

# World Bank Update

## PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

April 2011



Robert B. Zoellick, President of the World Bank Group

### THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Washington D.C., April 6 - Addressing an audience at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, World Bank President Robert Zoellick spoke on the crisis in the Middle East and North Africa, and how it shows that greater citizen participation and better governance are crucial for economic development. Mr. Zoellick said the Bank would not only promote institutional reforms but also look into providing more support for civil society as a way of making government more accountable to people. Mr. Zoellick noted that issues such as corruption, gender and transparency were in the past not mentioned at the World Bank because they were seen as too political. But over the last 20 years, each had become recognized as crucial for successful development and are now part of the Bank's policy portfolio. Likewise, citizen participation and good governance are recognized today as must haves for economic success. Surveying the economic performance in the Middle East and North Africa, President Zoellick noted that the region is poorly integrated in the global economy. It also suffers the highest unemployment among developing regions; the highest jobless rates among the best educated; and the lowest economic participation rates by women. Its governments now face enormous expectations to provide jobs quickly in a region where the direct opportunity cost of youth unemployment is

estimated at up to \$50 billion a year. Noting that the region needed to create 40 million jobs over the next decade, Mr. Zoellick said countries had to make policy decisions now about how to boost employment, add to productivity, and better integrate with the global economy. Mr. Zoellick referred to the recent conference at the World Bank convened to listen to Arab voices – of youth groups, women's groups and change agents, and how "They want opportunity, justice, a job. They want a new social contract. They want dignity. They want respect. And if they are women, they want these same things. Full speech available at <http://go.worldbank.org/LL2NNYC2F0>

### WB/IMF SPRING MEETINGS

The 2011 World Bank and International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings will take place on April 16 – 17 in Washington, DC. The Governors of the World Bank – Ministers of Finance or Development from the 25 constituencies representing the 186 member countries – will meet in the Development Committee on April 16. Committee members will discuss actions to address international food price volatility; the recommendations from the World Bank's World Development Report on "Conflict, Security and Development"; progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; and the internal reform processes in the World Bank. More information on the meetings at <http://www.imf.org/external/spring/2011/index.htm>



## TABLE OF CONTENT

- Feature Stories	Page 1
- From the regions	Page 2
- Upcoming activities for Parliamentarians	Page 4
- News & Publications	Page 4



# World Bank Update

## PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

**Dominican Republic, March 23** - Dialogue between representatives of the Senate of the Dominican Republic and the World Bank Country Office led to a Resolution proposing the establishment of a Special Committee of Senators to monitor the implementation of the Participatory Anticorruption Initiative (IPAC) recommendations. The proposal is currently under consideration by the Senate's Justice Commission. IPAC's objective is to identify concrete and feasible activities that can improve the capacity of state supervisory agencies, ensure proper control of public spending, and improve transparency in the public administration. IPAC is steered by a Committee made of representatives from the private sector, civil society and the Government, accompanied by a group of international development agencies led by the World Bank. More information at [www.ipacrd.com](http://www.ipacrd.com) or contact [gre-dondo@worldbank.org](mailto:gre-dondo@worldbank.org)

**Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, March 8** - As part of its outreach strategy, the World Bank Ouagadougou Office gave a presentation on the Bank's Governance agenda and Procurement procedures to the Burkinabe National Assembly. The World Bank considers bad or lack of Governance as a serious threat to development and relentlessly works to assess and measure Governance and take action to support measures aiming at improving it. Concerning procurement, the World Bank makes sure



its procedures guarantee transparency, equity, economy and efficiency in the use of investments in development. Some sixty parliamentarians participated in the much-anticipated workshop, and much praise was given to the World Bank's outreach program. World Bank Country Manager Galina Sotirova reminded the high priority given to this program and the need to inform various audiences on the Bank's missions and tangible results. For more information, please contact [lmensah@worldbank.org](mailto:lmensah@worldbank.org)

**Oslo, Stockholm** - While visiting Nordic capitals to discuss amongst others agricultural research and food security, World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development Inger Andersen met with members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Energy in the Norwegian Parliament (March 8) and with members of the Foreign Policy Committee in the Swedish Parliament (March 9). In both parliaments Andersen gave an informal briefing on the World Bank's efforts to promote agriculture and reduce food price volatility. Andersen also briefed Members of Parliament on how the World Bank is helping countries address climate change through the Climate Investment Funds. She also spoke about

the Bank's 'Green Growth Platform', launched at Copenhagen University on March 7. More information at [www.worldbank.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.worldbank.org/sustainabledevelopment) or contact [jkopperud@worldbank.org](mailto:jkopperud@worldbank.org)

**London, March 11** - World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development Inger Andersen attended a lunch hosted by Baron Deben (Mr. John Gummer) President of the Global Legislators Organization (GLOBE). Baron Deben spoke of the significant progress GLOBE had made forming high level relationships with senior policy makers in China and Brazil over recent months. The success of GLOBE would not have been possible without the substantial financial support from the World Bank. Andersen recognized the valuable work GLOBE was taking forward, especially in regard to Rio+20 and with the G20 due in no small part to the energy and commitment shown by Baron Deben. More information on GLOBE at [www.globeinternational.org](http://www.globeinternational.org) or contact [afelton@worldbank.org](mailto:afelton@worldbank.org)

**Rome, March 15** - World Bank Special Representative and Director for Europe, Carlos Braga, delivered an informal briefing for members of the Italian Parliamentary Commission on the MDGs. Carlos Braga focused his intervention on the status of Italy-World Bank Group (WBG) partnership, the impact and recovery from the global economic crisis, and the WBG mandate to help countries tackle the crisis and food security issues. Italian Parliamentarians also inquired about WBG involvement in G20 efforts for economic recovery and sta-



# World Bank Update

bility, and innovative financing for development. For more information contact [mpaolucci@worldbank.org](mailto:mpaolucci@worldbank.org)

**Japan, March 3** - World Bank Vice President and Special Climate Envoy Andrew Steer gave members of the Global Legislators Organization (GLOBE) and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) a joint briefing on “Development, Climate Change, and the World Bank Group”.



Front line: former Prime Minister Hatoyama, Chair of PNoWB, former Foreign Minister Kouchi, and Chair of GLOBE and also Chair of Budget Committee (Upper House) Maeda, all of them expressed their expectation for the Bank’s bigger role in the climate change agenda.

**Berlin, March 15** - World Bank Vice president for Concessional Finance and Partnerships, Axel van Trotsenburg and Antonella Bassani, Director of the IDA Resource Mobilization Unit, met with members of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development (AwZ) in the German Parliament to provide an overview of the International Development Association (IDA). Van Trotsenburg highlighted the results-orientation of IDA, summarized the recent IDA16 replenishment process and outlined the current focal topics of the

Association. In a subsequent Q&A session, van Trotsenburg further addressed a broad range of issues, such as the World Bank MENA and South Sudan engagement, the pros and cons of budget support, microfinance programs and the problem of corruption. Van Trotsenburg also mentioned the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB), in which members of Parliament expressed strong interest. For more information, please contact [rvenghaus@worldbank.org](mailto:rvenghaus@worldbank.org)

**Brussels, March 16** - Members of the World Bank’s Executive Board (notably Directors representing EU countries) met with Members of the European Parliament for an informal exchange of views. The meeting was chaired by Romanian Centre Left MEP Corina Cretu, Vice Chair of the EP Development Committee and former board member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB). The EDs identified improved access to energy as one of the main objectives of the new World Bank energy strategy, and informed MEPs that they will be considering the recent EP resolution on the WB Energy Strategy in further discussions on the Strategy. MEPs see the work of the WB as complementary to that of the EC and EU Member States and stressed the importance of regular dialogue between WB and EU stakeholders. For more information please contact [glaryea@worldbank.org](mailto:glaryea@worldbank.org)

**Brussels, March 17** - Carlos Branga, World Bank Special Representative and Director for Europe, spoke at the Joint Parliamentary Assembly Economic Committee meet-

ing of the countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and the European Union (EU), on the Impact of Debt on Development Financing in ACP countries. The session, which also involved European Network for Debt and Development Director Nuria Molina, was meant to provide input for a resolution to be adopted by the ACP-EU Assembly on Debt and Development Financing in the ACP countries. The meeting appointed MEP Robert Sturdy (UK) and Sakwiba Sikota (Zambia) as co-rapporteurs for the forthcoming ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly resolution on the Impact of Debt on Development Financing in the ACP to be adopted ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Plenary in November in Sierra Leone. For more information please contact [glaryea@worldbank.org](mailto:glaryea@worldbank.org)

**Berlin, March 22-** To further deepen the engagement with the German Parliament, Hartwig Schaefer, Director of Strategy and Operations, met with Research Associates of the German Parliamentary Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development (AwZ) for an informal discussion. Mr. Schaefer provided an overview of the Bank’s work on food security, climate change and the G20 (specifically the latter’s focus on infrastructure, food security and governance). Subsequently, the discussion focused on agriculture/food security and climate change and Mr. Schaefer provided examples of projects in Ghana, Brazil, Mexico and Turkey to illuminate World Bank commitments in these sectors. For more information please contact [rvenghaus@worldbank.org](mailto:rvenghaus@worldbank.org)



# World Bank Update

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### **April 4 to 30 - Parliaments and Extractive Industries e\*learning course**

The aim of this moderated E\*Learning course is to build the capacity of Members of Parliament to provide constructive political oversight over the entire extractive industry value chain. This training course is designed for Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff in all regions. More information at [www.parliamentarystrengthening.org](http://www.parliamentarystrengthening.org).

### **April 11–17-WB/IMF Annual Spring Meetings 2011**

Aside from the meetings a special program is prepared for parliamentary participants on April 14 and 15. In addition to the official meetings there is a dedicated Civil Society Forum, and a special program is also prepared for parliamentary participants on April 14 and 15, for more information contact [mtixeront@worldbank.org](mailto:mtixeront@worldbank.org)

### **Ongoing consultations=>Deadline: May 2011**

You can still provide feedback for consultations on *Social Protection & Labor Strategy* at [www.worldbank.org/spstrategy](http://www.worldbank.org/spstrategy) and *Program-for-Results (P4R) lending instrument* at [www.worldbank.org/p4r](http://www.worldbank.org/p4r)

### **April 14-15- Food Crisis: Open Forum**

On April 14-15, during the Spring Meetings, the World Bank will be hosting its second Open Forum, a

24-hour global online discussion and debate about solutions needed to deal with rising and volatile food prices. More information at <http://live.worldbank.org/open-forum-food-crisis>

## NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

### **East Asia & Pacific Economic Update**



Released on March 21, the report, titled *Securing the Present, Shaping the Future*, was finalized in the weeks prior to the disaster in Japan. In new research prepared since the quake and tsunami struck Japan, the World Bank provides preliminary analysis on the implications for the region with a focus on trade and finance. However, the analysis points to uncertainties and ongoing challenges posed by the unfolding situation involving nuclear reactors in Japan. More information at <http://www.worldbank.org/eapupdate>

### **Leveraging Migration for Africa**

With about 30 million Africans living outside their home countries, migration is a vital lifeline for the continent. Yet African governments need to do more to realize the full economic benefits of the phenom-

enon, says a new report by the African Development Bank and the World Bank released on March 30. The report *Leveraging Migration for Africa: Remittances, Skills, and Investments* presents data from new surveys. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/7EWRAFRI30>

### **Green Growth platform Launch**

On March 7, World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development Inger Andersen called on governments, international and aid agencies and other development partners to join a new global knowledge platform aimed at fostering green growth. The platform being developed jointly by the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and the OECD, aims to bring together proponents of sustainable development to promote and implement green growth policies by exchanging knowledge, information, and experience. Parliamentary networks are also welcome to join the platform. More information at [www.worldbank.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.worldbank.org/sustainabledevelopment)

### **Website launch: "Aidflows: Sources and Uses of Aid Funds"**

On March 15, the Worldbank and OECD have introduced AidFlows, a new tool to visualize, by country, the sources and uses of development aid dollars. Aidflows makes global and World Bank data on aid funding more accessible, supplies decision critical information to policy makers and informs the global dialogue about development aid. More information at [www.aidflows.org](http://www.aidflows.org).