

THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

The Parliamentary Network Review

September/October 2016, vol. 9 n°3

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Chairman's Foreword

Jeremy Lefroy, PN Chairman, Member of the UK Parliament

The Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria has just completed a successful round of fundraising with its target of \$13 billion for the next 3 years being reached. The progress that has been made over the past two decades – malaria deaths, for instance, falling from c2m (1995) to 438,000 (2015) – shows what can be achieved by international cooperation.

There are other global problems where we need to see cooperation on a much greater scale. The agreement reached COP21 in Paris last year on climate change – and its subsequent ratification by many countries, including China and the USA – would not have been thought possible even two years ago. Now nations will need to be held accountable for the commitments they have made.

But when it comes to the question of refugees and internally displaced people, there is often little common ground. An article in this newsletter (page 9) sets out the number of crises and people who have had to move from their homes, the highest since the end of the Second World War. Most of them move to other areas or states which are themselves under great pressure. By some measures, there are 135 million people across the world of whom 90 million depend upon emergency relief of some kind.

The responsibility of richer states is to support financially the countries and communities hosting refugees, and to try to relieve some of the burden by welcoming refugees themselves. Some of this responsibility has been accepted, by some states, but the total falls far short of what is necessary.

As a parliamentarian, I have been challenged as to why my country should provide more money and accept more refugees when our own health and social services, not to mention housing, are under such pressure.

My personal view is that action on both is vital. Those of us in wealthy countries where inequality has grown have a clear responsibility to work for our fellow citizens on low

incomes who find life a real struggle – not to make life even more comfortable for the wealthiest. But we must also continually make the argument that it is both right and in everyone’s interests to support refugees, and to tackle the poverty and conflict which are the causes of their flight.

One subject, which is not raised often enough in this context, is population growth and demography. Senator Alain Destexhe challenges us to do so (page 7). This surely is a subject which should be on the parliamentary agenda across the world.

The Global Fund replenishment showed that governments across the world can cooperate in the interests of humanity; and in several countries, the campaigning of parliamentarians encouraged their governments to increase their contributions. The same can be true of the 18th three year replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank’s fund for those on the lowest incomes.

Our article on page 15 looks at the work of IDA and its programme for the coming three years. It has a greater focus on refugees and crisis response, which I welcome. I encourage Network members to speak with World Bank representatives in your countries to learn more about the work supported by IDA. IDA is, I believe, one of the most effective ways in which the international community can tackle some of the root causes of the refugee crisis.

I would like to thank all parliamentarians who act as the voice of refugees and other disadvantaged people, whether in their own country or elsewhere.

Two Centuries On, Vaccination Is More Important Than Ever

Jeremy Lefroy, PN Chairman, Member of the UK Parliament

In my family, we are fortunate that correspondence from more than two centuries ago has been preserved.

In March 1802, my distant relative, Mrs Lefroy, wrote to her friend Mrs Austen (the mother of the writer Jane Austen):

I forgot to mention that I last week received a letter from Dr Jenner who has sent me some vaccine matter and I am going to begin innoculating immediately.

The Dr Jenner referred to was the same Dr Jenner who had developed the vaccine against smallpox, which he first tested in 1796 on James Phipps.

Mrs Lefroy was an enthusiastic backer of vaccination – at a time when many ‘experts’ mocked Dr Jenner and his vaccine - because she herself had seen three of her seven children die young. She would do anything which would protect the lives of those most precious to her.

Two hundred years later, we need to ensure that every mother has access to the vaccines which protect their children from deadly disease.

Vaccines against many diseases which kill children (such as measles, tetanus, rotavirus diarrhoea and pneumonia) are available in most of the world. We now have the highest immunisation coverage in history.

This was certainly not the case even just 15 years ago when Gavi, the global vaccine alliance was set up.

Gavi has four goals:

Healthy children - through accelerating the uptake and use of underused and new vaccines;
Healthy systems - by helping to strengthen the ability of health systems to immunise children;
Healthy financing - by increasing the predictability of financing for immunisation ;
Healthy markets - through ensuring that appropriate and affordable vaccines are available for developing countries.

What do these goals mean in practice? Average child mortality in the countries supported by Gavi fell from 76 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2010 to 63 in 2015, an astonishing 3.6pc reduction every year. Increased vaccine coverage and the introduction of new vaccines made a significant contribution to this. In the same five years, the total number of children immunised through Gavi-supported vaccines was 243 million.

Leaders of developing countries recognise that immunisation is not just about the health of children but also their future prosperity. The former President of Tanzania, now global ambassador for immunisation, HE Jakaya Kikwete, said: "Universal vaccination will play a fundamental role in developing a healthy population and in ensuring that we develop our economies."

The recognition by Gavi of the importance of strengthening health systems is critical. Without them, countries would neither know which children need immunisation nor would they be able to vaccinate effectively. Although the vaccination rate is the highest ever, one in five children in the Gavi-supported countries remains unreached.

Countries do not expect to require Gavi support indefinitely. In 2011-2015, four countries moved away from needing support – Bhutan, Honduras, Mongolia and Sri Lanka. Twenty more countries are expected to become self-financing in 2016-2020.

Gavi has also led the way in new financing methods. The first was the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFim), established in 2005. As a result of long-term commitments by donors, in particular the UK, IFFim has been able to issue vaccine bonds in the capital markets. So far, \$2.5 billion has been disbursed through IFFim to support Gavi-funded vaccination programmes.

Another innovation has been the Advanced Market Commitment. This again uses long-term donor commitments to provide an incentive for manufacturers to produce for developing countries the same effective vaccines used in developed countries but at a fraction of the cost. The AMC has, for instance, meant that pneumococcal vaccine has been introduced in more than 50 countries which might otherwise not have received it nearly as quickly.

Gavi is innovative in other ways. Keeping vaccines within the correct temperature range is essential. So Gavi has formed a partnership with the logistics company UPS to draw on UPS's expertise in logistics to improve vaccine supply chains.

Parliamentarians have a key role in holding health ministries to account over the vaccination of children in their constituencies, and for promoting the benefits of vaccination. They can

also call upon their governments to introduce new vaccines as soon as they are proven and available.

Vaccination against smallpox was only made compulsory by the United Kingdom Parliament in 1853, more than fifty years after Mrs Lefroy recognised its importance. How many lives were lost because parliamentarians failed in their duty to protect the children in their constituencies?

Note:

Gavi-supported vaccine introductions and campaigns 2000-2015 (number of countries in brackets)

Pentavalent (73)
Pneumococcal (54)
Rotavirus (37)
Inactivated polio vaccine (40)
Meningitis A (16)
Yellow Fever Routine (17)
Yellow Fever Campaign (14)
HPV Demonstration Project (19)
HPV National Introduction (2)
Measles Campaign (6)
Measles Second Dose (20)
Measles-Rubella Campaign (16)
Japanese Encephalitis (1)

Demography, the Missing Link in Environmental Policymaking

Alain Destexhe, PN Vice Chairman, Member of the Belgian Senate

There are certain issues some prefer to ignore because of their complexity. The issue of demography is one of them.

Our planet is overcrowded, but the impact of demography is, however, ruefully systematically ignored by the international community in the discussions of environmental issues. It was the case in the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the COP 21, where no mention of this issue was made.

The projections are not boding well. In Africa, population is expected to double in the next thirty years, to reach 2 billion by 2050 and 4 billion by the end of the century. In the same time frame, Asia will have to deal with a staggering increase by 1 billion people.

No action has been undertaken to regulate overpopulation because discussing this issue as a policy matter seems to remain a taboo in many countries. There can be no more delay: it is time to focus on investments in technologies that can reduce the human impact on the environment.

The World Bank seems to view this demographic change simply as a positive catalyst: “Demographic change brings unique opportunities and challenges to centers of global poverty (marked by high fertility) and engines of global growth (marked by rapid aging).” The approach is centred on “demography driven spillovers,” the net positive impact induced by the demographic trend (Global Monitoring Report, 2015-2016).

This idealistic vision is far from reality. Deforestation, desertification, depletion of resources, species extinction, and population overcrowding have direct consequences for humankind.

Another exacerbating factor is the rise in migration due to armed conflicts. Millions of people are displaced and are seeking haven in safer countries. With the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, we have seen its destabilizing consequences in Lebanon and Jordan.

How can we find a solution to a threat we are refusing to name? It seems to me that most discussions surrounding the fight against global warming are not dealing with this important issue of demography.

Malthus was right in saying that “the power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man.” Our survival is at stake here.

Treatment of Personal Data and Its Protection

Pablo Lorenzini Basso, Member of the Chilean Parliament

The Chilean Parliament finally passed a bill on the treatment of personal data. It is an undisputed law, resulting from the technological changes that represent new challenges our society, as well as the global community, have to face. These challenges concern the recognition and the protection of people's rights. It resulted in a fundamental step forward: a legislation that improves and fills the loopholes of the current legislation, and respects the international standards concerning the treatment and protection of personal data as well as the guidelines of OECD.

In this regard, it is important to emphasize two points:

First, the main idea is that the collection and the treatment of personal data cannot take place without prior consent of the holder. This idea strengthens the fact that personal data must remain under the control of the owner. Second, unlike the new bill, the current legislation does not consider establishing a public institution that would be responsible for regulating the treatment of personal data and its protection. The responsibility for guaranteeing the rights of people belongs to the Courts of Justice.

The two main aspects of the Bill refer to the regulation of the legitimate treatment of personal data achieved by individuals or legal entities, whether they are private or public, with the proposal to protect the fundamental rights. In addition, the concepts and legal definitions have been updated and revised in order to facilitate the application and the interpretation of the law by the operators of the justice system. To legitimate the treatment of personal data, the consent of the holder is essential. The other part of the Bill considers the following principles: principle of legality, finality, proportionality, quality, security, responsibility, and information. In accordance with these principles, the collection and treatment of personal data must abide by the law and be limited to the objectives for which data will be collected.

The rights of access, modification, cancelation and opposition to the collection or treatment of personal data must belong to the holder. These rights are irrevocable, inalienable, and cannot be limited to sensitive personal data such as ones concerning family, children and teenagers, biometrics data, proteomic data and human genetic data. The Bill created a new independent and technical service, National Direction of Data Protection (Dirección Nacional de Protección de Datos), which will be in charge of overseeing the implementation of the law regarding the treatment and protection of personal data. The National Direction of Data Protection will monitor the implementation through a direct and efficient process.

Refugee Crisis and Humanitarian Distress

PN Secretariat

1. EUROPE AND THE MIGRANT CRISIS

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 220,796 migrants and refugees arrived to Europe by land and sea routes from the start of 2016 to 15 June. Most of them entered by sea through Greece (159,061) and Italy (54,778); those entering via land are mostly from Turkey and Albania.

The migrant crisis is a humanitarian disaster. The conflict in Syria is the principal cause for migration. Disorder in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Somalia, and repression in several countries are exacerbating the migrant crisis.

According to Amnesty International, more than 4 million Syrian refugees (95% of the total) are being hosted by just five countries: Turkey (1.9 million), Lebanon (1.2 million), Jordan (650,000), Iraq (250,000), and Egypt (130,000). In Lebanon, refugees make up one fifth of the population; in Jordan, one tenth. On top of this, there are at least 6-7 million Syrians who are internally displaced; and even those who have remained in their own homes may be without the basic necessities as they are under siege.

In the absence of legal means, more than 2,400 migrants died while trying to reach the EU territory since the beginning of 2016 (see table below). Crossing the Mediterranean Sea is of course extremely dangerous: according to Europol, more than 90 percent of migrants seeking refuge in Europe are doing so via migrant-smuggling networks. The cost of crossing varies from 500 to 3500 Euros depending on the quality and the safety of the boat. To generate more profit, smugglers overload people on boats, increasing the risk of sinking.

In this context, rescue operations play a crucial role in responding to the movement of refugees in the Mediterranean Sea. The UNHCR has called for safer alternatives to be implemented in order to improve international protection and dismantle migrant smuggling networks.

Total arrivals by sea and deaths in the Mediterranean 2015 and 2016

1 Jan – 29 May 2016			1 Jan – 31 May 2015		
Country	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths	
Greece	156,364	376 (Eastern Med route)	40,297	31 (Eastern Med Route)	
Cyprus	28		269**		
Italy	46,856	2,061 (Central Med route)	47,449	1,782 (Central Med route)	
Spain	1,063*	6 (Western Med and Western African routes)	3,845**	15 (Western Med and Western African routes)	
Estimated Total	204,311	2,443	91,860	1,828	

*As of 31 March 2016

**Jan-Dec 2015

Source: International Organisation for Migration

A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The migrant crisis has led to a humanitarian crisis. In host countries, most of the refugees live in destitute conditions. They are suffering from lack of basic necessities-- access to drinking water, food, healthcare, proper housing, education and sanitation. The most vulnerable are children, pregnant women, the elderly, the disabled, and the ill. Despite efforts on the part of donor governments, NGOs, and volunteers, global commitment and the financial support remain significantly lacking.

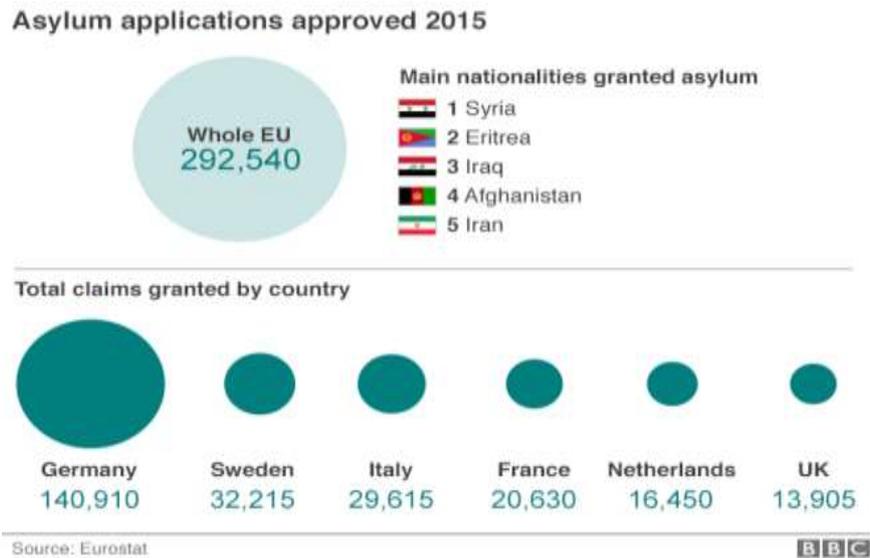
In Europe, Greece is most affected by this crisis: its system for receiving refugees has been overstretched by the increasing number of refugees seeking asylum. Consequently, the Dublin Regulation, which allow migrants to acquire asylum in the country they arrive at, collapsed. Thousands of refugees are currently waiting in Greece, living in overcrowded camps, under poor sanitary conditions, unable to cross borders. Most facilities receiving refugees in the Greek Islands face logistical challenges, especially lack of infrastructure and staff. In addition, cases of maltreatment, abuses and violence towards refugees at the border crossings have been reported by NGOs.

In 2015, EU countries approved 292,540 out of more than a million asylum applications (See Figure 2). Almost half were by Germany, with Sweden approving the most as a percentage of its population.

On 13 June, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi estimated the resettlement needs in 2017 to be 1.19 million. Measures need to be adopted to guarantee

acceptable conditions of receiving these refugees. “Much more needs to be done to keep pace with the growing numbers of acutely vulnerable,” Grandi remarked.

Figure 2:



What needs to be done?

- 1) With no end in sight to the terrible conflict in Syria, much more assistance needs to be provided to the neighbouring countries hosting refugees so that basic needs – including education for children – are met in full. Although the sums required are high, they are insignificant in the context of the budgets of almost all European nations, especially the wealthiest. Fulfilment of the pledge to provide 0.7% of GNI as Overseas Development Assistance would certainly provide the necessary resources, and more.
- 2) Tougher action must be taken against the criminal gangs which are smuggling people, often taking them to their death. It is surely not beyond the combined intelligence resources of European countries to target and break up these gangs which are operating in their neighbourhood.
- 3) The hosting of genuine refugees needs to be more broadly spread in Europe, Middle East and further afield. This is a challenge to Governments at a time when their own people are seeing strains in public services and housing. However there is no easy way out – and it may act as an incentive to invest more in public services and so help to reduce domestic inequality, at the same time as welcoming refugees.

2. AFRICA

SOUTH SUDAN

According to the UNHCR, there are currently 871,536 South Sudanese refugees, mostly gathered in six African countries: Ethiopia (285,356 refugees), Sudan (213,581), Uganda (229,006), Kenya (103,173), DRC (11,966), and CAR (10,454).

South Sudanese refugees are fleeing from the civil war that has been ravaging the country since 2013. South Sudan is facing a major humanitarian and economic crisis. In a recent report (March 2016), the UNHC for Human Rights denounced the violations and abuses of international human rights committed in South Sudan, which include killings of civilians, rape and sexual abuses, arbitrary detention and torture, abductions, attacks on journalists, UN personnel and peacekeeping facilities.

KENYA

The Kenyan government announced on 6 May that it will close Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp, for security reasons. It declared that it is seeking to reinforce security and prevent attacks from the Somali-based extremist group al-Shabaad.

The refugees residing in Dadaab lack basic necessities, such as food, healthcare, drinking water and proper housing. Closing the camp would put tens of thousands of people at even greater risk. The camp was founded in 1991 and is still the shelter of thousands of refugees. Many have been living there for years. It is to the credit of Kenya that it has hosted so many people for so long. Somehow a solution has to be found for a situation which has been overlooked by the international community for too long.

According to the UNHCR, there are currently 554,757 refugees in Kenya and 345,491 in Dadaab, who are mostly from Somalia.



Aerial view of Dagahaley camp in Daadab, Kenya, April 2011
Source: UN Refugee Agency

SOMALIA

Globally, there are more than one million Somali refugees. Most of them are gathered in Kenya, Yemen, and Ethiopia. According to Amnesty International, more than 1.3 million Somalis were internally displaced in 2015 and live in precarious conditions.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there are 467,800 Central African refugees, 415,300 internally displaced people, and 2.3 million people in need of assistance as of May 2016. Most refugees fled to neighboring countries (Cameroon, Chad, and DRC).

CAR has been affected for several years by a political crisis that turned into an armed conflict. According to Doctors Without Borders, 72 percent of the healthcare facilities have been damaged or destroyed. The conflict caused a humanitarian disaster and led to a refugee crisis.

ERITREA

Eritrea became independent from Ethiopia in 1993 after a UN-backed referendum. It has a one-party system which considers any political dissent as a threat. According to the UNHC of Human Rights, the Eritrean government has committed widespread human rights violations and abuses.

One of the main reasons that Eritreans flee the country is to escape the National Service, which is equivalent to forced labor. Since 2002, following the war with Ethiopia, the duration of National Service became indefinite. IN 2015, more than 450,000 Eritrean refugees fled the country to escape National Service and seek better lives.

BURUNDI

Since April 2015, the number of refugees fleeing the country peaked as the political, social and economic situations deteriorated in Burundi. It rose dramatically after President Pierre Nkurunziza announced that he would run for a third term, in violation of the constitutional limit of two terms.

Almost 250,000 Burundians have sought shelter in neighboring countries (DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda) since April 2016, doubling the total number of Burundian refugees.

3. HUMANITARIAN DISTRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTION

This article does not aim to give a comprehensive picture of the number of refugees around the world. However it highlights some of the worst crises. We outline five roles which parliamentarians can play:

- a) In high-income countries, making the case for supporting low- and middle-income countries in meeting their costs in hosting refugees. This support should be swift and wholehearted, not slow and grudging.
- b) Ensuring that the human rights and dignity of refugees are respected.
- c) Ensuring that their governments fulfil their responsibilities towards refugees, while at the same time listening to their own constituents' concerns over the existing pressures on public services. Too often, host countries in wealthy nations have assigned refugees disproportionately to one (often low income) area of the country without ensuring that the public services are available to meet the extra demand. That unnecessarily breeds resentment against refugees.
- d) Ensuring that governments take resolute action against criminal gangs who prey upon vulnerable refugees and migrants.
- e) Constantly raising with their governments each and every crisis in the world which is giving rise to refugees. Almost every country is a member of the United Nations, as well as regional organisations, and so has a voice. The more voices which are heard, the more likely that international action will be taken to tackle the crisis.

Further Reading

Amnesty International Annual Report 2015/2016

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, March 2016

Report of the detailed findings of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea, 5 June 2015, UN Human Rights office of the High Commissioner

UNHCR report puts projected resettlement needs in 2017 at 1.19 million, 13 June 2016, UNHCR

“EU/Turkey: Don’t Negotiate Away Refugee Rights,” 4 March 2016, Human Rights Watch
Migrant Smuggling Networks, Joint Interpol-Europol Report, May 2016

UNHCR spokesperson Leo Dobbs, Thousands newly displaced by Boko Haram in Niger, 19 January 2016, UNHCR

International Development Association 18 Replenishment

PN Secretariat

WHAT IS IDA?

The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) is the arm of the institution that provides grants and loans to the world's poorest. Established in 1960, IDA aims to reduce poverty by providing loans (called "credits") and grants to programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.

IDA lends money on concessional terms, meaning that credits have a zero or very low interest charge, and repayments are stretched over from 25 to 40 years, including a 5 to 10-year grace period. IDA also provides grants to countries at risk of debt distress. In addition to concessional loans and grants, IDA provides significant levels of debt relief through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).

Since its creation, IDA has supported projects in 112 countries. Annual commitments have increased steadily and averaged about US\$19 billion over the last three years, with about 50 percent of that going to Africa. At the last replenishment in December 2014, donor contributions totaled SDR34.6 billion (US\$52.1 billion).

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF SEVENTEENTH IDA REPLENISHMENT?

Special themes for IDA17 were gender equality, climate change, fragile and conflict-affected states (FCS), as well as inclusive growth and regional transformative initiatives. According to the mid-term review published by the World Bank, IDA17 has performed well overall, with remaining issues to be addressed during IDA18.

IDA provided support from the Crisis Respond Window (CRW) to eight disaster-hit countries. Given the CRW efficiency, the eligibility criteria for CRW could be expanded to cover public health emergencies and epidemics. It is noteworthy that the CRW was depleted halfway into the replenishment period, with a significant portion going to the countries hit by Ebola.

IDA has also supported seven countries to develop national energy action plans and investment prospectuses. Systems to monitor and report on the use of IDA resources for climate change and disaster risk management have been strengthened. On gender equality,

IDA rolled out statistic activities to increase sex-disaggregated data and gender statistical capacity in eighteen countries.

Fragility, conflict and violence (FCV) pose significant development challenges. Despite some progress, many fragile and conflict affected states (FCS) are lagging behind the MDGs. FCS accounted for 20 percent of the extreme poor in 2015. The migrant crisis management needs much improvement.

IDA18 REPLENISHMENT

The IDA18 Replenishment coincides with a paradigm shift in the international community's global aspirations towards a far-reaching and ambitious development agenda. This agenda -- including agreement on the SDGs and the COP21 agreement on climate mitigation, adaptation and finance-- builds on the unfinished MDG agenda.

The IDA18 Special Themes would carry forward some of the themes selected in IDA17: gender equality, climate change, and FCSs. Indeed, given the significant unfinished agenda, a sense of continuity across the themes from IDA17 to IDA18 has been encouraged, while emphasizing continued adaptation to evolving circumstances and the 2030 agenda in each theme. The proposed Special Themes are inextricably linked and underscore a need for integrated implementation.

On climate change, the points of focus will be providing opportunity to enhance resilience, risk reduction, and building back better and improved preparedness. In addition, IDA will build on the Paris Climate Agreement by providing an opportunity to deepen and expand the energy aspirations of IDA countries in a manner that is consistent with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

As for gender equality, IDA 18 will seek to improve sex-disaggregated data and surveys. Real progress must be made in IDA countries' concerning availability and quality of data. On FCVs, IDA will improve operational effectiveness and flexibility by addressing higher logistical and implementation challenges and costs in FCS countries. Strengthening partnerships with the UN and the EU will also be a key aspect.

Additional proposed themes for IDA18 is Economic Transformation and Jobs, as well as Governance and Institution Building. Economic Transformation and Jobs seeks to connect people to better job opportunities and firms to markets through infrastructure, information, and network, in addition to enabling individuals and firms to build and leverage their assets to raise productivity and expand earnings. On Governance and Institution Building, the focus will be on supporting governments in the effective delivery of service to all parts of society,

especially women, minorities and youth, and on innovation and new technologies to improve transparency and feedback in a way that helps governments make the most of their limited resources.

In addition, the World Bank is proposing the most radical transformation ever of IDA's financing framework. The aim is to leverage IDA's equity by blending donor contributions with funds raised through debt markets, thus enabling it to provide clients with billions of dollars in additional resources. This innovative IDA18 financing package would stretch donor contributions like never before. Every \$1 in partner contributions would be leveraged by a factor of 3 in spending authority, up from a factor of 2 in IDA17.

This increased financing would allow the Institution to scale up financing across the board for all IDA countries and double resources to address fragility, conflict and violence (FCV) for a truly transformational effect with spillover benefits across borders. IDA would also be able to provide \$2 billion to help refugees and additional financing for crisis response and pandemic preparedness.

The World Bank is also proposing a new initiative to scale up private sector activities, particularly in fragile situations, through the establishment of an IFC-MIGA-IDA private sector window.

IDA18 aims to underscore the point that, in an interconnected world, IDA for the poorest countries will benefit all countries and that development finance is an investment with a return-- both for IDA countries and for the global community.

IMPORTANCE OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTION

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action call on parliamentarians to play a stronger role in monitoring the policies and funds related to development cooperation. The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation recognized the critical role of Parliaments in ensuring broad-based and democratic ownership of countries' development agendas and emphasized the importance of strengthening their role. Parliamentarians are also instrumental in the implementation of the SDGs, both through legislation and monitoring of government progress on the post-2015 agenda.

The IDA18 replenishment is a new opportunity for Members of Parliament to accelerate progress on the SDGs by the 2030 horizon. Donor country and partner country parliamentarians should strongly encourage their governments to fully replenish IDA funds. The continuation of IDA projects, which seek to reduce poverty and inequalities, depends on IDA18 replenishment. Parliamentarians' endorsement of IDA18 is all the more critical this

year as it conditions the approval of the new financing proposals that it will boost its capital, allowing the World Bank to respond to development challenges both effectively and in a significantly scaled-up manner.

Parliamentarians have the responsibility to ensure that IDA policies are responsive to country needs and achieve their aims in national contexts. They must take an active role by monitoring the projects conducted and reviewing the impact in their countries. Their aid is essential to fulfilling IDA's objectives.

For more information on IDA, visit the following webpages:

IDA website and Replenishment page:

<http://ida.worldbank.org/> and <http://ida.worldbank.org/financing/replenishments/ida18-replenishment-1>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ida.wbg>

Twitter account: https://twitter.com/wbg_fin4dev

Network Featured Discussion

Göran Pettersson, Member of the Swedish Parliament

Message from Discussion Section Editor

According to its mission statement, the Parliamentary Network seeks to “encourage debate and information exchange among parliamentarians on issues of good governance, budgetary oversight of development funds, and civil society participation in the legislative process.”

My hope is that the discussion section of the *PN Review* will serve as a forum for dialogue and knowledge-sharing among our member parliamentarians. I encourage PN members to participate in the discussion by suggesting topics you would like to see debated in this section in future issues.

Beginning with the next issue, I will write an article that address your interests and open up the debates. Please send me your ideas and suggestions at goran.pettersson@riksdagen.se.

MP Göran Pettersson

Discussion section editor, *The Parliamentary Network Review*

Chair, Swedish-American Parliamentary Network

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I thank the authors of this issue for their valuable contributions. If you would like to write for future issues or have suggestions for improving the publication, please contact me at olivia.e.noh@gmail.com.

Eu Na Noh

Editor, *The Parliamentary Network Review*

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to contribute an article to *The Parliamentary Network Review*, please send your submission to Editor Eu Na Noh at olivia.e.noh@gmail.com or junior program officer and French articles editor Hana Rakem at jpo1@parlnet.org. If you would like to write for the Network Featured Discussion, please contact discussions column editor Göran Pettersson at goran.pettersson@riksdagen.se.

**The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank
& International Monetary Fund**

66, Avenue d'Iéna 75116 Paris, France

+33 (0)1 40 69 30 55 / <http://www.parlnet.org>