



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings Parliamentary Network Delegation Report

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Table of Contents

- Table of Contents** 2
- Summary** 3
- Parliamentary Workshop**..... 3
 - Opening of the workshop..... 3
 - New World Bank Strategy 5
 - IDA17 Replenishment..... 6
 - The WBG’s Anti-Corruption Work..... 8
 - Open Financial Data and WBG Financial App..... 9
 - Global Economy, Overview and Challenges Ahead..... 9
 - Africa Outlook and Challenges 10
 - Women, work and the economy..... 12
- Internal Meeting** 13
 - Brainstorming session with delegates on the Parliamentary Network work theme ‘Employment and Job Creation’ 13
- Bilateral Meeting** 13
 - Meeting with Colin Bruce, Director for Strategy, Operations and Regional Integration in Africa, World Bank..... 13
- Civil Society Meeting** 15
 - Meeting with the Bank Information Centre (BIC) and Oxfam on the latest on Safeguards review process and Climate Change issues..... 15
- Panel Seminar** 16
 - Program of Seminars: Policies for Growth and Jobs in Europe – George Washington University ... 16
- Follow-up**..... 16
- Annexes** 17
 - Program and participants..... 17
 - Press Release..... 21

Summary

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & International Monetary Fund (the Parliamentary Network or PN) participated with a delegation comprised of six Board members and thirteen Parliamentary Network members in the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, held in Washington D.C. from 8 to 11 October 2013. During this time, delegates took part in a parliamentary workshop, met with senior representatives from the World Bank and IMF in bilateral meetings, as well as with representatives from non-governmental organizations, and attended a panel seminar.

This report covers all the sessions and the delegation's participation in meetings with World Bank and IMF representatives and partners.

The final section of the report identifies key areas for future work, as expressed in the [Press Release](#) issued by the Parliamentary Network's Board on 10 October 2013. These include focusing on employment and job creation, supporting the International Development Association (IDA)'s 17th replenishment, promoting more regular engagement of the World Bank and IMF with parliamentarians, and ensuring the right appropriation of development funds through tackling corruption and fraud.

Finally, the annexes attached to this report include the delegation's program from 8 to 11 October 2013, the list of participants, and the Press Release issued by the Parliamentary Network's Board at the end of these Annual Meetings.

Parliamentary Workshop

Throughout the 2013 Annual Meetings and during a parliamentary workshop, The Parliamentary Network's delegation had the chance to discuss several topics related to its work program during special meetings with World Bank and IMF officials and partners.

Opening of the workshop

Jeremy Lefroy, Chairman, The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

Jill Wilkins, Manager, Global Engagement, World Bank Group

Sabina Bhatia, Division Chief, Communications Department, IMF

The Chair of the Parliamentary Network, UK MP Jeremy Lefroy, presented the seminar as aimed at parliamentarians gathering information about World Bank and IMF activities. He also emphasized the vital role that these institutions must take on the challenge of creating 1 billion jobs in the next decade. Finally, he highlighted the important role that parliamentarians play through the consideration they receive from governments and international institutions.

Presentation:

Jill Wilkins described the three facets of the World Bank's parliamentary engagement. First, the World Bank is committed to deepening and widening policy dialogue with parliamentarians around the world, through individual parliaments and parliamentary networks. Second, it is willing to do more to engage with parliamentarians on country strategies. It is encouraging its partners to publish their budgets and work on government initiatives, and encouraging World Bank staff at country level to engage more regularly with parliamentarians, through a more accessible open door policy. She highlighted the importance this takes in the context of the new World Bank strategy. Third, the World Bank continues its work to strengthen training programs, its country level work with the World Bank institute, and its support for open governance. She emphasized the World Bank's aims to expand collaboration with parliamentary organizations, in the context of its non-political mandate.

Discussion:

Responding to Swedish MP Gören Pettersson's question about accountability limitations and instances of "big man syndrome", World Bank representatives presented existing opportunities to involve civil society into monitoring the allocation of development funds. They highlighted the Parliamentary Network's role in promoting Project Information documents, which outline World Bank programs, in order to ensure that they are not only accessible but widely used. Answering Indian MP Tarun Vijay's emphasis on the need to tackle corruption in order for World Bank programs to meet their aims and be granted better local perception, Jill Wilkins argued that the World Bank is far more transparent than it has been in the past, and that an Integrity Department is being designed. Ghanaian MP Irene Addo seconded MP Vijay's suggestion to channel World Bank loans through parliamentarians in order to bypass corrupt governments. She also criticized the lack of information that parliaments receive from the World Bank, hindering their capacity to monitor their governments' use of development funds. World Bank representative Jakob Kopperud insisted that there is an internal cultural change taking place within the World Bank institution, which is progressively anchoring parliament consulting as a habit of the World Bank. UK MP Jeremy Lefroy requested that it be compulsory for the World Bank and IMF's country offices to meet on an annual basis, at least, with parliamentarians. Senegalese MP Mansour Sy criticized the lack of consideration given by the World Bank to issues relating to the mining sector, land grabbing and land management. He highlighted the potential of the African continent and emphasized that the issue is one of underdevelopment, not poverty, and that it is a question of using this potential right.

Presentation:

Sabina Bhatia, IMF representative, highlighted the importance the IMF gives to engaging with parliamentarians, and the institution's intention to strengthen such dialogue. She shared the IMF Managing Director's vision of the world economy as undergoing a great transition in the aftermath of the great recession. This transition has two dimensions, she explained. The first dimension is that of growth, which is witnessing changing dynamics. The second dimension concerns the financial sector, where much more needs to be done. She highlighted the importance of collaboration in that sector, and the need to hear the voices of civil society and parliamentarians. The speaker finally presented two areas of IMF work. First, a working group focusing on jobs and growth, a new component of IMF

work to respond to high unemployment rates especially among young people; second, the continuation of the IMF's work on gender and the role of women in the economy.

Discussion:

Answering Ghanaian MP Amadu Seidu's concerns on aid effectiveness and the problem of conditionality, Sabina Bhatia highlighted that the IMF uses conditionality only when it is really critical. Similarly to World Bank representatives, she emphasized the changes in the IMF's way of working. Senegalese MP Mansour Sy questioned the worth of considering growth rates on their own, stating that "in a country with 5% growth rate, a 3.5% population growth nullifies the growth rate" as there is an important need to absorb the population. Swedish MP Göran Pettersson, responding to World Bank and IMF representatives' claim that the Parliamentary Network can integrate and channel these institutions' advice, described this as a "pedagogy challenge" for these institutions: "if parliamentarians are to listen to this advice, it needs to be good advice". Finally, Sabina Bhatia pointed that the IMF's committees that oversee the macroeconomic aspects of specific countries would benefit from parliamentarians' advice.



New World Bank Strategy

Barbara Lee, Manager, Country and Operational Services, World Bank

Barbara Lee outlined the new strategy introduced in the World Bank Group by President Jim Yong Kim. It focuses on two goals: ending extreme poverty – 1,25\$ a day poverty line – on the one hand, and boosting shared prosperity – a very new concept to target the bottom 40% – on the other. The new strategy thus endorses the idea that inclusion is indispensable for growth to have a real positive impact, and does not focus on short term growth at the expense of longer term goals. This strategy also acknowledges that the World Bank's share has shrunk in the development economy with the rise of the private sector. It strives to work together with private sector actors, in particular through its increasing focus on bringing sustainable development to fragile and conflictive states. The core belief of the strategy is that there is a need to build synergies within the World Bank Group, which

has become a splintered institution. The reshaping, therefore, aims to enhance the value added it has as a group, and promote its expertise in knowledge and technical assistance. The new World Bank strategy aims to promote the institution as a knowledge bank, that engages with countries in a new way through learning and readjusting, adapting to context specificities and eager on smart risk taking.

Discussion:

Nigerian MP Ibrahim Souleymane and Indian MP Tarun Vijay brought up the inevitable flaws in the indicators used to measure poverty. Ugandan MP Henry Banyenzaki asked what strategies are used to engage the private sector in long term funding, and recalled the role of diaspora funds. His colleague MP Mathias Mpuuga emphasized the need for international donors to focus on governance issues. He said: “we don’t need loans, Africa has resources. But we have a real governance challenge”. The idea of getting maximum benefit of what Africans produce was further reinforced by Ghanaian MP Amadu Seidu, and Senegalese MP Mansour Sy showed skepticism towards the “learning and adjusting” slogan of the World Bank Group. He asked: “Have you made sure that the same mistakes you made in the past are not in your new strategy too?” Barbara Lee responded to these concerns by emphasizing the extent of the “mentality shift” within the World Bank Group. Answering Swedish MP Joergen Anderssen’s point that it is easier to find consensus on broad goals rather than on precise strategies, she pointed to the need for better data on which to base more solid and wide agreement.

IDA17 Replenishment

Joachim Von Amsberg, Vice President, Concessional Finance and Partnerships, World Bank

Antonella Bassani, Director, IDA Resource Mobilization, World Bank

Joachim Von Amsberg described the International Development Association (IDA) as “the World Bank’s fund for the poorest”. The IDA invests \$17 billion a year for the poorest countries that cannot pay normal interests; the fund therefore needs to be replenished every three years. He emphasized the indispensable nature of the IDA stating that “the goals and strategy changes happening in the World Bank are just words on paper if they are carried out without the IDA”. IDA relies on 55 investor countries, and invests its resources through the institutions of its partner countries. There are no IDA projects as such; rather, IDA finances government programs, that is to say, those programs that parliamentarians approve for their own countries. Thus, dialogue with parliamentarians is of utmost importance for the IDA, as it is a very relevant platform on which to share experience with and among policy makers, and aims at building sustainable institutions. IDA donor countries are under high financial pressure, which hinders hopes of increasing IDA resources. However, the IDA’s success in partner countries accounts for its appropriate spending of funds, and it therefore strives to build a worldwide coalition to hold the IDA steady, and ensure that investments for poorest countries are protected in these times of financial hardship. Joachim Von Amsberg thus incited parliamentarians from receiving countries to appeal to their donor countries colleagues about the importance of funding the IDA. Not only are IDA projects successful in themselves, they also serve to consolidate a new aid model through using more diverse development partnerships and flows, as the IDA stands for a more inclusive and context-sensitive understanding of international aid. Antonella Bassani

outlined the four themes selected for IDA17, highlighting the fact that IDA resources are always responsive to countries' specific needs. The first focus of IDA17 is inclusive growth, relating to the good use of natural wealth resources and the role of the World Bank in fomenting an environment prone to job creation. The second focus is on climate change, in order to ensure that climate change be mainstreamed in every policy put in place. The third theme is gender, for despite better access to services, there remains a gap in gender equality. Finally, the fourth focus is on fragile states, as fragility and conflict affect entire regions, creating a challenge to improve support and impact in these vulnerable contexts.

Discussion:

Swedish MP Göran Pettersson emphasized the need for the IDA to show results, in order for its work to resonate with the public in donor countries like Sweden. He claimed that “we, parliamentarians, cannot sell products that do not sell themselves”, highlighting the weight of public opinion on such questions of funding. Antonella Bassani highlighted the IDA's intention to enhance accountability and cost-effectiveness by including some public disclosing of IDA costs. Joachim Von Amsberg highlighted the importance of citizen feedback to ensure that service delivery indeed takes place. He mentioned an example from the Philippines where a system was put in place so that people could give feedback through cell phones.



The WBG's Anti-Corruption Work

Stephen Zimmermann, Director for Operations, Integrity Vice Presidency, World Bank

Stephen Zimmermann outlined the work of the World Bank's Integrity Vice Presidency, the unit charged with detecting, investigating and sanctioning fraud and corruption in Bank-financed activities. He highlighted the tension between development and corruption, as corruption leads to development work at a sub-standard level, due to the funds lost in the process. He also pointed to the problem that "corruption is sometimes in the eye of the beholder", highlighting the need for an administrative entity like the Integrity Vice Presidency to strive for impartiality. He pointed to some innovations in this unit, which increasingly welcomes settlements to avoid litigation procedures. As the fight against corruption is global, the unit created an International Corruption Hunters Alliance, with the intention of helping to coordinate this globalised endeavor. This entity is where complaints about corruption can be reported and dealt with accordingly.

Discussion:

UK MP Jeremy Lefroy, Chair of the Parliamentary Network, required that the information about the application used to report corruption cases mentioned by the speaker be communicated to all the members of the Network. He also suggested that World Bank President Jim Yong Kim propose a challenge to auditing firms, asking them to do more to report suspicious cases of financing. Stephen Zimmermann strongly supported this proposal, agreeing that it would bolster transparency. The speaker also acknowledged Nigerian MP Linus Okorie's claim that there is a shortcoming in the World Bank system in that it cannot act upon corrupt high governmental officials. He explained the limits of the World Bank's capacity to pressure governments with the possibility of removing funds from countries where corrupt officials are detected. Indeed, in doing so, the World Bank loses its influence in those countries, and thus does not have the possibility to improve their situation through its influence as a funder. He agreed that the Bank needs to do more when working with governments to take action against individuals implicated in corruption. He added that the Bank has the possibility to exclude specific government actors from its projects. Nevertheless, the Bank is limited as to what it can do against corruption without government support. Answering Ugandan MP Mathias Mpuuga's concern about divorcing source and end in the corruption interface, Mr. Zimmermann explained that the unit's investigations treat all corruption cases through the entire course of the activity, since "someone paid the bribe, and someone asked for it". Ghanaian MP Irene Addo emphasized the potential strength of parliaments in the fight against corruption, especially in cases where the opposition is strongly represented. She mentioned the example of a group in Ghana's Parliament that overlooks the country's finances, chaired by the opposition in order to have a stronger voice. Swedish MP Jörgen Anderssen finally expressed the impression that corruption is not only in specific events, but in deeper habit anchored in societies, asking how the root of the problem can therefore be tackled. The speaker replied saying that there is a need for deterrence and, in parallel, for building governance institutions that enable people to trust their governments to act upon corruption, and therefore promote an anti-corrupt way of functioning in their societies.

Open Financial Data and WBG Financial App

Sandra Moscoso, World Bank Open Finances, Controller's Vice Presidency, World Bank

Sandra Moscoso outlined the World Bank's access to information programme. Since 2010, the World Bank Group is open about its knowledge, its activities, and the way these activities are carried out. It also works to help countries open up their data. There are five broad tracks for open financial data: transparency, supporting the bank's work, big data, making information accessible through working with civil society, the media and private sector, and finally, research work. The new approach to data enables the adoption of innovative angles on poverty, as for instance in Bangladesh where poverty has been measured according to nighttime illumination across the country's regions. Such new forms of data creation are time- and cost-effective, as they do not require sensors or extra research.

Discussion:

Croatian MP Martina Dalic insisted that the World Bank should inform people better about this open information, and suggested that its country offices do more to promote information about open data and how to use it. UK MP Jeremy Lefroy asked to have a session with parliamentarians in every country where the World Bank operates, to show them how the open data system functions. Swedish MP Gören Pettersson added that there could be a permanent section created in the Parliamentary Network's newsletter on the World Bank's open data system. Nigerian MP Linus Okorie expressed concern about the fact that this system might be elitist, as "not everyone has access to technology or is literate enough to use it". He added that the World Bank should design a funded project or a grant to deepen the capacity within countries for ordinary people to access this open data. He also supported the idea that efforts should be made to fix the 'disconnect' between World Bank activities and parliamentarians.

Global Economy, Overview and Challenges Ahead

Emil Stavrev, Deputy Division Chief, RES IMF

IMF representative Emil Stavrev presented growth projections for 2013-2014 as lower than expected. Nevertheless, 'Abenomics' in Japan seem to have worked as the country's growth is expected to rise between 2013 and 2014. On the other hand, the Euro area is emerging from recession but its activity will remain subdued. Growth is declining in Middle East and North African (MENA) countries in 2013 due to weak global demand, but is expected to rise again in 2014 with improved global conditions. The IMF identified a combination of old and new risks for the years to come. Old risks concern the possibility that the Euro area's financial market stress re-emerge from incomplete delivery on policies, and the potential downsides of the US' near-term fiscal policy, as the US – like Japan - lacks strong plans for medium-term fiscal adjustments and entitlement reforms. The fact that we are experiencing a period of sluggish global growth is part of these old risks, as the financial conditions have led to increased market pressure and capital outflows. New risks relate to the recent growth disappointments in emerging economies. There are both push and pull factors that explain capital flow reversal in emerging markets, which leads to high volatility in those economies. Furthermore, it was noted that global imbalances have narrowed post-crisis, but that policies have played a relatively minor role in this regard. Mr. Stavrev argued that strengthened policy action is needed to revitalize

growth. The advice given was the following: In advanced economies, monetary accommodation should be maintained, and potential side effects addressed. He highlighted that clear communication is essential to limit market volatility. Also, he suggested that the pace of fiscal tightening should be measured in order for credible debt-reduction plans and entitlement reforms to consolidate. Finally, in the Euro area, balance sheet repair remains essential to restore confidence, efforts are necessary for a banking union to evolve, and additional monetary reform is needed. In emerging economies, exchange rates should respond to underlying forces and the focus should be put on monetary and fiscal policy, and on financial stability.

Discussion:

Croatian MP Martina Dalic expressed concerns about the fact that the IMF's supposed focus on job creation does not translate in these policy recommendations. She claimed that the IMF's position has always been short term oriented, while the problem of job creation is a long-term issue. Swedish MP Jörgen Andersson asked about what risks there are with never-ending credit growth as a factor for consumption driving emerging economies. Emil Stavrev replied that the IMF assesses that there still are benefits from unconventional policies, despite the risks. Policymakers must nevertheless be very watchful. He said that the risks linked to credit growth vary across countries, and that the financial system is still not repaired. While Ghanaian MP Amadu Seidu reinforced the impact that the economic downturn in Europe has in other regions, such as Africa, Senegalese MP Mansour Sy criticized the IMF, asking "why should we continue to take taxpayers' money in order to counter anticipated negative externalities?" and claiming that the IMF's anticipations should be conceived of more fairly. Swedish MP Göran Pettersson highlighted the social aspect of the economic downturn in Europe, pointing that the youth unemployment challenge goes beyond the sphere of the economy, as the region risks losing an entire generation. UK MP Jeremy Lefroy asked whether there is a way in which an economy can remain open to business while cutting its fiscal inequality. The speaker emphasized the role of public policy in the balancing of this question, as it requires a combination of all policy tools, including better education. Finally, Indian MP Tarun Vijay highlighted the change in the Bretton Woods institutions sparked by the emergence of BRICs economies, leading to new ideas on the global economy. IMF representative Karina Manasseh acknowledged that it is an ongoing process of change and that the IMF is still in the middle of this transition.

Africa Outlook and Challenges

Roger Nord, Deputy Director, AFR, IMF

Many African countries are growing at a pace similar to that of Asia. Roger Nord argued that it is not the prices of commodities that have been driving growth in Africa. The main helpful factors for growth are first, the diminution of the high and volatile inflation in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the decline in debt thanks to debt forgiveness and more robust fiscal policies. Higher levels of reserves in Central Banks and the diversification of the African economy in the last two decades also had a beneficial impact on the continent's ability to resist the 2007-2009 recession. Another factor is the increase in aid, which provided countries with a new fiscal space. Most importantly, political reforms had a positive impact on growth through the accountability and transparency they brought about. Therefore, strong growth in Africa in the last 20 years is not a commodity story. It is about relevant

economic policies and building strong economic systems enabling the high rise in investment in fragile countries. When looking at the drivers of growth for the years to come, it is important to consider that natural resources are not only about economics, but have a lot to do with governance and political issues. Policies must aim to counter the risk that natural resources inhibit diversification, respond to needs of inclusiveness, promote job creation, address lacking infrastructure and embrace cross-border collaboration. The question of structural transformation also counts, as Sub-Saharan Africa's agriculture productivity has been slow. Finally, the demographic dividend is an issue to consider since the share of working age population is rapidly growing in Sub-Saharan Africa, giving the region an opportunity for higher productivity growth. However, this also presents a challenge, as growing populations of young people need education, training and employment opportunities. The IMF's involvement in Sub-Saharan Africa includes different types of programs with concessional rates, in particular through the Rapid Credit Facility. The IMF focuses on technical assistance in the region through its regional technical assistance centers and its training center.



Discussion:

Ugandan MP Henry Banyenzaki asked for advice on how to turn resources into opportunities. Roger Nord replied that it is a question of management of resources. One important lesson from experience, he said, is that resources must be transparently accounted for, seen in the context of the total resources used by government and put together in one single account in front of parliament. Senegalese MP Mansour Sy highlighted the importance of the IMF working together with African countries, restating the Chinese saying that "what you do for me without me is against me". He deplored that Africans have not benefited from their continent's resources, and emphasized the

importance of solid institutions. The speaker agreed that “it’s all about institutions”, and pointed to a positive sign in Uganda as the bulk of upfront payments the country received from oil companies have been saved in a transparent way, unlike in the past when upfront payments were spent. Nigerian MP Linus Okorie showed concern about the issue of inclusiveness, saying that the quantity of unemployed people create a threat of revolution. Roger Nord answered that “you can’t reduce poverty if you don’t have a growing economy”. Measures should be better targeted at the poor. Subsidies on energy, for instance, do not benefit the poor but rather those living in urban areas that already have access to electricity and cars.

Women, work and the economy

Kalpana Kochlar, Deputy Director, SPR, IMF

Kalpana Kochlar described women’s role in the economy as a new topic for the IMF, initiated at the request of its Managing Director. She pointed that the IMF institutions are nevertheless limited to looking at the macroeconomy. Overall, women participation rates have stagnated at low levels worldwide since 1990, although regionally Latin America’s rate has risen while South Asia’s has decreased. The gender gap has been shrinking, but it is still quite large. Also figures can be misleading, for seeming growth in women participation rates may rather be explained by male rates decreasing. Ms. Kochlar mentioned the examples of Japan and Saudi Arabia, where well-educated women are nevertheless not participating in the labor force. There are several macroeconomic gains from rising women participation. Measures should be taken to replace family income with individual income taxation, and there should also be special tax credits and benefits put in place. Expenditure measures include publicly financed parental leave schemes, greater parity in paternity and maternity leaves, improved access to comprehensive, affordable and high-quality child care, ensuring that pension guarantees are maintained, more spending on women’s education, and improvements in rural infrastructure.

Discussion

Croatian MP Martina Dalic mentioned the case of Eastern European former socialist countries that have relatively low rates of women participation despite having developed their social infrastructure. This is a counter example to the IMF’s advice linked to improving social infrastructure she argued. Swedish MP Jörgen Anderssen pointed to women’s capacity to reduce corruption. Ghanaian MP Patricia Appiagyei requested a concrete implementation program, claiming that “men are very much aloof” towards this issue, and that abstract advice does not get implemented. Kalpana Kochlar replied to this point saying that their only instrument is analytical work and the power to persuade through it, especially since the use of conditionality is strictly limited to macro conditions. She emphasized that the advice given in her study is not about disrespecting cultural norms but about leveling the field. “More women in the labor force at all costs is not our message”, she insisted.

Internal Meeting

Brainstorming session with delegates on the Parliamentary Network work theme 'Employment and Job Creation'

Chair: Tarun Vijay, Member of the Parliament of India

MP Tarun Vijay outlined the case of India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, an example of how the country is tackling the problem of job creation at a local level without the help of international agencies. He presented unemployment as a global problem, and highlighted the limitations of the indicators used to measure poverty. In India, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act spreads in 27 states aiming to enhance livelihood security in rural areas. It provides at least 10 months of guaranteed wage employment a year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. This scheme is very successful, with more than 33% of its beneficiaries being women. This integration of women in the employment labor force ensures that money reaches meaningful purposes. The scheme created 100.000 jobs in one year. It is sponsored by the government of India, with wages paid at minimum US\$2 a day. The high level of transparency of this scheme allows for implementation at village level.

Discussion:

UK MP Jeremy Lefroy asked if any research had been conducted in the states where this program was implemented, to study its effects on levels of crime, poverty, suicides, in order to identify a direct correlation between the program and its social consequences. Mr. Vijay explained that, according to studies carried out by universities, government agencies and NGOs, in areas benefitting from the program, crime rates and alcohol consumption have decreased, and there is a larger number of women leaders. He also pointed to the rise in child schooling - only 66% of children used to attend school prior to its implementation, as opposed to 72% afterwards. Overall monthly incomes also increased, as well as the number of households with electricity. Ugandan MP Nathan Nandala-Mafabi pointed to the risk of men usurping the money that women earn through these schemes in male dominated societies.

Bilateral Meeting

Meeting with Colin Bruce, Director for Strategy, Operations and Regional Integration in Africa, World Bank

Colin Bruce declared that the World Bank's corporate goal is to stop talking about poverty, and start talking about wealth creation. He highlighted that the objectives part of the new World Bank strategy (eliminating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity) take into account the issue of inequality. He argued that "the evidence now justifies this big push. The solutions are known, interest is there on the part of governments, and in most cases resources are available to achieve these objectives". He highlighted that the main instrument of the World Bank is its knowledge and analytical work. The priority areas in which the World Bank is applying its instruments and pursuing its goals in Africa are clean energy, infrastructure and human development, in particular tackling the

issue of skills. These foci are important because of the “youth bubble” and related unemployment, as well as the increased demand for services as Africa’s middle class grows is not always available.



Discussion:

Senegalese MP Mansour Sy expressed concerns about the World Bank repeating past mistakes, and mentioned the role of faith-based organizations in service delivery as very creative and more powerful than the state in certain occasions. Ghanaian MP Irene Addo asked why the World Bank is dealing more with governments than representatives of the people, since these governments have their own agendas. Colin Bruce acknowledged that more is to be done to reach the World Bank’s intended multi-stakeholder approach in full. He emphasized, though, that the World Bank has an open door policy, for parliamentarians to engage directly with its representatives.

Specific issues such as terrorism, brain drain, health, monitoring and evaluation, competition and the volatility of the economy were brought up by Nigerian MP Linus Okorie, Ugandan MP Nathan Nandala-Mafabi and Ghanaian MP Amadu Seidu. In his reply, Colin Bruce emphasized the fact that “the World Bank is not a world government” and that responsibility is to be requested from national governments and societies instead. He pointed to the impact of national policies in issues like the brain drain, as certain policies enhance this exodus beyond economic needs. Concerning health, he explained that the World Bank focuses on health systems on the one hand, and certain diseases on the other. On the question of conflict and violence, he stated: “We do not have an army”, and “we do the analytics, but we cannot solve the problem”.

Civil Society Meeting

Meeting with the Bank Information Centre (BIC) and Oxfam on the latest on Safeguards review process and Climate Change issues

Kate Geary, Oxfam

Nezir Sinani, Bank Information Centre (BIC)

Odile Ndoume, Association of African Women for Research and Development

The three speakers panel informed the Parliamentary Network delegation on World Bank safeguards, the climate change perspective, and gender issues. These presentations came from a civil society observer's perspective, as opposed to previous meeting with World Bank and IMF staff. Kate Geary presented the safeguards as mandatory policies to ensure the social and environmental protection of World Bank projects. She emphasized on the long way the World Bank has come since civil society started to push for these safeguards, as they are now seen as fundamental by the institution itself. As the safeguards are under review for the 2012-2014 period, she highlighted the importance to make sure the safeguards are not weakened but rather enable the upwards harmonization of donor standards. The issue of climate change was presented by Nezir Sinani as a scientific fact, demonstrated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He emphasized the strong impact parliamentarians can have on their governments to push for action on climate change. Finally, Odile Ndoume presented the ways in which climate change impacts gender inequalities, and the risks related to the feminization of poverty.

Discussion:

Ugandan MPs discussed the issue of clean development in Africa. Henry Banyenzaki argued that Africa needs to use its resources to develop itself. He said that it is the power gap that leaves Africa behind, and argued that - since the continent has no other alternative but to use dams to generate energy - "saying that dams should not be built is the same as saying Africa should remain poor and underdeveloped". He also deplored the lack of local knowledge of Western civil society organizations. Mathias Mpuuga highlighted that there is no national consensus in Uganda on natural protection and development projects. He said that across the developing world, governments are very insensitive to environmental issues, and that it is necessary to find a balance between the present and the future. Kate Geary replied to these remarks saying that Oxfam has been campaigning since 2008 for the World Bank to issue grants rather than loans to developing countries. She insisted on the value of the safeguards to protect the most vulnerable so that development can take place without harming the poor. Ghanaian MP Amadu Seidu pointed to the contradictions between different perspectives to sustainable development. He said that encouraging women to use wood as fuel, although it might be positive on gender equality grounds, in fact encourages cutting trees and is, therefore, detrimental environmentally. He also pointed to the direct bearing that conflict has on issues of climate change. Nigerian MP Ibrahim Souleymane pointed to the problem of water gathering, adding to Odile Ndoume's reference to issues on wood gathering for women. He said that these tasks make it impossible for women to have a family life at home, and has harsh consequences on their life expectancies. Odile Ndoume replied to these comments saying that not only does climate change have a negative impact on women's obligations through water- and wood-gathering issues, but that gender inequalities themselves, already present in the context where climate change

operates, reinforce the problems linked to the consequences of this environmental phenomenon. Ghanaian MP Patricia Appiagyei called for the need to have a comprehensive policy and regulatory instrument for land ownership in order to coordinate such practices holistically. Swedish MP Jörgen Anderssen seconded this point, claiming that the environmental dimension must be dealt with within a broader perspective in order not to forget about related issues, such as mining.

Panel Seminar

Program of Seminars: Policies for Growth and Jobs in Europe – George Washington University

Hemat Shafik, Deputy Managing Director, IMF

Jean Lemierre, Advisor to the Chairman, BNP Paribas

Kenneth Rogoff, Professor of Public Policy and Economics, Harvard University

Iñigo Fernandez de Mesa, Treasury Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, Spain

Moderator: Gillian Tett, Assistant Editor, Financial Times

The panel discussed the challenges for strengthening growth and rebuilding resilience in Europe, including - in the short and medium term - the need to repair balance sheets in a growth-friendly way, and - in the long term - the reforms necessary to tackle the structural weaknesses of the region's product and labor markets, financial markets, and institutional frameworks. Professor Rogoff described Europe as facing the choice of stagnation or the choice of higher growth, which would require higher levels of integration, including completing the banking union, continued support for demand, and a paced approach to fiscal consolidation. IMF Deputy Managing Director Hemat Shafik highlighted that the first requirement for solving unemployment in Europe is reviving growth. The IMF suggests measures such as ensuring flexibility on minimum wages for young people and linking employment protection to seniority.

Comments from the audience brought up the question of fairness versus efficiency in determining wage levels, and finding the right balance between the two. Questions also concerned the relationships between governments and the European Central Bank regarding loss of sovereignty in the advent of a banking union.

Follow-up

At the outcome of the Annual Meetings, the Board of the Parliamentary Network issued a press release, gathering the comments and impressions expressed by its members during the 2013 Annual Meetings. It states a series of engagements the Network commits to, defines its relationship with the World Bank and IMF, and presents some recommendations for donors.

The Parliamentary Network emphasized its commitment to job creation, in particular for marginalized groups, including youths and women. It welcomed the priority status which the World Bank and IMF have given to this issue. The Network also supported the International Development

Association (IDA) as an indispensable partner in fighting poverty, and expressed strong support for its 17th replenishment. Additionally, it welcomed the World Bank and IMF's renewed emphasis on rooting out corruption and promoting transparency and integrity through development aid.

Concerning the relationship between the Parliamentary network and the World Bank/IMF, parliamentarians required more systematic communication between World Bank and IMF country offices and parliamentarians. They called for a need to be better informed about donor programs, and better integrated in discussions concerning them. Parliamentarians required specific training on the World Bank's Open Data system, and offered to include this issue as a permanent feature in the Parliamentary Network's newsletter.

Finally, the Parliamentary Network issued a strong message about the value of parliamentarians' inclusion in the World Bank and IMF's work, and the reciprocal value added through this constructively critical relationship.

Annexes

Program and participants

Tuesday, 8 October 2013		
Upon arrival	<i>Check-in at Hotel</i>	Venue: George Washington University Inn
8.30 am – 5.30 pm	WB/IMF Annual Meetings Registration and badge pick-up	Venue: I building, World Bank, 1850 I Street N.W.
Wednesday, 9 October 2013		
7.15 am – 7.45 am	<i>Breakfast at Hotel</i>	Venue: George Washington University Inn
7.45 am	Transfer from Hotel to WB/IMF Headquarters	Venue: George Washington University Inn
8.15 am	Late Registration and badge pick-up for Participants	Venue: I building, World Bank, 1850 I Street N.W.
8.45 am – 9.45 am	Opening of the workshop Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremy Lefroy, Chairman, The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF • Jill Wilkins, Manager, Global Engagement, World 	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC C1-200

	<p>Bank Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sabina Bhatia, Division Chief, Communications Department, IMF 	
9.15 am – 10.00 am	<p>New World Bank Strategy</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Lee, Manager, Country and Operational Services, World Bank 	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC C1-200
10.00 am – 10.50 am	<p>IDA17 Replenishment</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joachim von Amsberg, Vice President, Concessional Finance and Partnerships, World Bank • Antonella Bassani, Director, IDA Resource Mobilization, World Bank 	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC C1-200
10.55 am	<i>Coffee Break</i>	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC C1-200
11.00 am – 11.45 am	<p>The WBG's anti corruption work</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Zimmermann, Director for Operations, Integrity Vice Presidency, World Bank 	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC C1-200
11:45 am – 12:30 am	<p>Open Financial Data and WBG Finances App</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Moscoso, World Bank Open Finances, Controller's Vice Presidency, World Bank 	
12.45 pm – 2.00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>	Venue: Dining Room MC – Private Dining Rooms A B C
2.00 pm – 3.00 pm	<p>Global Economy, Overview and Challenges Ahead</p> <p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emil Stavrev, Deputy Division Chief, RES IMF 	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC C1-200
3.00 pm – 4.00 pm	<p>Africa Outlook and Challenges</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Nord, Deputy Director, AFR, IMF 	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC C1-200
4.00 pm – 4.15 pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC C1-200

4.15 pm – 5.15 pm	Women, Work and the Economy, Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kalpana Kochhar, Deputy Director, SPR, IMF 	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC C1-200
5:15 pm - 6:30 pm	CSO Town Hall Meeting	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC 13-121
6:45 pm - 7:45 pm	CSO Reception	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; East Dining Room, MC C1 Basement level
8:00 pm - 10:30 pm	Dinner	Venue: District Commons, 2200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Thursday, 10 October 2013

8.30 am – 9.00 am	Breakfast at Hotel	Venue: George Washington University Inn
9.00 am 10.00 am	Brainstorming session with delegates on the PN work theme ‘Employment and Job Creation’	Venue: George Washington University Inn, Colonial Room
10.30 am – 12.00 pm	Meeting with Colin Bruce, Director For Strategy, Operations and Regional Integration In Africa, World Bank	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Room MC9-850
12.00 pm – 01.30 pm	Lunch	Venue: 1818 H Street, NW; Cafeteria C1
2.00 pm – 3.30pm	Meeting with the Bank Information Centre (BIC) and Oxfam on the latest on Safeguards review process and Climate Change issues PN representatives will be presented the latest information on World Bank’s review of its project safeguards and how those can make a difference for communities and address some of the emerging issues of today. The discussion will specifically focus on land issues, climate change and gender perspective in climate. Presentations: 14:05 – 14:20: Introduction into Safeguards Review Process and how Safeguards can protect and promote Land Rights, Kate Geary, Oxfam 14:20 – 14:30: Introduction into Climate Change, and how Safeguards can promote a stronger climate resilient future, Nezir Sinani, Bank Information Centre	Venue: Open Society Foundations building, 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006

	14:30 – 14:40: Gender and Climate Change in Africa, Odile Ndoumbe, Association of African Women for Research and Development 14:40 – 15:30: Open discussion	
4.00 pm – 5.00pm	Program of Seminars: Policies for Growth and Jobs in Europe	Venue: George Washington University, Jack Morton Auditorium, 805 21st St. NW
5.00 pm	Evening free	

List of Delegates

Country	First Name, Last Name	MP/Staff
Croatia	Martina DALIĆ	MP
Dominican Republic	Julio Cesar VALENTIN	MP
Georgia	Tinatin KHIDASHELI	MP
Germany (European Parliament)	Silvana KOCH-MEHRIN	MEP
Germany (European Parliament)	Steffen ZORN	Advisor to MEP KOCH-MEHRIN
Ghana	Irene Naa Torshie ADDO	MP
Ghana	Patricia APPIAGYEI	MP
Ghana	Amadu SEIDU	MP
Ghana	Alijata SULEMANA	MP
India	Tarun VIJAY	MP
Niger	Ibrahim SOULEYMANE	MP
Senegal	Mansour SY	MP
Serbia	Radojko OBRADOVIC	MP
Spain (European Parliament)	Adolfo BARBERÁ DEL ROSAL	Head of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee Secretariat
Sweden	Göran PETTERSSON	MP
Uganda	Henry BANYENZAKI	MP
Uganda	Mathias MPUUGA	MP
Uganda	Nathan NANDALA-MAFABI	MP
Uganda	Patrick WANIALE	Advisor to MP NANDALA-MAFABI
UK (European Parliament)	Sharon BOWLES	MEP
UK	Jeremy LEFROY	MP

Press Release

10 October 2013

Washington D.C. - On the occasion of the 2013 annual meeting in Washington, members of the Parliamentary Network (PN) on the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) today issued the following statement:

In the next decade, another billion people will require work. We therefore welcome the priority which the WB/IMF is giving to the urgent need to create employment, especially for young people, women and marginalized groups. The PN has committed itself wholeheartedly to this important cause and will support its members around the world as they encourage their governments also to make this their priority.

The International Development Association (IDA) of the WB is an effective and respected partner in tackling poverty in the countries with the lowest incomes in the world. Many independent reviews have concluded that it generally represents very good value for taxpayers' money. We therefore urge existing donors to maintain or increase their contributions in the 17th replenishment and look forward to new donors joining in this vital work.

We welcome the increase in the openness of the WB and IMF to parliamentarians in its member countries in recent years through the Network. But this needs to be strengthened further.

We therefore call on the WB and IMF both to increase their regular engagement with parliamentarians as part of the work programme for their country offices, and to brief and train MPs and parliamentary staff on the use of WB/IMF data and information.

The PN welcomes the much greater emphasis in the WB/IMF on tackling corruption and fraud and bringing the perpetrators to book. We believe that parliamentarians also have a very important role in ensuring that development funds achieve their intended purpose. To do this, they need to be kept regularly informed of projects in their countries.

The PN has now been in existence for more than ten years and has encouraged the WB/IMF to work more closely with parliamentarians who represent the people they serve. At the same time, the positive engagement by the WB/IMF has been appreciated by parliamentarians in deepening their understanding of development in their countries and beyond. We commit ourselves to remain constructive and critical friends of their work.

Involving elected parliamentarians more closely in their work creates trust and enhances the credibility of the WB/IMF. We therefore propose a stronger partnership between the PN and the WB/IMF and commit ourselves to achieving this.