

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting of Representatives of Parliamentary Organizations**  
*On the occasion of the*  
**Fifth Annual Conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB)**

February 14, 2004  
10:00 am – 2:30 pm  
World Bank Offices  
64 Avenue d'Iéna (Garage Entrance)  
75116 Paris, France

### *Rationale*

Parliamentarians have become increasingly important interlocutors for the World Bank.

- Parliamentarians from donor countries allocate foreign aid and look at the consistency between development policy and domestic policy.
- Parliamentarians from recipient countries vote the budget, approve economic reforms, and approve Bank's loans and major projects. In addition, the place of democracy and the role of parliamentarians in developing countries are both growing.

The World Bank has also changed. New World Bank policies call for more transparency and wider participation in order to achieve successful poverty reduction.

The World Bank's work with parliamentarians has developed significantly through the World Bank's close interaction with the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB), the World Bank Institute's parliamentary strengthening program and through numerous other partnerships and activities with parliamentary organizations, assemblies and networks.

The World Bank has found that work with parliamentarians is often more effective in partnership with parliamentary organizations. As such, the World Bank sought to bring together representatives of parliamentary organizations to begin a broader dialogue, get feedback and discuss possibilities for future interaction. The **Meeting of Representatives of Parliamentary Organizations** brought together a diverse group of representatives from more than seventeen parliamentary organizations and other organizations that work directly with parliamentarians along with World Bank staff. The meeting was followed by a lunch with PNoWB Board Members. Representatives were also invited to participate as observers in the Fifth Annual Conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and to meet privately with World Bank President Jim Wolfensohn.

### *Introductions and Examples of Current Cooperation*

**Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas**, Manager of the Development Policy Dialogue Team at the World Bank and responsible for relations with parliamentarians at the Vice-Presidency for External Affairs, opened the meeting by noting that the organizations gathered together around the table had many goals in common with the World Bank. All work on issues that are entirely or partly related to development and fighting poverty. These same organizations have thousands of members who care about development. Such organizations are especially important to the World

Bank because their member parliamentarians, or the parliamentarians that they engage with, represent the poor in constituencies that are recipients of World Bank funded projects and loans.

The meeting was a first for the World Bank and for most of the organizations around the table. Although informal, the meeting had as its main goals: exchanging information, discovering participants' respective priorities and agendas and looking at possibilities for future interaction with the World Bank and among the organizations themselves.

Participants introduced themselves, their organizations, their work related to parliamentarians and development. In many cases they also shared how they were already working in cooperation with the World Bank. For example:

- **Mr. Shiv Khare**, Executive Director, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), noted that World Bank representatives, including Mr. Bas, participated in their most recent conference: the 5<sup>th</sup> International Medical Parliamentarians Conference on Family Health. AFPPD members are also actively engaged in the PNoWB HIV/AIDS Parliamentary Committee.
- **Ms. Hollenberg**, Project Officer, AWEPA, explained that AWEPA has been working with the World Bank for two years. Activities with the World Bank included a meeting on PRSPs and NEPAD and a videoconference on NEPAD.
- **Mr. Scott Hubli**, Senior Advisor for Governance Programs, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) showed the group advance copies of a series of toolkits done in collaboration with WBI.
- **Mr. David French**, Chief Executive, Westminster Foundation for Democracy told the group that WFD has begun work with the WBI's Corporate Social Responsibility team on a democracy development project.
- **Mr. Daniel Petit**, Secretary General, Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie, mentioned that the APF, the PNoWB and the Development Policy Dialogue Team at the World Bank held two videoconferences for francophone parliamentarians on good governance and HIV/AIDS. APF is also working closely with the World Bank on publication dissemination through parliamentary libraries.
- **Mr. Niall Johnston**, Director of Development and Planning, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), outlined CPA's work done with WBI on budgets and public accounts. He pointed out an example of overlapping membership, telling the group that out of the participants at the PNoWB Annual Conference, 60% of the African participants and 25 % of the Latin American and Caribbean participants were also members of CPA.
- **Mr. Rick Stapenhurst**, Senior Project Management Specialist, WBI, told participants that WBI's Parliament Program almost always works in partnership with parliamentary organizations.

Following the introductions, Mr. Bas described in detail the World Bank's work with parliamentarians, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) and parliamentary organizations. The World Bank has developed a series of communications tools, program activities and consultations for parliamentarians. Most have been developed jointly with the PNoWB. These include:

#### *Communications Tools*

- Website
- Question and Answer system (available both on the World Bank's website and the PNoWB's website)

- “A Parliamentarian’s Guide to the World Bank”
- Empirical and analytical work

#### *Program Activities*

- Capacity-building workshops and seminars (World Bank Institute)
- Videoconferences with parliamentary organizations
- Parliamentary field visits program open to all parliamentarians
- Regional PNoWB Chapters
- HIV/AIDS Parliamentary Committee and the Parliamentarians Implementation Watch (PIW)

#### *Consultations*

- World Development Report 2004 (WDR) and major research reports
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)
- Country Assistance Strategy (CAS)
- Participation to the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF
- Consultations on new policy orientations (Private sector, Sustainable development etc.)

Mr. Bas’ presentation was complemented by further information from the two PNoWB staff members present on the PNoWB’s work with the Parliamentarians Implementation Watch (PIW) that monitors the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the field visits program and the HIV/AIDS Committee.

**Mr. Bert Koenders**, MP (the Netherlands) and Chair of the PNoWB, joined the meeting. He further described the PNoWB from the perspective of a parliamentarian. He told participants the PNoWB was one way to ‘emancipate parliamentarians’ and to give them their rightful say in development issues. He invited the representatives to work with the PNoWB, particularly on the MDGs. He declared his biggest concern was that the MDGs would not happen.

#### *Participants’ Suggestions for Future Cooperation*

Due to time constraints, the planned Agenda was let go in favour of a longer period of discussion. During the discussion several concrete suggestions for future cooperation were made.

- **Mr. Armoogum Parsuramen**, Director, UNESCO Office Dakar and Regional Bureau for Education (representing the Forum of African Parliamentarians for Education) suggested that the World Bank and/or the PNoWB could facilitate or work as a clearinghouse for other parliamentary networks to share information, increase cooperation and avoid unnecessary duplication. **Mr. David French** endorsed this idea, saying that the World Bank’s capacity would be helpful.
- **Mr. Joseph Atiku**, Executive Director, Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population (FAAPPD) further suggested that the World Bank could help parliamentary organizations begin to map areas of operations, work agendas or priorities that overlap. Priorities could be given numbered significance or ratings.
- **Mr. Nicholas Dunlop**, Secretary General, E-parliament, offered the use of the E-parliament website when it is up and running as a possible tool for the exchange of information and the creation of an electronic, easily updatable database of what organizations are doing.

- **Mr. Niall Johnston** suggested finding a way to meet again to discuss how the organizations present could increase cooperation.
- Before closing, **Ms. Michele De Nevers**, Director of Regional Programs, WBI announced the Global Learning Process for Scaling up Poverty Reduction and Conference in Shanghai that will take place on May 25-27, 2004. She noted that the conference plans to have 30-40 parliamentarians participate.
- **Mr. Shiv Khare** suggested that a second meeting of representatives of parliamentary organizations could be held in Bangkok. AFPPD would be willing to host such a meeting and, if possible, to cover local costs.

### *Conclusion*

It was agreed that the World Bank would draft a document with proposals for future cooperation that would be submitted to participants who would in turn provide feedback and suggestions. The meeting ended with participants in favor of continuing this new dialogue and finding ways of meeting again shortly.

On Sunday, February 15, 2004, participants from the **Meeting of Representatives of Parliamentary Organizations** met privately with **World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn** for over half an hour of discussion. Mr. Wolfenson encouraged the Development Policy Dialogue Team to begin a program of work on developing dialogue with parliamentary organizations. He suggested holding a second meeting before the end of the year, devoting at least a full day to discussion and exploring concrete cooperation and joint projects. He expressed his satisfaction to see such an initiative happening and stressed the need for close coordination between the World Bank and parliamentary organizations on work with parliamentarians and policy implementation.