opportunity to be a conduit for global change. Whereas one Executive Director for the IMF remarked that in the past, “it was unheard of for the IMF to meet with parliamentarians,” Several speakers stressed MP engagement with World Bank & IMF projects, simply because good governance is key to inclusive development. As Mario Marcel (Director of Governance Practice, WBG) put it, “The better parliaments work, the better governance will be.”

One of the highlights of the session was the Network MPs's discussion with former US Congressman Jim Kolbe on role of the US Congress in international development.

*“What should we do to get a US Congressman to take a taxi for thirteen blocks and come here to join us?” – PN Board Member Göran Pettersson to Former US Congressman Jim Kolbe*

Mr. Kolbe advised the Network parliamentarians to work more closely with US Congressional Staff who possess the institutional knowledge to aid furthering PN's commitment to inclusiveness, diversity, and equal opportunities.



*Jim Kolbe discusses the role of US Congress in international development.*

## Keynote Session on the Challenges of Inclusive Growth

Madame Christine Lagarde (Managing Director, IMF) made opening remarks of this session, stressing the subpar, mediocre nature of growth around the world. She noted how international growth has become uneven and brittle, citing concerns of global (200 million people, 30 million since the Great Recession), youth (13% worldwide, equating to 75 million young people), and women's (46% cannot find a in the Middle East job) unemployment. A Panel of the world's renowned economists discussed how to achieve robust and sustained growth. Issues such as urbanisation were brought to the forefront, as Paul Romer noted, "Cities are worth more to than they cost to build." Further, the lack of leadership was stressed by former President Ernesto Zedillo, carrying Madame Lagarde's comments into his own; "our growth perspectives are mediocre because policies are the same." The discussion section had plenty of questions from MPs, asking how they can bring about change and shared prosperity to their respective countries.



*Managing Director of IMF Christine Lagarde addresses inclusive development in her speech.*

*"Seventy years after Bretton Woods, the international community stands at another fork in the road. The tried-and-true modes of cooperation seem to be fraying around the edges. The sustainability of the global economic engine itself is increasingly being questioned.*

*Can it really deliver the jobs, the incomes, the better living standards that people aspire to?*

*There are **three key collective choices** to be made:*

- *First, how do we achieve the growth and jobs needed to advance prosperity and ensure social harmony? I would call this the choice between **acceleration and stagnation**.*
- *Second, how do we make this interconnected world a more inclusive, safer place for all of us to thrive? This is the choice between **stability and fragility**.*
- *Third, how do we strengthen cooperation and multilateralism, instead of isolationism and insularity? This is the choice between **solidarity and seclusion**.*

*Our future hinges on our choices."*

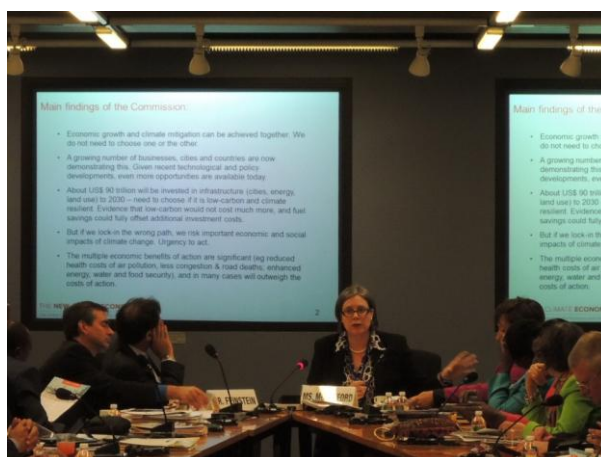
*- Managing Director of IMF Christine Lagarde, "The IMF at 70: Making the Right Choices—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," speech given at October Annual Meetings*

## Luncheon Remarks on Women’s Economic Empowerment

Senior Director for the World Bank Gender Unit Caren Grown joined the MPs for lunch for a discussion session on the ways in which the World Bank can play a role in promoting gender equality across the world. MPs from WIP offered valuable insights on gender equality and governance and stressed the importance of building “a mutual relationship between MPs and the Bank’s Gender Group.”

## Featured Sessions on Social Safeguards, the Environment, and Energy Pricing

MPs were provided an excellent opportunity to be informed of the new framework for Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) at the World Bank. WBG’s Chief Environmental and Social Standards Officer Mark Alan King discussed the importance of “reinvigorate[ing] the relationship between the Bank and borrower, creating an intensive relationship to achieve success.” Furthermore, MPs met with the Bank Information Centre (BIC) and Oxfam, major advocates for World-Bank funded local projects. Economists from the WBG, IMF, and World Resources Institute (WRI) discussed the global impact of “smart regulation,” which seeks economic growth simultaneously with climate change mitigation. MPs agreed that in fact, growth and environmental sustainability are not mutually exclusive, but inclusive.



*Helen Mounford from the World Resources Institute (WRI) gives a presentation on the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.*

## Meeting with the IMF Executive Directors (EDs)

Network MPs met with IMF executive directors to discuss further collaboration between PN and IMF. Executive director Steve Field was enthused to continue a deep and comprehensive relationship with PN, and the development areas needing further cooperation included country ownership, infrastructure, and engagement between the Fund and local actors. Mr. Field stated, “We need to be more intelligent about the way we engage with countries” to promote the global discussion of the “right issues.”



## The Ebola Epidemic

Africa Region Chief Economist of the World Bank Francisco H. G. Ferreira presented to the MPs his estimates for the short and medium-term economic impact of the Ebola epidemic. Primarily an issue of human tragedy, the forecasts and mandate for his study showed a 2.5-3% loss in growth for Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea in 2014, financial equivalent of \$360 million. The projected estimates of financial loss are more shocking were the disease not swiftly contained: \$32 billion in the next two years.

*“Is this a wakeup call?”* – Chair of the PN, Jeremy Lefroy to Africa Region Chief Economist of the World Bank, Francisco H. G. Ferreira

The direct and indirect effects of the epidemic are disrupting economic activity of the regions affected and discouraging investment where medical infrastructure is greatly needed. MP Helen Kuyembeh of Sierra Leone urged the international community to act immediately and noted the dire consequences if it failed to do so. The remainder of the discussion centered on the World Bank’s plan to provide the medical infrastructure to help fight ebola in the affected regions.



*PN Chairman Jeremy Lefroy (MP, UK) leads a discussion session.*

## The Future of the Network – Opportunities and Challenges

At this workshop, the Network MPs decided that promoting job creation and youth employment will be two of the main goals of the Network in the years to come. Furthermore, the Network plans to publish “Policy Primers,” an informational tool for MPs to enhance the public policy debate domestically, organize a field visit to Peru in 2015, and hold the annual conference in Washington in April of 2015. The discussion allowed MPs to contemplate various ways to improve the effectiveness of the Network to make it an organization of stronger impact in the future.

# **PN at the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF**

## **Possibilities for Further Collaboration and IMF's Article IV Consultations**

**Göran Pettersson, MP & Member of PN Board, Sweden**

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Every year, the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund hold Annual and Spring meetings to examine current issues in international finance and development. I was able to attend the Annual Meetings for the fourth time last month in D.C. The Meetings yielded noteworthy results via productive discussions and workshops as described in a report in this issue of the *PN Review*. I was especially thankful to the seven executive directors of the IMF who made room in their busy schedule to meet with PN delegates for an interesting and fruitful discussion. I would like to share my thoughts on some of the topics covered in the discussion - the PN's role in international development and possibilities for further collaboration with the World Bank and IMF.

With our economies growing increasingly more interdependent, it has become crucial for all parliaments to adopt an international perspective. The WB and IMF have tremendous resources and expertise the parliaments can benefit from when introducing evidence-based fiscal policies. It is important to recognize the roles governments and parliaments must play in collaborating with the WB and IMF. While governments represent the states in the WB and IMF, as stipulated in the constitutions of most countries, parliaments serve as the direct link to the people. For this reason, parliaments need to take charge and demand from their governments that they give parliamentarians access to the information and expertise of the WB and the IMF. The PN could assist with this by sharing exemplary practices from member states with active collaboration with the WB and IMF.

We should emphasize to fellow parliamentarians and legislators the importance of adopting preventative fiscal measures. The IMF conducts a yearly review of the fiscal status of its member states called the "Article IV Consultations." The recommendations from the IMF to member states in this Article are usually not drastic if heeded early on. I have often described the process as a yearly medical checkup where the doctor gives preventative advice, such as quitting smoking and exercising regularly. If we can get parliaments more involved and interested in the Article IV Consultations and its recommendations, many fiscal imbalances could be acted upon early on before developing into crises, which, to continue with the medical metaphor, require emergency care and in some cases, operations.

I have been assigned by the PN board, along with three other board members, to plan PN activities for the Spring Meetings of the WB and IMF. I hope that we will be able to offer seminars at the Meetings where we share best practices for collaboration between parliaments and the WBG and IMF to promote good governance and public accountability. Another area I

hope that we can revisit is fiscal education for the parliamentarians. By improving the fiscal knowledge of parliamentarians, we help parliaments make sound decisions regarding public finance. We are looking forward to hearing your thoughts and opinions about which PN seminars you would like to see on the agenda for the Spring Meetings next year.



*ED Steve Field (UK) and MP Göran Pettersson (Sweden) co-chair the session with IMF EDs.*



*PN members and WBG & IMF officials engage in lively discussions.*

***Göran Pettersson is a Member of the Swedish Parliament and serves on the PN Board. He is also the leader of Swedish-American Parliamentary Network and OECD Network in the Swedish Parliament.***

# PN Discusses Future Collaboration with EU Parliament

## The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF Secretariat

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*I would like to express my gratitude to MEPs Heidi Hautala and Ana Gomes, who so generously hosted us at the EU Parliament Meeting. The interest for the meeting was evidenced by the size of the event - 35 MEPs and staff members participated - and lively exchange of opinions during discussions. PN will greatly benefit from continuing its activities in the EU Parliament, and in my opinion, the next logical step is to establish a local chapter.*

*- Göran Pettersson, PN Board Member and MP, Sweden (pictured left)*

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & International Monetary Fund (PN) convened with Members of European Parliament (MEPs) and Senior Officials from the World Bank Group & IMF on 10 November 2014, with a view to exchange ideas on advancing engagement in the Parliament's eighth legislative term. The meeting was an opportunity to present the work of the PN as a platform for parliamentary engagement with the two institutions, fostering the parliamentary dialogue on current economic and financial issues in Europe, development priorities, and policy challenges with the World Bank Group & IMF. The event was hosted by MEPs Heidi Hautala and Ana Gomes. It was noted that 2015 is the year of Development at the European Parliament with opportunities to strengthen MEP engagement with the World Bank & IMF. PN Board Member Göran Pettersson (MP, Sweden) provided a short overview of the PN, membership benefits, and its mandate. During the discussion, he also mentioned the possibility of creating a local chapter of the Parliamentary Network at the European Parliament. He concluded by stating that "for the Bretton Woods System to work, it requires parliamentarians, because we are the representatives of the people."

Brief words of welcome were conveyed by Massimiliano Paolucci (Special Representative to the EU, WBG, left) and Bergljot Barkbu (Deputy Resident Representative to the European Union, IMF, right). Mr. Paolucci emphasized the importance of meeting with recently-elected MEPs who were interested in the work of the WBG. He also stressed the value of cooperation, as "The European institutions are not just donors to the World Bank, but partners in facilitating the goals of the



World Bank through strategy, policy and program-oriented actions.” During Ms. Barkbu’s presentation, the need for a two-way dialogue was also stressed as well as ways to tackle the problems weighing down the European economy today, since “both supply and demand policies are necessary.”



*PN members, WB & IMF officials, and MEPs discuss the future of WB & IMF programs.*

The presentations were followed by a discussion between representatives of the Parliamentary Network, World Bank Group, and IMF officials on one hand and MEPs on the other. The discussion delved into several topics, most notably the future of WBG & IMF programs. Specifically, MEP Gomes raised the issue of international and national tax evasion and its negative consequences for development initiatives. MEPs Fabio De Masi, Linda McAvan and Kostas Chrysogonos shared their experiences with the impact of the European debt crisis and troika-supported programs in their own constituencies, encouraging the IMF to prioritize growth. MEPs also expressed that sustainability of growth and development should be center stage - in view of boosting public confidence - and identified such priorities as future challenges that both the WBG & IMF should tackle. The role of MEPs for the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) discussion launched by the United Nations in formulating SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) will be of interest both to the WBG and IMF.

In response to concerns by MEPs, Mr. Paolucci noted, “tax evasion is unacceptable to us. Our agencies will not fund any program or project where there is a possibility of tax evasion.” He also noted the high standards of accountability and transparency with regards to funding from the European Commission, since only .002 percent of funds were returned to the Commission since 2007 as a result of verification missions. Ms. Barkbu, on her part, pointed to the domestic vulnerabilities that built up before the crisis that were necessarily addressed, stressing the ‘cushion effect’ of IMF lending which provides the needed breathing space to tackle reforms and allow a smoother adjustment for countries. Ms. Michaela Schrader (Chief Communication, IMF Europe) outlined some key priorities of the Fund with respect to the Conference on Financing for Development next year. These include technical assistance to improve the efficiency of public institutions, domestic resource mobilization, and cooperation amongst development partners to achieve results. MEP Hautala noted the value of the Parliamentary Field Visits and emphasized that, with the help of the Parliamentary Network, there will be a plethora of opportunities for MEPs to interact with the World Bank & IMF in the coming months.

# **New Horizons: Turkey's Post-2015 Development Agenda**

**Yusuf Ziya Irbec, MP & Member of PN Board, Turkey**

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The international community is searching for a new development framework to follow the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which have guided global development since 2000 and will soon expire in 2015. Along with the international community, Turkey is working to set out an ambitious plan to eradicate poverty and champion sustainable social, economic and environmental development policies for post-2015.

Since 2013, Turkey has carried out an inclusive and transparent consultation process to determine where it currently stands with regard to the MDGs, the impact the Post-2015 Development Agenda will have on its people in terms of the development issues that the nation must address, and what role Turkey has to play to advance this new agenda in the international context - how Turkey will contribute to the nine target development areas delineated in the Agenda based on its own experiences.

Since the MDGs were the first set of development initiatives for the entire world, a clear understanding of these goals is crucial to designing future development frameworks. The MDGs included eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating diseases, enhancing environmental sustainability, and establishing a global partnership for development. While some countries have been very successful in some of these development areas while others have not. Turkey has seen a great progress with some of these initiatives.

The population in Turkey continues to increase at a steady rate (around 1.29% per year) with 3,600 births and 1,224 deaths per day on average. This implies a steady net increase in Turkey's population. The Turkish population was 76.5 million at the end of 2013, after seeing a significant increase by 856,616 people from 2012. Turkey's population is expected to reach well over 81.2 million by 2020 and 89.6 million by 2030. Almost 70% of the total population resides in urban areas, and the rate of urbanization is 1.7% per year. The average fertility rate is around 2.13 children born/woman. Target 4 of MDGs is reduction by two thirds the under-five mortality rate, and Turkey has seen an immense progress in this area. But there is still much more to be done to reduce the current rate.

Turkey has made notable progress in the education of girls, particularly at the primary and secondary school levels. From the statistical point of view, virtually all girls are granted access to primary school education. The recent economic growth in Turkey with a focus on sustainability has had some very positive effects on the Turkish Ministry of Development's

handling of the monetary aspect of social developments. As the Turkish economy grows, the government budget has increased to improve areas such as education, healthcare, and others. The literacy rate of the population is 87%, with male literacy rate reaching almost 95% and female literacy rate 79%.

The current government's dedication to the education sector is evidenced by its allocation of the largest portion of the annual budget to and the highest number of staff recruits for the Ministry of Education. The investment portion may vary from year to year; however, education is clearly at the forefront of this cabinet's agenda.

Earlier reports highlighted three MDG target areas where Turkey fell short: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (target 1), promoting gender equality and empowering women (target 3), and enhancing environmental sustainability (target 7).

Turkey's progress in reducing extreme poverty and hunger has been remarkable. Since the Syrian Civil War in 2011, the unofficial figure for the Syrian refugees in Turkey has been close to 4 million. International aid for these refugees has fallen seriously short of the needs of these people, and the Turkish Government and non-governmental organizations have played an active role in providing them with shelter and food.

There is still a lot more to be done towards fulfilling the third goal, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. In Turkey, out of 548 members of Parliament, 79 are female, constituting only about 14.42% of the Parliament. While this number can be improved, Turkey's population is close to 80 million and that the results of today's investment in empowerment of women will only be seen several decades later. On the other hand, there is room for women's participation in the labor market. Girls and women are not being allowed to realize their potential, not just in Turkey and in the developing world, but even in developed countries as well. The International Labor Organization estimates that 865 million women around the world are being denied access to the labor markets. Facing discrimination at birth, in school, at job interviews, and in the boardroom is all too common for women. Refusing women's contribution to the family income begets economic loss, resulting in lower living standards for everyone. If women participated in the labor force to the same extent as men, the boost to per capita incomes will be significant. Increased female participation in the labor market will be a game changer in the global economy.

Turkey has not performed so well in the seventh MDG target area, environmental sustainability. Expanding global partnerships, which are vital to Turkey's economic growth, brings with it fears of increased environmental degradation. Turkey has a rich and diverse wildlife thanks to its range of habitats and unique position at the intersection of three continents and the three seas. Ill-considered development projects are threatening biodiversity, but a new wildlife corridor offers hope for further progress in conservation. Turkish montane forests face major threats to their genetic diversity associated with over-exploitation, forest



fragmentation, air pollution, and global climatic change. Water pollution from the dumping of chemicals and detergents, greenhouse gases, and land degradation are among serious environmental issues that Turkey still needs to solve. In general, private firms respond more efficiently to environmental regulations than the state-owned enterprises, which still constitute a large percentage of Turkey's economy. Changes in the law on environmental impact assessments are being considered, which will permit mining investments prior to environmental impact assessments.

Turkey has been striving not only for its own development but also for others. It has a diplomatic mission in almost every country in the world. A large number of them have staff specifically for international cooperation and development. These coordination agencies make tireless efforts to promote and implement aid programs. Much of the progress would not have been possible without the European Union (EU) Funds. The reduction of poverty rate from 38% to 18% signals Turkey's great progress. But more improvements need to be made in rural areas, and the poverty rate should be reduced to a sustainable level in the long term.

Like 49 other countries, Turkey must set revised goals for itself once the MDGs end in 2015. A national consultation process is currently under way just for this purpose. The 10<sup>th</sup> Development Plan covers many of the post-2015 development goals. Turkey has organized of Specialized Commissions, comprised of subject-matter experts and various other parties involved with the thematic programs.

Both the Post-2015 Development Agenda of National Consultations and the 10<sup>th</sup> Development Plan studies have been carried out in Turkey simultaneously. Turkey has a very young population, especially when compared to other aging European countries. Given the fact that half of the Turkish population is under 24 years of age, the interests of the youth were accorded the highest priority in the process. Therefore, Turkey's Post-2015 Development Agenda has a target area specifically dedicated to youth between the ages of 18 and 29. Turkey's youth policy will aid young people's participation in society and their decision-making processes by providing them opportunities to participate in the mobility type programs that facilitate travel inside and outside of Turkey.

Turkey is dedicated to sustaining the momentum of the MDGs and collaborating across civil society to ensure the advancement of a new Post-2015 framework. The Turkish Government has opened up all its sources to devise a comprehensive study in order to create Turkey's Post-2015 Development Agenda from the early stages of the process. Therefore, an online platform, [www.post2015turkey.org](http://www.post2015turkey.org), has also been launched to enable citizens to share their views, an opportunity that did not exist before. It is a process of targeting everyone who wants to influence and express their opinions, expectations, dreams, needs and priorities by participating and engaging with policymaking through open-knowledge and open-data cooperation for Sustainable Development for the world beyond the MDGs.

Methodology adopted by the national consultations in Turkey was originally devised by the United Nations Development Group for identifying global development challenges beyond 2015. These consultations seek active participation by the Turkish people from all walks of life. It takes into consideration the matters discussed in thematic and regional meetings held in various cities across Turkey as well as face interviews with social service groups, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, research institutions, private sector enterprises, and state institutions.

Survey titled “Touch Your Future” (<http://www.geleceginizedokunun.com>) offered through social media over the internet allowed people to submit their views. The survey was devised to identify the perceptions and aspirations of citizens relating to the thematic area of Governance. People were also encouraged to send in their opinions through text messages via the national SMS Governance Platform. All these feedbacks were taken into account to create the agenda for post-2015. The survey results were analysed qualitatively and quantitatively, and the assessment was incorporated in the agenda report. The responses to the questionnaires distributed at university meetings, youth summits, and validation meetings were also assessed and included in this report. In setting a new development framework at the local, national, and global level, we did not lose sight of the needs of the Turkish people.

Thematic area meetings are organized by the United Nations Office based in Turkey. There are 26 Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) (institutions established as a structure independent from the central government) in Turkey. Their main purpose is to implement regional strategies, to support regional and nation-wide enterprises, to devise local and regional solutions for private sector matters and financial guarantees in response to demand for new products and services. The central government’s representatives in the regional area, mainly the Ministry of Development staff, share public authority with local stakeholders, such as municipalities, province special administration, local chambers of commerce and industry, and non-governmental organizations. These innovative RDAs provide a more collaborative, democratic and effective system of decision-making. They organized numerous meetings across Turkey in cooperation with local citizens with different backgrounds and occupations to ensure that every voice is heard in this debate.

Regional economic disparity is a serious problem in Turkey. There is a wide development gap between large cities, such as Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Bursa, and Adana, and other parts of the country. Disparity between genders is also an urgent problem. Female education level and the level of contribution to the economy through employment are both low. These two issues will remain on Turkey’s development agenda for quite some time.

Interestingly, a number of delegations from foreign countries have asked for information and assistance from Turkey regarding the nation’s rapid reduction of child mortalities and success in its fight against child labor. Ministry of Development representatives shared their

experiences with them and offered insights. However, the solutions will ultimately depend on each country's own specifications and approaches to tackle the problem.

2015 will be a critical year for Turkey. It will not only share its Post-2015 Agenda, but also hold G-20 Presidency from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015. G-20 Presidency will give Turkey a highly valuable opportunity to influence and lead other countries.

Main targeted development areas include poverty reduction, food security, sustainable economic growth, job security, environmental sustainability, and advancement of universal human rights. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, due to distorted globalization process, the international community seems far away from reaching these goals. The world needs a renewed commitment to sustainable development and a strong leadership to carry it through.

In Turkey, an online consultation mechanism was established, eleven thematic and five regional meetings were organized, and four youth summits were mobilized to discuss the post-2015 development agenda. The findings of these meetings were brought to a validation meeting at the conclusion of the process.

Since the MDGs have been introduced, enormous progress has been made in Turkey and globally in achieving internationally agreed targets. The Turkish Foreign Ministry has also declared support for the process and stated that the Turkish government considers the deliberations towards Post-2015 Development Agenda to be of utmost importance. The Ministry also stated that these deliberations must adhere to the principles of human rights, equality, sustainable growth, and the rule of law.

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# Social Contributions and the French Consumer Economy

Frédéric Lefebvre, MP, France

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For France to improve its economy, it is imperative to increase the direct salary by up to 20% through reduction of social security contributions of employers and workers, overhaul its national and regional civil servants system, and reorganize its Ministry and administration into 5 departments:

- Labor and Economic Development
- Education and Cultural Affairs
- Public Health and Welfare
- National Security and Immigration
- International Relations

France must reinvigorate its 8 regions by revamping the 30 departmental local authorities. New directions should be given to local authorities, based on the model of existing electoral constituencies for the European elections and rural departmental local authorities.

France must revise its national hospital maps and strengthen its emergency medical services that prioritize temporal efficacy of the care rather than geographical closeness of facilities.

France should support and motivate its youth to become more active participants of the global economy, so that the phrase “Made in France” will be seen more often around the world.

Sincerity must be restored in public debates where politicking games and ulterior motives are clouding the truth.

I have strongly argued for galvanizing consumption during the Fillon Government, especially at the time of implementation of the social VAT, though unsuccessfully.

When I replied «chiche» to the responsibility pact proposed by the President, I argued for additional reduction of social security contributions of companies, which would reduce contributions by employees and workers and increase their direct salaries by 20%. [1]

The cardinal rule of supply and demand calls for such measures. Moreover, certain entrepreneurs have shown strong support for these measures

[http://mobile.lepoint.fr/economie/une-idee-originale-pour-relancer-un-peu-la-croissance-05-03-2014-1797889\\_28.php](http://mobile.lepoint.fr/economie/une-idee-originale-pour-relancer-un-peu-la-croissance-05-03-2014-1797889_28.php)

Following the majority’s loss of municipal elections, the President announced a modification to his pact of responsibility, adding to it the clause of solidarity.

I then decided to vote for the new Prime Minister Manuel Valls' plan, while regretting that it was not extensive, neither in the reduction of public deficits nor in the reduction of social security contributions by employees.

<http://www.frederic-lefebvre.org/plan-stabilite-jai-vote/>

Attempting to improve redistribution without boosting demand is a mistake. The fatal error of the five-year term measure is the avalanche of taxes of all kinds that fall as heavy burden on the middle class and the employees with refiscalized additional hours of labor.

The importance of consumption, which is one of the French economy's major engines for growth, has been ignored due to ideological differences and electoral complacency.

It does not surprise me, however, that the importance of consumption-oriented economy has thus far been overlooked by progressive ministers, by my friend Christine Lagarde, the Managing Director of the IMF, by Mario Draghi, the head of ECB, and by President Obama.

What we need is economic realism – adoption of realistic policies that will restore stability and balance in the French economy and boost its growth –, not politicking.

The so-called “rebellious” members of the PS are calling for returning to growth-oriented economy, and they are right. But they must now take a step further: they must recognize the need for reduction of public deficits by cutting costs of public services and territorial reorganization. Only then can we raise the direct salaries of workers in the private sector. Will they demonstrate such necessary economic realism?

We must learn from the brave reform led by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien of Canada in the 1990s. Canada was in dire economic straits at the time, comparable to Greece today. Chrétien restored the balance of federal budget by drastically reducing public spending and accordingly reducing financial burden on companies as well as taxes levied on the employees.

As I have also underlined in “Vous êtes prioritaires,” the French government must focus on reinvigorating the consumer economy to boost economic growth (<http://nouveaux-horizons.fr/nz2014/livre/>).

The key to stabilizing the French economy lies in adopting appropriate measures to reduce social contributions and reinvigorate the consumer market. Let us think of France and let us think for the future of Europe.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.fr/fredericlefebvre/baisse-ds-charges-hollande\\_b\\_4616242.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.fr/fredericlefebvre/baisse-ds-charges-hollande_b_4616242.html)

## **Pour la France, l'unité... Chiche**

Si j'ai choisi de faire de l'unité le thème de [mes vœux pour cette année 2014](#) (Belle année 2014 !), c'est tout simplement que la France ne peut plus se permettre de perdre son énergie dans des guerres intestines.

Chaque jour je rencontre des Français, des acteurs économiques, des salariés, des étudiants qui me crient leur impatience.

La France a le blues...

L'avalanche d'impôts et de taxes en tout genre qui a redoublé de force depuis 20 mois, étouffe notre beau pays.

Alors qu'ils attendent une main secourable, un sursaut de bon sens, les Français se désespèrent. Ils ne croient plus en la politique. Pire elle commence à les dégoûter. Ce théâtre d'ombres qui se déroule devant eux, chacun dans un rôle élimé, est indigeste.

Quand, en réaction au vœux du Président de la République, dès le 1er janvier, aux "4 vérités" sur France 2, j'ai dit "chiche" aux baisses d'impôts, aux baisses de charges pour les entreprises, aux baisses de la dépense publique, *Le Figaro* a titré: "[Lefebvre se démarque de l'UMP.](#)"

C'était sans compter le besoin, y compris dans notre famille politique, de renouer avec la confiance des Français.

Quand 3 jours après, Jean-Pierre Raffarin, Bruno Lemaire et Valérie Pécresse disent à leur tour "chiche", la presse relève que ce mot devient à la mode à l'UMP.

Quand, au lendemain de la conférence de presse du Président, c'est au tour de François Baroin, et dans une moindre mesure de François Fillon, de reprendre à leur compte le mot "chiche", cela devient un motif de discorde à l'UMP.

Quand allons-nous comprendre que, pour offrir l'unité à notre peuple, il nous faut nous respecter dans notre propre famille?

Devons-nous pour autant faire confiance aveuglément à la parole présidentielle. Ne soyons pas naïfs. Nous sommes à la veille d'échéances électorales. C'est pourquoi, avant de prendre nos responsabilités comme nous y a invité le Président de la République, un débat d'éclaircissements est indispensable pour rassurer nos compatriotes qui se demandent s'il ne s'agit pas d'une parole sans lendemain.

Avant l'interruption de nos travaux parlementaires pour des raisons électorales, le 3 mars

prochain, il me paraîtrait salulaire que le Président de la République use de son nouveau pouvoir sacralisé par l'article 18 de la Constitution : faire une déclaration au congrès de Versailles et s'adresser ainsi à tout le parlement.

Ce discours pourrait être suivi d'un débat hors sa présence et sans vote. Il serait de nature à mettre chacun face à son devoir.

Sur des mesures claires et ambitieuses de baisses d'impôts, de charges et de dépense publique, je n'hésiterais pas une seconde à voter Oui.

Comme je l'ai fait le mois dernier sur le texte de défense des consommateurs que présentait le Gouvernement.

La grandeur de la politique est de voter selon sa foi profonde, sa vision sincère plus qu'au fil des intérêts tactiques.

Mais qu'il me soit permis au moment ou Paul Krugman, Prix Nobel 2008 d'économie et éditorialiste au *New York Times*, [a livré une analyse sans concession](#) des choix de François Hollande, de préciser un ou deux points.

Cet économiste avait critiqué l'agence Standard & Poor's, après la décision de cette dernière d'abaisser d'un cran la note souveraine de la France. Il donne aujourd'hui son sentiment sur la politique française et la vision de ses confrères.

Je partage pleinement l'analyse qui y est développée sur un point important : il ne faut pas oublier la demande: les consommateurs. Et donc les Français...

C'est en tant qu'ancien ministre de la consommation que je tire moi aussi cette sonnette d'alarme.

Qu'il me soit permis de rappeler ma proposition faite [au talk du Figaro](#), il y a quelques jours, répétée sur TV5 monde, d'une baisse des charges de 20 % sur les charges patronales et salariales. Cette baisse bénéficiant pour moitié au salarié pour augmenter son salaire direct et pour moitié à l'employeur pour lui permettre d'investir, d'embaucher.

Ainsi nous marcherions sur deux jambes. Celle de l'offre. Et celle de la demande. Car il faut relancer, dans notre pays qui a tant de difficultés à exporter, le moteur de la consommation. Il est en panne. Le pouvoir d'achat a baissé pour la première fois.

Ne sous-estimons pas les "bonnets rouges" qui ont incarné l'alliance des patrons et des salariés contre la surimposition. Car l'ennemi aujourd'hui ce n'est pas la finance. C'est l'Etat tentaculaire.

Si nous voulons enfin nous adapter au XXIème siècle, défendons les intérêts liés des entreprises et des salariés qui, pour un salaire net de 1000 euros, payent 82% de charges en plus. Un record Européen. Or l'ennemi ne doit pas être l'Etat en tant que tel mais l'Etat

omnipotent, vorace, immobile, multiforme qui s'incarne dans une dépense publique toujours croissante.

C'est ce que j'appelle de mes vœux pour la France. Nous n'avons pas le temps d'attendre 2017. Mon devoir est donc de voter oui à des mesures qui iraient dans ce sens. Sans hésitation. Aucune.

Car l'unité est la seule voie pour dompter le "mastodonte ", "Etat/Sécu/collectivités locales" que nous avons collectivement créé, droite et gauche confondues, depuis des décennies et qui écrase d'impôts, de cotisations et de taxes, tous les Français.

Voilà pourquoi dans notre pays qui est oppressé, asphyxié, étranglé, par les prélèvements obligatoires, avec mon think tank "nouveaux-horizons", [nous proposons la règle de platine](#), l'interdiction à tout Gouvernement de gauche comme de droite de laisser les prélèvements obligatoires dépasser la moyenne européenne, 39,9%. Or nous sommes à notre record historique : 46,5%.

Alors, c'est avec force, que je répète : "Chiche, monsieur le Président de la République."

Passons des mots à l'action.

Un seul chemin pour redonner l'espoir à un pays rongé par le doute :

L'unité, pour la France et les Français.

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# **Lithuanian Employment Sector: Its Past, Present, and Future**

**Egidijus Vareikis, MP & Member of PN Board, Lithuania**

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Lithuania gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1990. All steps taken by the Lithuanian government in this period were typical of the country in transition to modern free market economy and were driven by the political objective of joining the European Union as rapidly as possible. In 2004, Lithuania became an official member of the EU and ever since, the country has closely followed general European trends and policies, especially in the labor market. Lithuanian employment policies in the 1990s can be interpreted as representative of those of medium-sized Central European states of the period.

Employment policies in the post-restoration of independence Lithuania were shaped by the following conditions:

- collapse of the Soviet Union, Soviet economy, and former Soviet market;
- transition from state regulated economy to free market based one;
- and the country's dearth of experience in free market economy.

Lithuania underwent all the necessary steps in preparing for the EU membership, seeking to adopt EU policies as quickly as possible.

Lithuania's population is continually decreasing. It has fallen by 445,000 or almost 12% over the past decade due to both negative net migration and natural population change. Most immigrants are young, well-educated persons of prime working age (in 2010, 77% of immigrants were between 15 and 44 of age). Moreover, there are several other negative demographic trends in Lithuania: population is aging rapidly: the rate of population aging in Lithuania is the fastest in the EU; Lithuania comes in last amongst the EU countries for average life expectancy and mortality rates, especially for men (average life expectancy of Lithuanian men is 68.1 years), the difference in life expectancy between men and women in Lithuania is also large (in 2011, the difference was 10.7 years).

The unemployment rate has generally fluctuated around 10 per cent, with as much as 50 per cent of unemployment long-term ones. The number of unemployed people aged between 15 and 64 has seen a steep increase during the global economic crisis of 2009 and by 2010, it had reached more than four times the level of 2007. With the rapid increase in unemployment, both the number of long-term unemployed individuals and their share in total unemployment have risen.

Although business conditions in Lithuania have improved, thanks to tax reduction measures,

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liberalization of labor relations, and creation of an investment-conducive environment, certain periods of economic growth have been characterized by lack of job growth.

The legal background for employment in Lithuania is defined by the Labor Code of the Republic of Lithuania (LC), the Law on Support for Employment of the Republic of Lithuania (LSE), relevant secondary legislations, and other regulations. A special set of legislation regulates the employment and working conditions of civil servants and public sector employees. <sup>1</sup>

In 2009, the Law on Support for Employment (LSE) of 2006 was substantially revised. During the economic crisis of 2009, the government adopted very strict austerity measures: certain taxes were raised, funds for maintaining public-sector employees were cut in the form of salary cuts and enforcing mandatory unpaid leaves of public-sector employees, and measures were taken to address the deficit of the State Social Insurance Fund (Sodra) as well as the need to temporarily reduce old-age pensions and optimize, that is to reduce, the number of public-sector employees. These austerity measures were not welcomed by any social strata, neither by the employed nor the retired, or businesses.

Nonetheless, the new measures helped tackle the crisis. They:

- expanded the possibilities for groups of persons eligible for subsidies to find jobs and start their own business
- stipulated measures to support self-employment of one of parents in families with three or more children;
- stipulated measures which might help companies facing economic difficulties to retain jobs by means of public works and other labor market policy measures;
- set forth that payment of unemployment social insurance benefits shall be extended by two months to unemployed individuals residing in territories where the rate of unemployment exceeds the average unemployment rate in the country by 1.5 times;
- set forth a number of measures to increase mobility of employees (to cover costs of commuting to/from work and accommodation costs);
- stipulated that training grant may be awarded not only to the unemployed but also to the employees who have been given a notice of dismissal;
- and set forth a number of measures to foster employment of persons who are economically supporting their family members due to various circumstances, but cannot find a proper job.

Although the new edition of the LSE provides for a number of various measures aimed at retaining and creating new jobs, it was not enough. Many LSE measures were too complicated to implement in practice and were not given sufficient publicity. Moreover, many

of them were quite specific and applicable only to limited groups of people or under very specific circumstances.

Another large package of amendments to the LC was adopted in 2010. The amendments legalized signing of fixed-term employment contracts on a temporary basis for newly established jobs. This legalization was believed to encourage creation of new job opportunities, as employers would have fewer obligations than with permanent employment contracts; in addition, the LC amendments entrenched a new type of employment contract – telework. Contracts of telework will also cover homeworking and work with information technologies at a location other than the traditional workplace.

The LSE amendments of 2010 provided for:

- extension of the list of persons additionally supported in the labor market to include youth of working age (under 29) and those who are starting their first jobs in accordance with the acquired qualifications;
- support for the development of small businesses. The 2010 Law on Support for Employment stipulated that unemployed people willing to engage in individual activities on the basis of a business certificate shall receive reimbursement of the costs for acquisition of the business certificate and payment of State social insurance contributions;
- revision of the conditions for organization of public works. Pursuant to the LSE amendments, public works may be organized for the unemployed, working-age employees who have been given a notice of dismissal, students of comprehensive and vocational training schools during school holidays, and part-time employees of enterprises suffering economic difficulties;
- extension of periods of support for acquisition of professional skills;
- and expansion of the definition of an unemployed person. The amendments stipulate that the unemployed include, inter alia, owners of individual enterprises given the status of an enterprise under liquidation in the Register of Legal Persons, when such owners have registered with a territorial labor exchange as job searchers and are ready to measures.

With a view of reducing the number of illegal workers and improving social guarantees of the employed, the Law on Illegal Work Prohibition was issued in 2010. The purpose of the law is to prohibit illegal work, including employment of illegally staying nationals of developing nations. The law defines the concept of illegal work and sets forth sanctions and measures against employers who employ illegal work and against illegal employees. It also describes the procedures for imposing such sanctions and measures, the role of illegal work control authorities, and the rights of illegally employed people.

Lithuanian Labor Exchange (LLE) reform was completed in 2010. The idea behind the reform

was that 10 post-reform (local) labor exchanges (instead of former 46) would serve customers more efficiently. Units of labor exchanges will continue functioning almost in all municipalities to provide customers with consulting services, but administrative issues will be handled by territorial labor exchanges. About 90 per cent of LLE's employees are anticipated to work directly with customers in the long run.

Labor market vocational training reform is being planned presently. According to yet scarce publicly available information, it will constitute an integral part of a complex comprehensive vocational training reform.

On a related note, the establishment of a task force for increasing employment opportunities deserves a mention.

Task force for increasing employment was established in February of 2013 by the order of the prime minister with the purpose of developing a national employment strategy for period 2014–2020. At the end of March 2013, the task force prepared and submitted “Draft Priorities for Employment Growth and Their Implementation Directions in Lithuania.”

The following five priorities are specified in this document:

- ensuring the integrity of employment policy;
- promoting business and job creation;
- matching skills and labor market needs;
- utilizing potential labor resources;
- and ensuring flexibility and inclusiveness in the labor market.

Lithuania has been recovering from the 2009 economic crisis and is currently one of the fastest growing economies in the EU. The National Employment Strategy 2014–2020 is in development, as well as measures to encourage labor market flexibility and security, provide a better trade-off between supply and demand of skills, and increase work incentives. The need for a fundamental revision of the taxation system in the country is also being examined.

The strategy describes its goal as creation of an environment that fosters development of material and spiritual welfare in the country through dissemination of knowledge, increased security, and increased competitiveness of national and local economies.

It sets out the following key goals and objectives with regard to employment policy in the medium term:

- attract and retain as many people as possible in the labor market ensuring quality and secure employment, modernizing labor market and social protection systems;
- improve adaptability of employees and companies;
- and reduce structural unemployment by investing more into human resources.

It should be added that the aim of the government is to attract migrants to return to Lithuania as well as improve prospects for Lithuania's youth. Although the strategy is generally optimistic about Lithuania's future, the country needs stimulus for continued economic growth.

Lithuania is celebrating its 10th anniversary of EU membership this year. Lithuania is generally regarded as a success story of European integration. The national strategy "Lithuania 2030" was approved by the parliament. The goal of this project is to implement by 2030 measures that resemble those of the Scandinavian model in areas including employment policy. It remains to be seen if "Lithuania 2030" will be a success.

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<sup>1</sup> The primary legislation on labor relations in Lithuania is the Labor Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2002, No 64-2569). A new version of the LC was adopted in Lithuania on 24 June, 2002 and came into effect on 1 January, 2003. The LC is the main legal act in Lithuania regulating collective and individual labor relations, as well as the working conditions of employees in the country. The primary law regulating the employment support policy in Lithuania is the Law on Support for Employment (OG, 2006, No 73-2762). The LSE provides the legal background, aim, and tasks of the employment support system for jobseekers, the functions of the institutions (agencies) implementing the employment support policy and measures for organization and funding of employment support. A new version of the Law on Support for Employment of the Republic of Lithuania became effective on 1 August, 2009.

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# **Ratification of Prime Minister in Haiti: a Legal or Political Act?**

## **La Sanction du Choix d'un Premier Ministre: Acte Juridique ou Politique?**

**Jocelerme Privert, Senator, Haiti**

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La désignation et la ratification d'un Premier Ministre comporte généralement deux (2) étapes dont l'une est technique et que l'autre est dite éminemment politique. Le Parlement haïtien l'a démontré en maintes fois sous la gouvernance de l'actuel Président de la République Monsieur Michel Joseph Martelly par le rejet respectivement de Monsieur Daniel Rouzier par la Chambre des Députés et de Me Bernard Gousse par le Sénat d'une part; par la ratification de l'ancien Premier Ministre Gary Conille et du Premier Ministre en exercice Monsieur Laurent Salvador Lamothe. Ces exemples constituent par leur éloquence conjoncturelle la manifestation la plus évidente de cette affirmation.

### **I. Inventaire des dispositions constitutionnelles et législatives**

En effet, l'analyse des dossiers d'un Premier Ministre désigné, qualifié de technique, a pour seule vertu de renseigner l'Assemblée sur l'éligibilité du concerné pour le poste retenu, eu égard à l'article 157 de la Constitution de 1987. Une fois cette étape franchie, l'Assemblée se trouve en demeure de considérer le dossier sous une base rationnelle. Elle doit, pour ce faire, s'assurer que celui qui est désigné Premier Ministre réunit la capacité et les compétences nécessaires qui l'habilitent à superviser la conduite de la politique de la nation. De la sorte, l'Assemblée doit user de ses pouvoirs qui, en l'espèce, constituent une prérogative dévolue par la Constitution pour rejeter ou accepter les conclusions contenues dans le rapport établi par la Commission chargée d'étudier le dossier du Premier Ministre désigné.

En ce qui concerne le Sénat de République, la Commission spéciale mandatée pour analyser le dossier du Premier Ministre désigné a fait le travail qui lui a été confié. Aussi, revient-il maintenant à l'Assemblée de faire le sien.

Il est fondamental, à cette phase, que le candidat fasse la démonstration, notamment par devant la conférence des Présidents et/ou des commissions relatives aux fonctions régaliennes de la République de sa capacité à répondre aux revendications légitimes de la population et à affronter les grands défis qui bouleversent la société. Il devra convaincre les élus qu'il a une vision stratégique des différents secteurs de la vie nationale, qu'il a une maîtrise des dossiers et qu'il est à même d'impulser les actions pouvant conduire le pays sur la voie de la modernité.

Le choix clairement exprimé par le peuple haïtien du régime démocratique passe par la

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consécration du principe de la séparation des pouvoirs. Ainsi, légiférer, représenter les votants et contrôler les actions du Gouvernement constituent les trois rôles essentiels du pouvoir législatif. Ce pouvoir de contrôle assigné par la Constitution, loin de viser simplement l'action du Gouvernement selon une approche sectorielle, doit être étendu à tous les aspects des politiques publiques, notamment à leur efficacité et leur diversité.

## **II. Des distorsions avérées entre la parole politique et l'action politique : des influences sur la ratification d'un Premier Ministre**

La tâche n'a pas été facile pour le Parlement au cours des dix derniers mois. Plusieurs faits encore d'actualité réclament une délibération du Parlement et commandent des explications du Gouvernement démissionnaire avant même de se positionner quant au choix de Monsieur Laurent Lamothe comme nouveau Premier Ministre. Les faits qui vont être libellés pourront l'expliquer:

### **i. Le programme d'éducation gratuite du Président**

Ce programme se déroule dans la plus grande opacité. Le Parlement est tenu dans l'ignorance totale des conditions de mise en œuvre de ce programme qui, non seulement, est une exigence constitutionnelle, mais encore intéresse toute la nation. Depuis le mois de juin 2011, des ressources sont encaissées au titre d'un Fonds dénommé Fonds National de l'Éducation (FNE)<sup>1</sup>. Deux organismes publics sont impliqués. Il s'agit de la Banque de la République d'Haïti (BRH) et du Conseil National des Télécommunications (CONATEL). Pourtant, aucune loi, à date, n'a institué ce FNE appelé selon le Président de la République à financer ce programme.

Au cours de plusieurs déclarations publiques, les responsables des deux organismes précités et chargés de collecter les ressources du FNE soutiennent que les fonds perçus sont gelés dans leurs comptes respectifs à la BRH. Pourtant, aucune explication n'a été donnée, par les autorités gouvernementales quant à l'origine des fonds utilisés, pour financer le programme, l'enveloppe allouée, les mécanismes de contrôle prévus et le statut des responsables chargés de sa mise en œuvre.

Par rapport à cette même question, des documents reçus du CONATEL renseignent que le Directeur Général de cette institution, de sa seule autorité, a négocié et signé un contrat de gré à gré, avec une firme de surveillance d'un montant de (175 000) cent soixante quinze mille dollars américains par mois. La législation applicable exige le recours à la concurrence pour tout marché public dont le montant est supérieur à (3,000,000.00) trois millions de Gourdes.

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<sup>1</sup> Jusqu'à présent ce Fonds est prélevé sans un encadrement juridique approprié.

## **ii. Les contrats de travaux octroyés à des firmes dominicaines**

Les informations, relayées dans la presse nationale et internationale, autour de certains contrats pour des travaux d'infrastructures, octroyés à des Firmes étrangères, préoccupent l'opinion publique nationale. Deux faits majeurs retiennent l'attention:

1. Un rapport préliminaire dressé par une Commission diligentée par l'ancien Premier Ministre Gary Conille soutient que ces contrats de marchés publics, conclus de gré à gré, n'ont pas respecté les procédures et renferment des faiblesses et irrégularités graves. Le rapport en question, pour une raison ou pour une autre, a fait l'objet de grands débats à travers les média traditionnels et sur le web, mais n'a été suivi de mesures de correction appropriées.
2. La presse dominicaine relayée par la presse nationale et internationale a rapporté que des fonds importants à titre de pots de vins auraient été versés à de hautes personnalités politiques haïtiennes à la suite de ces contrats.

De telles dénonciations, si elles ne sont pas abordées et traitées avec sérénité et sens de responsabilité, au plus haut sommet de l'État, risquent, non seulement, d'hypothéquer les chances du Gouvernement d'avoir accès directement aux fonds alloués à Haïti par ses principaux bailleurs, mais encore d'hypothéquer la chance du pays de pouvoir attirer les investissements directs en provenance de l'étranger nécessaires à son développement.

Certes, les avantages fiscaux et douaniers sont importants et indispensables pour attirer des investisseurs, mais ces derniers veulent aussi la garantie qu'ils vont investir leur argent dans un pays où les principes de droits et de bonne gouvernance (transparence, équité, égalité) sont garantis dans l'octroi des marchés publics et les transactions commerciales.

## **iii. Autres dossiers urgents**

Avant de franchir l'étape de la ratification du Premier Ministre désigné de l'époque, en l'occurrence Monsieur Lamothe, ne n'était-il pas nécessaire de considérer d'autres dossiers, tels :

- Contrat de réhabilitation de l'Aéroport international de Port-au-Prince;
- Présence à travers les rues de la capitale et dans certaines villes du pays de groupes armés se réclamant des militaires démobilisés;
- Contrôle sur les fonds décaissés à l'occasion de plusieurs événements (Fêtes de fin d'année, Carnaval, rara, etc.);
- Utilisation des Fonds Petrocaribe pour couvrir des dépenses courantes;
- Accords de coopération signés avec les autorités de la République Dominicaine à l'occasion de la dernière visite du Président Martelly dans ce pays ;



- Position du Premier Ministre désigné en ce qui a trait au Projet de loi de Finances déposé à la Chambre des députés le 23 février passé par le Ministre des Finances;
- Politiques relatives à l'Investissement, fer de lance de la vision du gouvernement;
- Élections des collectivités et le renouvellement du tiers du Sénat;

Jusqu'à présent, toutes les démarches initiées par le Sénat de la République dans le sens de l'exercice de ses prérogatives constitutionnelles de contrôle des dépenses budgétaires se sont heurtées soit au silence des Ministres, soit à leur refus pur et simple de collaborer. Les correspondances adressées à cette fin demeurent sans réponse.

Faut-il rappeler que le plein exercice, par le Parlement de ses prérogatives constitutionnelles en matière de contrôle des dépenses publiques, comme signe de bonne gouvernance économique est fondamental et indispensable pour la restauration de la crédibilité du Gouvernement auprès des bailleurs!

La mauvaise gestion des finances publiques et la faiblesse dans l'exercice du pouvoir de contrôle du Parlement sont constamment évoquées par les bailleurs pour justifier leur choix de faire passer les fonds destinés à Haïti par le canal des ONG.

Aucun changement d'attitude, de la part des bailleurs, n'est à espérer si un signal clair n'est donné quant au respect par l'Exécutif de la prérogative constitutionnelle du Parlement d'exercer son pouvoir de contrôle des dépenses publiques et par voie de conséquence celui de l'action gouvernementale. Le dernier rapport de mission conduite par la Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) en juillet dernier n'a pas été tendre envers le Gouvernement sur ce point.

Monsieur Laurent Lamothe, Ministre des Affaires étrangères et des Cultes du Gouvernement démissionnaire, désigné pour être le prochain Premier Ministre a été sans nul doute aux yeux du pouvoir le mieux placé pour apporter les réponses appropriées aux préoccupations des sénateurs quant aux faits mentionnés plus haut.

L'idée d'une telle initiative n'est nullement de barrer la route au Premier Ministre désigné, qui selon toute évidence, jouit d'une certaine sympathie au Parlement, ou de paver la voie à quelqu'un d'autre, loin de là! Le Parlement se doit d'établir une passerelle de communication pour dialogue, discuter avec le Premier Ministre désigné, et dégager, enfin de compte, un consensus autour d'un programme gouvernemental crédible apte à soulager la misère qui ronge nos concitoyens.

Les discours relayés en boucle dans l'opinion publique sous-tendant que le Président et le Gouvernement travaillent pour soulager la misère du Peuple et que les Parlementaires, avec leurs enquêtes interminables constituent un facteur de blocage ainsi que le recours à la manipulation sont néfastes pour le processus démocratique particulièrement l'équilibre des pouvoirs.

### **III. Nécessité d'une réforme du processus politique (de la désignation, du contrôle) de la sanction du Premier Ministre et de l'action gouvernementale**

Tel qu'évoqué plus haut, le Pouvoir exécutif a ses prérogatives autant que le Parlement a les siennes, ce dernier ne saurait être l'obstacle. Les parlementaires sont des délégués, qui, au nom du principe démocratique, ont une attribution de représentation des mandants dans leur département et circonscription respectifs. Ils ont le rôle de contrôle de l'exécutif et deviennent codépositaire de la souveraineté nationale. En l'occurrence, les parlementaires se doivent, et ils le reconnaissent, de permettre au premier ministre désigné d'œuvrer en vue de (l'atterrissage), de la mise en œuvre du Programme de gouvernement sur lequel le président de la République avait fait campagne. Comme preuve de l'acceptation et du respect des prérogatives du pouvoir exécutif à noter, entre autres, la ratification de l'ancien Premier Ministre Conille, la latitude laissée au président de la République de former un gouvernement avec une forte majorité de membres de son entourage alors qu'il ne détient pas de majorité au Parlement (3 députés Repons peyzan à la Chambre des députés).

A juste titre, le Parlement doit anticiper pour garantir la stabilité du pays sur le court, moyen et long terme. Aussi, est-il concerné et préoccupé par la situation de misère qui sévit dans le pays. Il doit toujours jouer son rôle constitutionnel de contre pouvoir indispensable dans un authentique État de droit caractéristique des régimes démocratiques.

Maintenant, il appartient l'Exécutif de donner le ton et de sensibiliser la population quant au rôle sacro-saint du Parlement dans le dispositif d'instauration de l'État de droit prescrit par la Constitution de 1987 et qui constitue l'un des principaux engagements électoraux du Président Martelly.

Cette démocratie, que nous rêvons tous, est à ce prix.

*Jocelerme Privet is a Senator of the National Assembly of Haiti and President of the Economics and Finance Committee of the Senate.*

# **Building Capacity in Cameroon’s Parliament and Senate to Boost Development**

**The World Bank Group**

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The legislative elections of September 2013 marked a historic moment for Cameroon on its journey towards greater gender equality. Female representation in parliament reached a new high, with over 30% of Cameroon’s parliament consisting of women - a stark contrast from 2007 where only 14% of parliament was female. Cameroon joined a select group of countries that has made significant strides in the area of gender balance, and is looking to continue to strengthen its institutions with the aim of increasing transparency and promoting good governance.

In line with this goal, Cameroon’s president Paul Biya and its parliament hosted the 2014 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Yaoundé, bringing together over 150 members of parliament and parliamentary staff from across the globe to exchange knowledge and best practices related to fiscal analysis, the budget process, stakeholders, and data accessibility. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is organized each year by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), an international organization consisting of parliaments from Commonwealth countries, of which President Biya is the Vice-Patron.

More than 600 delegates from more than 175 parliaments and regional legislatures attended the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference that took place from October 2-10, 2014. This year’s theme was “Repositioning the Commonwealth for the post-2015 Development Agenda.”

Cameroon is unique in that it is one of the few countries that identifies equally as being part of the Anglophone and Francophone parliamentary communities. As such, the World Bank Group worked with the CPA Secretariat to design and deliver a series of knowledge exchange sessions during the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference that focused on the role of Francophone and Anglophone parliaments in a country’s budgeting process. These sessions, targeted to members of parliament and clerks, drew on the global knowledge work the World Bank’s Parliamentary Strengthening Program has been undertaking on parliaments and public financial management. They also addressed topics such as oversight, representation, lawmaking, and innovative approaches to reform.

Over the last decade the CPA has been a close development partner of the World Bank Group and the Parliamentary Strengthening Program (PSP) regularly contributes to the design and delivery of technical assistance and capacity building initiatives in conjunction with the CPA.

“The World Bank is collaborating with both McGill University in Montreal and Laval

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University in Quebec City to deliver university-based professional development programs for parliamentary staff from around the world. The English language program, at McGill University, is now in its fourth year and has an enrollment of almost 100 students, proving popular with English speaking parliamentary staff, consultants and others interested in parliamentary development. The next residency will be held in Montreal May 4-8, 2015 followed by the first French language program in June 10-19 2015, in Quebec,” explains Dr. Rick Stapenhurst, Professor of Practice at McGill University.

The Parliamentary Strengthening Program seeks to enhance the capacity of parliaments so they can effectively perform their functions in order to better contribute to open and collaborative development. The program focuses on two areas: open budgeting, which consists opening up fiscal information and achieving effective public participation, and institutional strengthening of parliamentary secretariats.

In October 2014, Cameroon established a chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF (PNOWB) to facilitate and encourage direct dialogue between parliamentarians and multilateral development institutions in an effort to promote greater transparency in development cooperation, particularly with regards to World Bank programs. With support from the Cameroon World Bank office, the Cameroon chapter of the PNOWB will also help raise awareness of the World Bank’s development agenda in the country.

“It is important for Cameroonian parliamentarians to increase their collaboration and cooperation with Bretton Woods institutions. This will allow us to seize opportunities to build capacity within parliament in order to strengthen public governance and parliamentary quality control,” notes Pauline Ndoumou, Chair of the PNOWB Cameroon chapter.

# **The Network of Parliamentarians as Instrument for Advocacy**

**Les Réseaux des Parlementaires: un Instrument de Plaidoyer et d'action des Elus**

**Gaston Komba, MP, Cameroon**

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Jeunesse et Enfance (REJE), Protection de l'Environnement et Gestion Durable des Ecosystèmes Forestiers (REPAR), Changement Climatique (REPAC), Promotion du Genre (REPAGE), Malnutrition, Bonne Gouvernance, Cyber sécurité et Cybercriminalité, VIH/SIDA et Paludisme, Nouvelle Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication, Promotion des Investissements (REPICOP), Femmes Parlementaires, autant de thématiques qui sont prises en charge par les nombreux réseaux existants à l'Assemblée Nationale.

Onze réseaux, pas moins. La 8<sup>ème</sup> législature ou (2007-2013) aura été la plus éclosive dans la mise en place des réseaux visant l'implication directe des Députés sur les problématiques contemporaines-6 réseaux créés à la 8<sup>ème</sup> législature, deux aux cours de la 9<sup>ème</sup> législature. Mais qu'est ce qui peut expliquer cette floraison de réseaux et cet engouement des Députés pour l'action citoyenne.

D'abord la volonté de s'engager mais surtout de se concerter afin de parler d'une seule et même voix. En effet les réseaux sont d'abord et avant tout des "Clubs" d'information de formation, de sensibilisation et de concertation des parlementaires sur les sujets et thématiques sus-évoqués. Ce renforcement des capacités des parlementaires aboutissant nécessairement à l'amélioration du travail parlementaire et à la qualité de leur intervention. Ensuite les Réseaux permettent de donner un contenu pratique aux missions des parlementaires qui sont de légiférer et contrôler l'action du Gouvernement. Enfin d'être utile aux différentes composantes de la société et aux communautés dans l'optique de l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations et du développement économique et social d'un pays. L'on peut affirmer sans risque de se tromper que les Réseaux de parlementaires contribuent à donner plus de visibilité au Parlement au sein de l'opinion publique mais surtout d'accroître l'ancrage sociétal de son action ainsi que son engagement citoyen.

L'objectif premier des réseaux étant d'impulser des politiques publiques plus dynamiques et innovantes, de sensibiliser les populations sur des questions d'intérêt national et d'intérêt général, de prêcher par l'exemple en indiquant et suggérant d'autres voies possibles. Les Réseaux sont une opportunité pour les élus de la Nation d'être au contact permanent avec les citoyens, d'ouvrir le Parlement à la société civile et de mettre en exergue des questions sociales et économiques majeures de l'heure. Mais tout aussi un cadre de dialogue constructif et franc entre le Gouvernement, le Parlement de la Société Civile. A cet effet les journées de

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Dialogue ou de Réflexion Gouvernement/Parlement/Société Civile sur des questions précises sont devenues depuis la 8<sup>ème</sup> législature, une tradition de l'Assemblée Nationale.

Dans le cadre des Actions menées par les Réseaux des Parlementaires ces dernières années, certaines activités qui ont marqué l'opinion nationale et impulsé des actions du Gouvernement.

Ainsi en est-il de:

- L'opération "Cœur Vert, Avenir Rose" Action citoyenne de reboisement des Parlementaires et de sensibilisation des populations sur la protection de l'environnement et les changements climatiques qui a permis aux Députés sous la présidence effective du Président de l'Assemblée Nationale le Très Honorable CAVAYE YEGUIE DJIBRIL de planter en 4 éditions près de 30 000 arbres;
- La journée de l'éthique et du civisme avec une leçon de l'éducation à la citoyenneté et à la morale dispensée au Lycée Général Leclerc en présence du Président de l'Assemblée Nationale, des Ministres des Enseignements Secondaires, de l'Education de Base et de la Jeunesse, d'une centaine de Députés et 500 élèves afin d'amener la communauté éducative à mettre un accent particulier sur la réappropriation par les jeunes des valeurs civiques, éthiques et morales;
- La 1<sup>ère</sup> édition de Caravane de promotion et de valorisation des métiers agro-pastoraux auprès de la jeunesse à Obala sous la présidence du Président de l'Assemblée Nationale avec la participation de plus de 2 000 jeunes afin d'intéresser les jeunes à l'agriculture et à l'élevage, secteurs à fort potentiel d'emploi-jeune et surtout de redonner ses lettres de noblesse à l'agriculture;
- L'espace de convivialité institutionnelle qui a regroupé les représentants des jeunes des 58 Départements du Cameroun, invités spéciaux de l'Assemblée nationale avec les membres du Gouvernement avec à leur tête le Premier Ministre Chef du Gouvernement et l'ensemble des Députés toutes chapelles politique confondues pour faire connaissance, échanger et discuter autour d'un cocktail.

Les forum d'information et d'échanges entre les représentants des jeunes de toutes les Régions avec les responsables des structures publiques d'appui à l'insertion socio-économique des jeunes qui a entraîné la mise en place par le Premier Ministre d'un Comité de Coordination de l'Action de ces structures pour une meilleure efficacité. Sans oublier les nombreuses journées de Dialogue tripartite Gouvernement/Parlement/Société Civile sur différents thèmes qui mettent le débat et la synergie institutionnelle au cœur du chantier de construction nationale. Autant d'actions qui montrent que les réseaux des Parlementaires ont de la matière et un bel avenir.

# **The Role of Parliament and Senate in Promoting Good Governance**

## **Amélioration de la Gouvernance Publique: le Parlement en Ordre de Bataille**

**Gaston Komba, MP, Cameroon**

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La loi fondamentale du Cameroun, donne aux deux Chambres de notre Parlement (Assemblée Nationale et Sénat) deux missions majeures: Légiférer et contrôler l'action du Gouvernement. Des missions classiques du pouvoir législatif censé jouer le rôle de contrepoids voire de contre pouvoir de l'Exécutif. S'agissant des fonctions de création de la loi, s'il est constant que le Parlement partage ses prérogatives avec le Gouvernement, la Création législative est dans une très grande majorité, plus le fait de l'exécutif à travers les projets de loi que l'initiative de l'une des deux Chambres. Les projets de loi sont ainsi la règle et les proportions de loi, l'exception. Deux facteurs peuvent justifier cette situation:

- Le Gouvernement dispose de plus de ressources humaines en qualité et en quantité mieux au fait du processus et des techniques d'élaboration de la loi que le Parlement;
- Le peu de moyen dont disposent les Elus pour mettre en place des cabinets parlementaires structurés et recruter des compétences pouvant faciliter l'éclosion de l'initiative législative. Or, l'une des conditions de l'amélioration de la Gouvernance Publique réside dans l'amélioration du corpus législatif et la capacité des parlementaires à être une force de proposition et un acteur pertinent dans le chantier de la construction de la loi.

Concernant les missions de contrôle de l'Action du Gouvernement elles s'exercent essentiellement au cours des trois Sessions parlementaires à travers les questions orales, les questions écrites et les Commission d'enquêtes parlementaire. Mais deux nouvelles lois (expression des orientations politiques du Chef de l'exécutif, le Président de la République Paul BIYA) visant l'amélioration de la Gouvernance Publique et l'efficacité des politiques publiques ainsi que la lutte contre la corruption et les atteintes à la fortune publique ont placé le Parlement au cœur de ce débat:

- La loi portant régime financier de l'Etat applicable dans son intégralité depuis 2013;
- Le nouveau règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée Nationale et du Sénat issu de propositions de loi examinées et votées au cours de la session de Juin 2014 qui intègre les prérogatives relatives au contrôle parlementaire permanent des

Finances Publiques découlant de la loi précitée. En effet, ces textes qui instituent le contrôle parlementaire des Finances Publiques donnent des pouvoirs importants au Parlement à travers;

- La mise en place du Rapporteur Général des Recettes et des Rapporteurs Spéciaux chargés des Dépenses avec des pouvoirs de contrôle sur pièce et sur place. Un contrôle permanent et non ad hoc, un contrôle quotidien et non essentiellement durant les sessions;
- L'institutionnalisation d'une Commission d'enquête spécifique aux Finances Publiques avec des pouvoirs étendus permettant au Parlement non seulement de saisir directement les instances judiciaires en cas de soupçon de malversations, mais tout aussi de proroger en cas de besoin la durée des travaux d'enquête.

Un réel pouvoir qui permettra au parlement de s'impliquer davantage dans le chantier d'amélioration de la Gouvernance Publique. Afin de mener à bien ces missions, un programme de renforcement des capacités des parlementaires de la Commission des Finances et du Budget a été mis en place afin de s'approprier l'ensemble des outils et processus du contrôle administratif, juridictionnel et parlementaire des comptes publics et politiques publiques.

Un challenge que doit relever le Parlement afin comme le disait le Très Honorable CAVAYE YEGUIE DJIBRIL dans son discours de clôture de la Session de Juin 2014 “de mettre davantage de ressources au service du développement du Cameroun.”

*Gaston Komba is a Member of the Cameroonian Parliament and founder and member of REJE, a network of parliamentarians for youth development.*



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